

The Year of Consecrated Life

The Light

of
St. Michael
the Archangel
Roman Catholic
Church
Lake Jackson,
Texas

Jesus said, "I am the
light of the world.
Whoever follows me will
never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of
life."

John 8:12



Adult Faith Formation

Fall 2015

(September — November 2015)



The Spiritual Light

The Spiritual Light

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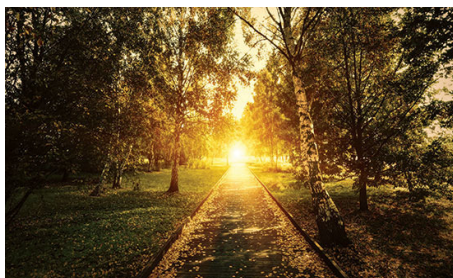
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Thank goodness the end of the summer season is at hand. This brings also our Liturgical calendar to the end of the Ordinary time and the beginning of the Advent season. Yes, the first Sunday of Advent is November 30.

In October, our parish is embarking in the first season of a faith sharing program **ARISE TOGETHER IN CHRIST**.

In this issue, you'll find, in *Clergy's Corner* a message from Fr. Giovanni and a reprint of our Deacon's homily from the Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary time. In *A Conversion Story - Ignited by the Truth!* John White shares what led him to his conversion to Catholicism and to move from *head knowledge* to *heart knowledge*. In *Did You Know?* Richard Keistler reflects on the origins of the Holy Rosary and the works of the Rosary priest Fr. Peyton. In Faith Sharing Process an invitation to join the ARISE process by deacon Gary.

The *Liturgical Season* takes us from the feasts of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the lives of the Apostles, the Archangels, All Souls day, and the dedication of the Lateran Basilica; to the solemnities of All Saints and Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe and the first Sunday of Advent. We also feature two contributor reflections that you don't want to miss: Elizabeth Betczynski on Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe, and Adele Baxter on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In *From the Vatican*, we have excerpts from Pope Francis' Catechesis about the Family, An Overview of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, and the Presentation of the Eight World Meeting on Families that will take place in Philadelphia on September 22-27, 2015. In *The Saints* we feature the lives of three saints written by members of our youth ministry: Anne Calhoun, Sabrina Finley and Annika Moreno. We also include a list of Bible Studies and Prayer Groups that you may consider joining.

Your comments are welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact the editors or any of the team members.

Margarita Prinz

October 14

Happy 15th Anniversary of
Ordination!
Fr. Giovanni

Happy Birthday!
Fr. Callistus!

To contact us:

100 Oak Drive, South
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Editors:

Margarita Prinz,
prinzmh@yahoo.com
979-297-0297

Pam Walker
pamwalker56@gmail.com
979-297-9746



About Us

The Adult Faith Formation ministry came into being as a result of the Envision program held in the parish in 2006. From the meetings of the Envision committee came a vision statement for the parish: "A Eucharistic community in continual transformation, surrendering ourselves to God to be His instruments for world change."

The objective of Adult Faith Formation ministry is to seek to foster life long learning, Catholic education and faith development of adult parishioners. It is the primary educational ministry for adults of our parish.

Adult Faith Formation ministry uses several different facets of learning in the presentation of programs. There have been well-known speakers who lectured in his/her specialty, small group discussions (Study of the Catechism for Catholic adults), movies, and a play.

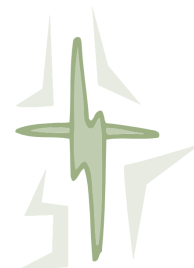
We look for topics in which our parishioners say they are interested. This knowledge came from a survey done in the infancy of this ministry and we search for speakers well known for the topics they present. Agreement on topics and speakers are reached by consensus rather than majority and our annual educational year started in 2007.

In order to continue with these programs we need to almost continually add new members to the ministry. Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for several years, you can bring in fresh and different ideas. Your presence and knowledge will generate fresh energy. While the ministry has made great progress, it still has a long way to go.

Our meetings are held once a month in the evening in the Educational Building. Please come and see the team in action. After a visit we are certain you will want to join us.

If you are interested in finding more about this rewarding ministry, please contact us. We will be happy to visit with you.

Adult
Faith
Formation



Team Members

Adele Baxter
Allen Faulk
Shirley Fromen
Margaret Kana
Joe Lesnau
Genie Packard
Pam Walker
Margarita Prinz

To contact us:

Allen Faulk

Facilitator, Adult Faith Formation
Ministry

Phone: 979-798-5333

e-mail: arfaulk@brazoriainet.com



Clergy's Corner



Family Meals. (Luke 22: 7-18).

I'm sure you're very much familiar with this sentence: "The family that prays together stays together." But I read also something like this: "Families that eat together not only eat better, they do better." What is the reason why these words were said? It is because, according to an unknown source, eating together is an important part of building family ties and there are some big health benefits to taking time to

eat together.

Having the family together for at least one mealtime each day (usually breakfast or dinner) gives parents and teens a chance to connect they might not otherwise have. No matter what the age of your children, mealtime is a good time to check in with each other.

Jesus celebrated the Passover meal in Jerusalem with his disciples the night before he died. The Passover meal was (and still is) a very important meal to Jewish people that commemorates the Exodus. This meal, celebrated by Jesus, is now called the Last Supper. Like all important meals, it was prepared for in a special way.

Usually Hebrew families celebrated the Passover together and so it is interesting to note who Jesus chose to celebrate this, his final Passover, with – his closest friends and followers. The communal aspect of the Eucharist is far more than a group of people sharing a meal, it is the coming together of those who share the belief in the Kingdom of God. When people go to Mass they are remembering Jesus' Life, Death and Resurrection and making a communal commitment to go and share God's love in the world.

The family meal is the subject of much debate, with studies showing families who eat dinner together are healthier, the children do better in school and adolescents suffer less depression and feel more supported by their families.

Fr. Giovanni Nguyen

From the Deacon's Desk



Due to the overwhelming response I received from many who heard my homily on the Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time, I have decided to edit and submit it for publication in this issue of The Light.

I have really struggled with today's message because I know how divisive it is among our Christian and Non-Christian friends. But more and more, it is a divisive issue among Catholics who do not know what the Church teaches or who choose not to believe what the Church teaches regarding the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Polling data varies widely regarding this teaching. The National Catholic Reporter, for example, found in a 2011 survey that 63 percent of adult Catholics believe that "at the consecration during a Catholic Mass, the bread and wine really become the body and blood of Jesus Christ."

For those of us who believe in the real presence, we obviously have some work to do. Apparently we have over 30% of our Catholic brothers and sisters who do not subscribe to a long-held and central article of our faith.

If you, believe in the real presence, I hope you will take something from what God has put on my heart to share with you today. Hopefully a word, a sentence, a verse will allow you to



From the Deacon's Desk

help someone you know have a better understanding of the Eucharist. If you are in the 30% who do not believe in the real presence, I ask you to open your heart and mind to what you are about to hear. God is inviting you once again to the fullness of truth which exists in the Word.

For the past three weeks we have listened to John's account of the feeding of the five thousand and Jesus' discourse on the Bread of Life. Many that witnessed the miracle continued to look for and work for temporary food not the eternal food that God offered through His Son Jesus. What Jesus was really asking of the crowds, His disciples, and us today is: Do we believe IN God or do we BELIEVE God? Many of us want more signs and wonders. We are waiting for God to give us a reason to believe.

Let us recognize what draws us here to this celebration. We are here to give thanks, to remember the incredible gift we received from God the Father: Jesus' sacrifice. The Mass is the great prayer of the Church. It is here that we receive the Body of Christ, through the Word and through the Eucharist.

Frank Sheed in his article entitled, *The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist* says, "The Blessed Eucharist is *the* Sacrament....The whole being is nourished by it. It is precisely food, which explains why it is the one sacrament meant to be received daily. Without it, one petition in the *Our Father*-*"Give us this day our daily bread"*-lacks the fullness of its meaning."

If we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, then we must believe what He said in the Gospel of John: "I am the Bread of Life" "Whoever eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal life: and I will raise him up on the last day".

Jesus saw that many of his own disciples were horrified at what he was saying. We know what he meant: in saying they must eat his flesh, he did not mean dead flesh but his body with the life in it, with the living soul in it. In some way he himself, living, was to be the food of their soul's life. If Jesus had only been speaking symbolically or metaphorically, why did His words cause such dissension?

His disciples would receive the full meaning of his discourse at the Last Supper. Read Matthew's account of the Institution of the Eucharist which can be found in chapter 26:26-28.

We have the benefit of almost two thousand years of teaching on the issue of the real presence. Volumes of books line the walls of institutions throughout the world. The writings of the early Church Fathers are available on line and here in our Church Library. If you are in doubt, listen to the words of Scott Hahn, who was once a Presbyterian minister and militantly anti-Catholic. I would call him a modern day Saul who verbally persecuted Catholics and their teachings. In his book *Rome Sweet Home* he describes his feelings attending his first daily Mass before converting.

"After pronouncing the words of consecration, the priest held up the Host. I felt as though the last drop of doubt had drained from me. With all my heart, I whispered, "My Lord and my God. That's really you! And if that's you, then I want full communion with you. I don't want to hold anything back." I knew Christ wanted me to receive him in faith, not just spiritually in my heart but physically as well: onto my tongue, down my throat and into my whole body and soul. This was what the Incarnation was all about. This was the gospel in its fullness."

Through his study of scripture and his desire to know and understand God's covenant relationship Scott Hahn and his wife Kimberly converted to Catholicism. There are Scott Hahn stories right here in our very own parish. In a few weeks we will be signing up for the ARISE process. What a great opportunity to share and listen to those who believe IN God and believe God.

"Whoever eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal life: and I will raise him on the last day". Believe God when you come forward to receive. He is the Bread of Life.

Deacon Gary Forse



A Conversion Story

IGNITED
by the
Truth!

By John White

We really do have a great faith! This article is a brief review of what has led me to realize this and to become Catholic. I was not one that suddenly realized that the Catholic faith was the way to go. Instead, God simply helped me to more fully realize that my desires to know and understand God, to be happy, to be a good husband and Dad and to live a Christian life could be most fully satisfied through the truths of the Catholic faith that Christ established.

I was born in a Christian home with great parents, an older brother and a younger sister. We were raised in a protestant faith community and my parents were active. I believed in God, understood Christ as my savior and the basic tenants of the Christian faith. I looked forward to going church from a very young age but struggled to understand better how this was to impact my life and my desire to please God. I listened as best as I could but still had questions. I remember telling my parents when I was ten years old that the pastor “was not telling us everything!” I believe that my journey for truth started here.

As a young adult, God helped me to move from “head knowledge” to “heart knowledge” through a series of experiences to include a retreat experience. I had a strong conversion experience of accepting God’s grace and surrendering of my life to the service of Christ. I became passionate to serve God, but, in addition to the wonderful experience of God’s love, grace and mercy, I knew that there was more. I believe that God used my life experiences along with the word “AND” to help me to understand more deeply.

Marriage, parenting, coaching, teaching and various experiences in ministry helped me to understand the following truths that are consistent with our faith. We are called to both love mercy AND to do justice. God helps us to grow in our knowledge of Him AND we need to act upon what we know now. God loves us just the way that we are AND He loves us too much to let us stay there. Rather than a spirit of external compliance to rules only we need both a focus on on-going (heart) conversion AND observance to what the Church has provided to help us in this conversion. God will forgive us AND there may be consequences for our actions that we or our children will need to endure. We need to accept God’s love and act on it through a personal decision AND we cannot possibly get to this point, nor live it alone. We need to be able to survive tough times AND allow those experiences to help us.

Each of these truths affirms that we need help to be who He calls us to be and live as He desires us to live. We need to more fully realize that God’s very plan is for me to accept His love, learn to love Him deeply and to grow to become more like Him. With this, we can serve Him with a deeper and more intimate knowledge of Him. Surrendering to these truths, and participation with God, has been key to satisfying the thirsts that He placed inside of me when I was created. This the only way to bear fruit for Him and experience the true happiness and joy that He desires for us. I do not know about you, but this tells me that we need help and dependence on God. Our faith tells us that this is how God set it up when He created us. This is a law that we cannot break; we can only break ourselves against. Many of us try to find self work or fulfillment through our accomplishments, how we stack up against others, where we live, the status that we obtain or how much we do on our own. In doing this, we place limits on how far we will go with God. Since this cannot give us what we deeply thirst for, it can lead to a lack of engagement in our faith and a lack of feeling fed.

So where is the church that embodies these truths? It is the Holy Spirit guiding our Catholic faith that pulls it all together into one deposit of faith that we can trust. We need to



A Conversion Story

understand it and make connections between our relationship with God and the tenants of our faith. Our true happiness and fulfillment lies in our acceptance of God's love for us, allowing Him to draw us to a closer union with Him through Christ and embracing His Holy Spirit manifested through the Catholic Church, its sacraments and teachings. It is here that God can use us and help us to bear much fruit for His kingdom. It is here where we will find ourselves being who He made us to be and doing His will while quenching the deepest thirsts within us.

I will conclude with a memory from my youth. My Dad's life reflected God's truth that is recorded in Scripture. He would tell us, "To whom much is given, much is expected." With that, my heart shouts to each of us, "Let's Go, Catholics! We have been given much!"

Did You Know?



By Richard Keistler

Did you know that the Holy Rosary that we still pray has its origin in the Church 1200 years ago? That's right: the Holy Rosary was begun as a prayer by Irish monks in the ninth century. Originally, those religious would recite all one hundred and fifty Psalms. However, this practice didn't translate well into a devotional prayer for the laity. Why? To begin with, copies of the Psalms were

not readily available. Also, the general educational and reading level was not conducive to the memorization of all the Psalms. Therefore, over a period of time, the Rosary evolved to the form we know today, with the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries giving an alternative narrative of the Gospels.

Also, in the last century, there was a priest who, with the help of Our Lord and Holy Spirit, once brought a half-million people together to pray the Rosary! Not only that, but his overseas missions brought in millions of believers.

This man is Father Patrick Peyton; affectionately know for much of his life as the 'Rosary priest'. Father Peyton was the man who coined, "The family that prays together, stays together", back in the 1940's. In the course of his long life (1909-1992), Father Peyton worked with and befriended popes, religious in every branch of the Roman Catholic faith, but also world-famous celebrities who supported his mission: to get the entire world praying the Rosary.

Father Peyton was born and was raised in a small cottage in Ireland, in a family with four girls and five boys; he was the sixth child. He was already considering the priesthood as a vocation by the time he reached his teenage years. With the help of some old sisters who had already emigrated to the United States, Patrick and an older brother were able to travel to America also. He was able to enter the seminary of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, with his brother. He was able to be ordained in 1941.

Father Patrick began his religious life as a chaplain of the Holy Cross Brothers. While on a day of retreat, his mission was laid before him. This was in 1942, when America and the rest of the world were at war. Father Patrick envisioned the entire world in prayer and what it could accomplish. From that day forward, his vocation was quite clear: to work to have the whole world praying the Rosary daily.



Did you Know?

Now, such a task would be daunting at the least for any individual, much less a rather frail priest only recently ordained. Beginning with a mail campaign, and later with a small audience on a local radio show, Peyton's mission began to build in popularity. Those earliest radio shows were simply a family praying the Holy Rosary together.

The first celebrity to agree to appear on Father Patrick's radio show was Bing Crosby. Peyton learned that there were other celebrities in Hollywood who were willing to give of their time and talent to the cause of the Rosary. In those early days, Pat O'Brien and Loretta Young were two of Hollywood's elite to who befriended Father Peyton and worked for his mission. At this time, Peyton began his work in conducting Rosary rallies, which would be attended by millions simultaneously praying the Rosary. In fact, in one appearance in San Francisco, 500,000 believers prayed the Rosary together. Not only did Father Peyton rally Americans to the cause of the Rosary; he also traveled across Europe and Asia and the Pacific Islands and rallied huge crowds across South America. Soon, millions heard that "The family that prays together, stays together."

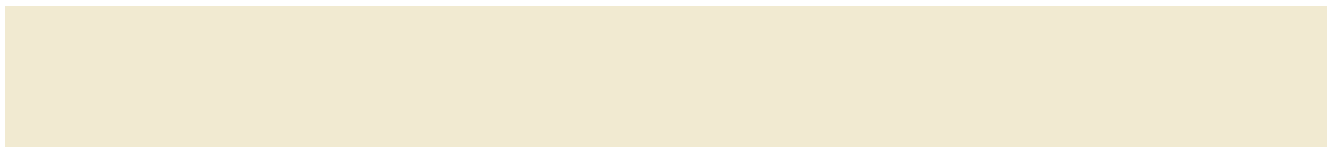
In addition to his work with the Rosary rallies, Father Peyton also founded the Family Theater film company, which produced many religious films beginning in the fifties, and continuing for decades. These beautiful films were mainly produced in Europe, where costs were lower.

Father Peyton died in 1992 while holding a group Rosary in California; he was working on his last rally which was held in The Philippines that year. It should not be forgotten that he authored a classic book on praying the Rosary, one which is still quite popular in Catholic bookstores. Also, he gave away millions of Rosaries to the poor all across the world.

It was announced in 2001 that a cause for sainthood was opened for Father Patrick Peyton, which is ongoing. Additionally, he now holds the title, "Servant of God". In our times, when many Roman Catholics view the Rosary prayer as outdated or a curiosity, we can hope for another individual to pick up in world communities where Father Peyton had to leave us.

Prayer for a Favor through the Intercession of Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton, CSC

God, Our Father, your wisdom is displayed in all creation and the power of your grace is revealed in the lives of holy people, who inspired us to trust more fully and to serve others more generously. In a unique way, you blessed the life and work of father Patrick Peyton, CSC, your servant and a fervent apostle of Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary and Mother of us all. Through his intercession, we ask for this favor _____ for your honor and glory through Christ Our Lord. Amen.





Faith Sharing Process



During Lent, many of you participated in Lenten Longings. If you did not or chose not to participate, hopefully you have heard about it through some of the participants. You now have another opportunity to participate in the faith sharing process for small groups entitled *Arise Together in Christ, Encountering Christ Today*.

Some of you have already experienced meeting and sharing in small communities.

For others this may be a new experience. It is an opportunity to engage in a spiritual adventure. During the recent summer months, we traveled on vacations to refresh ourselves. *Encountering Christ Today* provides a chance for us to refresh our faith journey. This will enrich your own lives, as well as that of the Parish.

Do you find yourself spending more and more time with the TV, Computer, Phone, Facebook, or Media and yet less time for Christ? If you answered yes, you are not alone. In fact you may have heard other people make similar statements.

Our Parish is going to use the Arise process to help us as individuals and as a parish to encounter Christ today. It will enable us to deepen our faith, develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community, and reach out in service to others.

Groups of 8-12 people, small Christian communities, will meet for about 90 minutes, once a week, for six weeks for a scripture based study. This program will begin in the first week of October, so families have somewhat returned to normal routine after school has started, and will end before the busy holiday season, the second week of November. In an effort to accommodate everyone, there will be various times throughout the week, mornings, afternoons, and evenings on most days. You should be able to find a time slot to fit your schedule. Each person in the group will be provided a book with the contents of the sessions so that you can prepare as well as review the sessions.

If a person attends Mass every weekend and the Holy days of obligation they would spend approximately 58 hours at mass during a year. Many Catholics feel this is all that is needed for spiritual fulfillment. This session of Arise is only asking for an additional hour and half a week for six weeks; 9 hours of your time. Each time the group meets there will be prayer, scripture reading, faith sharing, and an invitation to act. Everyone will have a chance to share or you are welcome to just listen.

On behalf of the Arise team, we extend a personal invitation for you to pray and join us on this faith journey with a destination of growing closer to Christ and renewing your faith. You can visit the parish website, www.smlj.org for more information and to register online.

Deacon Gary Forse

Sign Up at

<http://www.smlj.org/ARISE/signup.htm>



Fr. Callistus Isara Summer Talk



On Sunday August 2, 2015, Fr. Callistus spoke to a crowd of over 130 people about *Standing up for Christ and his Church in our Time*.

In his introduction Fr. Callistus said: "The history of our faith, from the time of the apostles till the present, shows a consistent pattern of people standing up for Christ and his Church. It is incumbent on every generation of Catholics to stand up for Christ and his Church."

His talk gave emphasis to the witness and persecution of the apostles, the early Christians, Christians in our own time and their standing up for Christ; and urged all Catholics today to equally stand up for Christ and his Church in our time. And concluded with the following:

"Like the apostles, the early Christians, and countless heroic witnesses throughout the centuries of the Church, we should stand up for Christ and his Church in our time: at home, in our family, in our society, on the street, in our places of work, in the Media, in social media, in our relationships, etc. We should witness to Christ in joy and sorrow, hope and despair, riches and poverty, good health and sickness, success and failure, etc. Evidently, these times are difficult times to be Catholic. But it should be noted that there has never been an easy time to be a Catholic in the history of the Church. If we do our best to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and stand up for him and his Church, the Lord will fill our hearts with joy and peace; the kind of joy and peace that the world cannot give (John 15:27; 16:22). The Christian never walks alone because he or she has Christ. Let us always remember that Christ's grace is sufficient for us (2 Corinthians 12:9) and we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil 4:13).

To read and/or listening to the entire talk visit:

<http://www.smlj.org/formation/adultformation/presentation-callistus-080215.htm>

Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life

God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this the Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



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The Liturgical Season

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast September 8



By Adele Baxter an excerpt from Scott P. Richert writings:

This prayer for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to Mary being “preserved from original sin,” reminding us of her Immaculate Conception. Mary was conceived in the womb of Saint Anne on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, which is exactly nine months before September 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The focus of this prayer is on Christian unity. Recalling those who, although separated from the Church, have kept a certain veneration for “the Blessed Virgin Mary (that is, the eastern and Oriental Orthodox), the prayer asks the Mother of God to intercede “to restore unity and peace once more to all the Christian people.”

The ancient phrase “O Virgin who destroyest all heresies”, goes back to the middle of the first millennium of Christianity, and refers to Mary’s role in salvation history. It was Mary’s fiat - her acceptance of God’s will - that brought Christ into the world. This prayer is perfect for a novena in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as throughout the year, when praying for Christian unity.

Prayer for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

O Virgin Immaculate, thou who by a singular privilege of grace wast preserved from original sin, look in pity upon our separated brethren, who are nevertheless thy children, and call them back to the center of unity. Not a few of them although separated from the church, have kept a certain veneration for thee: and do thou, generous as thou art, reward them for it, by obtaining for them the grace of conversation.

Thou was conqueror of the infernal serpent from the first instance of thy existence; renew even now, for it is now more necessary than ever before, thine ancient triumphs; glory thy divine Son, bring back to Him the sheep that have strayed from the one fold and place them once more under the guidance of the universal Shepherd who holds the place of thy Son on earth; let it be thy glory, O Virgin who destroyest the heresies, to restore unity and peace once more to all Christian people.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Feast September 14



An excerpt from Magnificat September 2013:

The Exaltation of the Cross consists in the fact that “the event of the cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything towards life” (CCC 1085)

Exalting the Cross in Our Life

The Way of the Cross... invites all of us, and families in particular; to contemplate Christ crucified



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

in order to have the force to overcome difficulties. The cross of Christ is the supreme sign of God's love for every man and woman, the superabundant response to every person's need for love. At times of trouble, when our families have to face pain and adversity, let us look to Christ's cross. There we can find the courage and strength to press on...

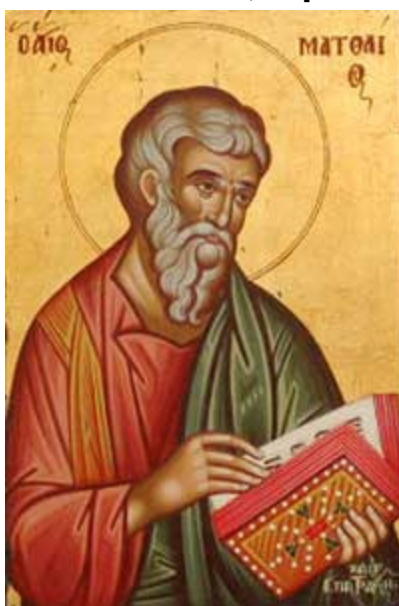
In times of trial and tribulation, we are not alone; the family is not alone. Jesus is present with his love, he sustains them by his grace and grants the strength needed to carry on, to make sacrifices and to overcome every obstacle. And it is to this love of Christ that we must turn when human turmoil and difficulties threaten the unity of our lives and our families. The mystery of Christ's suffering, Death and Resurrection inspires us to go on in hope: times of trouble and testing, when endured with Christ, with faith in him, already contain the light of the Resurrection, the new life of a world reborn, the Passover of all those who believe in his Word.

In that crucified Man who is the Son of God, even death itself takes on new meaning and purpose: it is redeemed and overcome, it becomes a passage to new life.

Pope Benedict XVI

St. Matthew, Apostle

Feast September 21



Saint Matthew is a familiar figure among the Apostles. His Gospel, with its constant references to the messianic prophecies, throws the most light on the continuity between the two covenants. Moreover, his vocation is one of the most popular episodes in the life of Jesus, because of the personality of the one called "the tax collector" and the revelation of redeeming love that concludes and crowns the story.

Mark and Luke call Matthew by his Jewish name Levi, and Mark says he was "the son of Alphaeus" (MK 2:14). He may have been the brother of another Apostle, James, who is also called "the son of Alphaeus" (MK 3:18), which would explain how he already had some contact with Jesus' followers. Because of his profession, Jews of strict observance would have nothing to do with him, for he fell under a religious ban. Jesus' call was therefore all the more remarkable, as was Matthew's generous response. He stood

up at once, "leaving everything behind" (Lk 5:28). Then came the feast of friendship, at which the publican-turned-disciple invited to his table, with Jesus, both old and new friends. And the Lord said, "I have not come to call the just, but sinners"

Writing for his countrymen of Palestine, St. Matthew composed his Gospel in his native Aramaic, the "Hebrew tongue" mentioned in the gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Soon afterward, about the time of the persecution of Herod Agrippa I in 42 AD, he left for other lands.

Nothing definite is known about his later life. There is a tradition that points to Ethiopia as his field of labor, other traditions mention of Parthia and Persia. It is uncertain whether he died a natural death or received the crown of martyrdom.



Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

Feast Sept. 29



Echo the Hymn by Abbot John Klassen:

Remember the popular TV series *Touched by an Angel*? The angels Tess and Monica differ significantly from their biblical counterparts. They are, after all, creatures of primetime, likeable, hip, chatty, neighborly, and engaging. Even Andrew, the angel of death, comes across as an okay guy. TV angels are talkative; those of the Bible are silent or say very little. Biblical angels do not linger. They get their work done and depart, with no long Minnesota good-byes.

Biblical angels bear messages that are greater than any human, even prophet, could communicate. Remember Gabriel's announcement to Mary? An angel's appearance in the Bible often signals that God is going to change direction. The Bible's angels – unlike Raphael's playful cherubs on the "Sistine Madonna" – are often fierce, warlike creatures. Nowhere in the Bible does an angel's visit suggest that you have won the lottery.

Our Eucharistic liturgy still echoes the hymn of the angels in Isaiah 6; "Holy, holy, holy..." I like to think that on the days when we are ragged at liturgy, when we can't seem to agree on a tempo, when we have a hard time hitting that top note, the angels clean it up and make it worthy of the God we love and worship. Perhaps what TV shows like *Touched by an Angel* point to is our desire to know the breadth of God's mercy in the sudden way that grace makes all things good. It is surely true that a single action of love links our voices with the angels, bread with body, wine with blood, community with Christ.

John Klassen, OSB, is abbot of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

Feast October 28



*An excerpt from the book *Saints Seventy Stories of Faith* by Alexandra Bonfante-Warren:*

Also known as Thaddeus, the apostle Jude, or Judas – "not Iscariot," as the Gospel says – is usually identified as a brother of his fellow apostle James the Less and sometimes of another apostle, Simon, as well. The Western tradition has it that Jude, celebrated by The Golden Legend for his "greatness of heart," was martyred in Persia together with Simon, and so the two are commemorated on the same day.

After the Ascension, the apostles set out on their missions. Thomas directed Jude to go to the court of Abgar, king of Edessa, a powerful city of Asia Minor (today southern Turkey), to fulfill a promise made in a letter from Christ to the king to heal him and instruct him. When Jude



Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

Feast October 28

arrived at the king's court, Abgar recognized him as Christ's emissary by the divine radiance shining from the apostle's face. The illness that Abgar had beseeched Christ to cure was leprosy: Jude took Christ's letter and rubbed the King's face with it, whereupon Abgar was made whole. From Edessa, Jude traveled southeast into Mesopotamia (in modern day Iraq), then north to Pontus, on the Black Sea, preaching and converting many. Simon, meanwhile, was in Egypt. The two are said to have reunited in Persia, making their way together to Babylonia, by the Persian Gulf.

In Babylonia, a certain military captain, preparing for war, learned that he was getting no answer from his gods about the expedition because of the presence of the apostles. He arranged a contest between the apostles and powerful magicians. Jude and Simon, filled with the truth of Christ, defeated the pagan mages but refused to allow them to be put to death, and at this everyone was filled with wonder at their virtue.

The thwarted mages, filled with rage and spite, traveled to a neighboring city where pagan practices still ruled. There, the mages stirred up the priests and the people against the apostles. When Jude and Simon arrived, they were arrested and taken to the temple, where their very presence caused the demons to cry aloud in pain and fear from the mouths of the idols in which they dwelled. An angel appeared, giving the apostles a choice between death of their oppressors or martyrdom; the two holy men chose to witness for their faith, so that souls might be saved.

Jude and Simon ordered the demons to come out and destroy the idols; this they did, and the furious priests descended upon the saints and killed them, but the king of the city removed their bodies to his city and built a great church in their honor. Jude is a patron saint of desperate cases.

All Saints Day

Solemnity Nov. 1



From the heroic valor of St. Patrick to the nature-loving philosophy of St. Francis of Assisi, we've celebrated the legacies of saints all of our lives. Some of us drive with medals of St. Christopher in our cars, and many remember jolly old St. Nick at Christmas.

Many of the saints, servants of God, sparked the religious imagination of countless people over hundreds of years, restoring the flame of faith, the fire of hope, and the balm of charity in anguished hearts and doubting minds.

Saints were, and are, perfectly human. They were, and are, often energetic, annoying, arrogant, impatient, intolerant, and frightened, as well as infinitely kind, open-hearted, good humored, and compassionate. Sometimes slowly, sometimes suddenly, they

surrender their personalities to a greater love that turned human failings into human strengths: a passionate desire to serve, a fervent will to be a channel of the divine will. Their experience of heaven began here on earth.

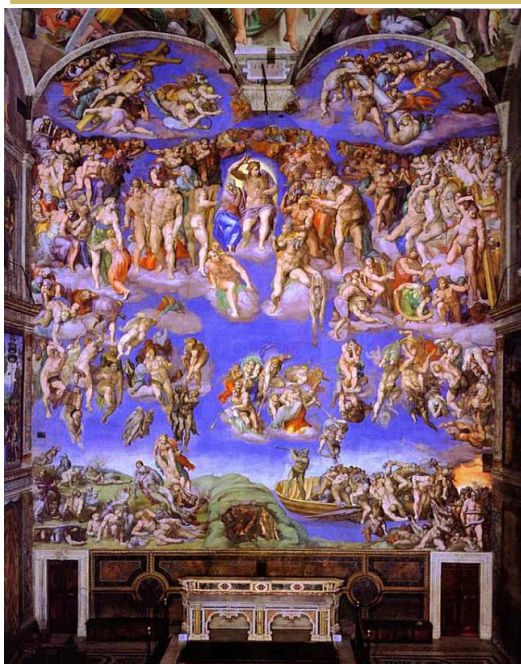
St. Thomas Aquinas says: "The saints in the heavenly homeland have a perfect similarity with God. As we read in 1 John 3:2: *When he appears, we will be similar to him, and we will see him as he is.* If you want to arrive at similarity with God in the homeland, you ought to apply yourself to becoming similar to him in good works here, [on earth]."

Ref: book of Saints by Alexandra Bonfante-Warren



All Souls Day

Feast November 2



An excerpt from Prayer Time Faith sharing Reflections:

One of the best known works of art in the world is *The Last Judgment*, the colossal fresco created by Michelangelo Buonarroti on the wall behind the altar on the Sistine Chapel in Rome. The painting is dominated by an image of the risen Jesus with his right arm raised in condemnation of the souls being taken to hell, depicted in the lower right hand corner of the scene.

It's not a pretty picture and one that can easily inspire fear of death and despair for those who have died. But Michelangelo also included figures of the souls who are not condemned, those who had served the Lord by serving the least of his brothers and sisters, those whom Jesus has already welcomed to eternal life in the presence of God (cf. Matthew 25:31-46). The figures of the saved represent the hope that is the focus of our annual observance of All Souls Day.

Saint Paul urges Christians not to grieve over the dead "like the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep" (1 Thessalonians 4:13b-14). Pope Benedict XVI referring to this same passage found All Souls Day to be a particularly good occasion for us "to renew the hope in eternal life, founded on Christ's death and resurrection" (*Angelus*, 11-2-08)

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Feast November 9



The first basilica in Rome, a renovated palace of the Lateran family, was consecrated on this date in 324 as the Church of the Most Holy Savior. Nearby communities of monks lent it the same name of Saint John. Saint John Lateran is the pope's basilica. Fire and earthquake have repeatedly destroyed the structure; each time it has been rebuilt with care. "The beauty and the harmony of churches, destined to render praise to God, invite us human

beings too, thought limited and sinful, to convert ourselves to form a 'cosmos,' a well-ordered construction, in close communion with Jesus, who is the true Holy of Holies" (*Saint John Paul II*)



Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

Solemnity Nov. 22



By Elizabeth Betczynski

On November 22nd we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. But who is Jesus, our King? What was He like?

He probably spoke Aramaic and Latin to communicate with the local people and the Romans, but what did He like? Although Jesus was serious, He could not have been excessively so, or else the children would not have swarmed all over Him! Jesus must have been charismatic and energetic, speaking in the idioms and style of the time. People must have laughed and cried when he spoke. They must have left his presence so inspired that they had to tell everyone they met! Sometimes it is difficult to picture Jesus with a favorite color or food. He

was human.

By inhabiting our physical form, Jesus sanctified it. The incarnation reminds us that all we are and all we love as human beings are good – eating, drinking, laughing, and loving as well as the more holy pursuits. When God created the world, he called it all good.

Jesus our King, is not angry or vindictive, demanding suffering and death, but instead, a gracious God, sharing divine life and love in creation and in the Incarnation. When we reflect on the Gospel of John - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ...all things came to be through him... and the Word became flesh...” We see the emphasis on friendship, intimacy, mutuality, service, faithful love – revealing God's desire and gift for the full flourishing of humanity.

Jesus is the Alpha, in whom all things were created. (Colossians 1:15) From the Faith perspective, the glorified Christ is the Omega, the final point in whom all things will be gathered up (Ephesians 1:10).

Hopefully, this will change our view of Jesus as we move on into prayer this Christmas. Focus on God's overflowing love. This love is the life of the Trinity and spills over into creation. Our responsibility, then, is to live the range of human experiences in a way that affirms and reflects the design of the One who made them.

Ref: Liguorian article by Kathleen Basi, Dec. 2012; Catholic Update “the Incarnation” Dec. 2002

Note: The words at the bottom of the picture read: The Lord has indeed risen, alleluia, Glory and kingship be His forever and ever.)

First Sunday of Advent

November 29



At a certain point in life, the profound desire and cravings of our heart reach a point of eruption in us. Yet at the same time comes awareness that we cannot bring about what we want, we do not have inside us what is needed to fulfill and satisfy our longings. And so, with our infinite yearnings we turn to the Infinite and cry, “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down.” Our experience of helplessness before the fact of our boundless human need moves us to ask for fellowship with God's son, Jesus Christ. The nature of our desire assures us as we enter into Advent

that we are not lacking in any spiritual gift as we wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. “The Lord of the house is coming.” “Be watchful! Be alert!”



Bible Studies

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ" St. Jerome

The Lectionary

Day	Sunday
Time	9:30 am
Location	Room 149
Leader	Joe Lesnau
Tel.	979-265-6221
Day	Wednesday
Time	9:30 am
Location	Room 149
Leader	Bettie Carmody
Tel.	979-265-6509

Adult Faith Sharing

Day	Sunday
Time	10:45 am
Location	Room 149
Leader	Gary Forse
Tel.	979-299-3145
Day	Thursday
Time	9:15 am
Location	"F" Wing
Leader	Jeanne Schroll
Tel.	979-297-5860

Day	Wednesday
Time	6:00 am
Location	Angelina Room
Leader	Duane Williams
Tel.	979-297-5564
Day	Friday
Time	9:15 am
Location	Room 149
Leader	Pam Walker
Tel.	979-297-9746

Prayer Groups

"Hear my prayer, O God. Give ear to the words of my mouth" Psalm 54:2

Day	Time	Focus	Location
Monday	7:00 pm	Rosary	Church
1 st Monday	7:00 pm	Patriotic Rosary	Church
Tuesday	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Rosary Divine Mercy Chaplet	Church
Wednesday	8:00 am 9:00 am	Rosary Divine Mercy Chaplet	Church
Thursday	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Rosary Divine Mercy Chaplet	Church
Friday	8:00 am 9:00 am	Rosary Divine Mercy Chaplet	Church
Saturday	6:30 am	Men's Prayer Group	"F" Wing
Saturday	8:00 am	Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet	Chapel
1 st Saturday	8:00 am	Pro-Life Rosary	Chapel



The Holidays



The Grace of Work

*An excerpt from Magnificat September 2014, by
Monsignor Romano Guardini,*

Human beings are born; they grow up; they have their joys and sorrows and their fortunes. They strive and struggle and develop, and all this happens in God. He has created them and given them their various powers. "In him we live and move and have our being." When we rejoice, the living God is present in our rejoicing. And when we suffer, he suffers in our

suffering. He has created us, and we are not a matter of indifference to him.

When we work, it is he who commissions us. It is not a matter of indifference to him how the carpenter makes the table, how the mother runs her home, and how the doctor serves his patients. There is an inferior kind of piety that seeks to enhance the things of God by disparaging the things of the world. It is the vengeance taken by a frustrated desire for the things of this world.

But the things of the world are not unimportant, nor are they a matter of indifference, least of all to God; since he created the world "that it might be" and he saw that "it was good." He wants it to remain good, and it grieved his heart when sin invaded the goodness of his world. He took that invasion so seriously that he "gave his Only Begotten Son." God has put his work into people's hands for them to maintain and continue, and he wants them to complete it for his joy and to give meaning to their own lives. God is with us when we do work, whatever it may be. We are to do it for him and with him.

Monsignor Romano Guardini († 1968) was born in Italy and was a renowned professor of philosophy and theology in Germany.

Patriot Day

September 11



The last standing column at the
9/11 Memorial Museum

*An excerpt from Presidential Proclamation - Patriot Day and National
Day of Service and Remembrance, 2014*

America will never forget the September tragedy that shook our Nation's core 13 years ago. On a day that began like so many others, a clear blue sky was pierced by billowing black smoke as a wave of grief crashed over us. But in one of our darkest moments, we summoned strength and courage, and out of horrible devastation emerged the best of our humanity. On this solemn anniversary, we pause in remembrance, in reflection, and once again in unity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2014, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I call upon all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.



Veterans Day

November 11



World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

<http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>

Thanksgiving Day

November 26



Thanksgiving Day Proclamation

It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year, defending us with his guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad, and vouchsafing to us in his mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, who is of our own household. It has also pleased our heavenly Father to favor as well our citizens in their homes as our soldiers in their camps, and our sailors on the rivers and seas, with unusual health. He has largely augmented our free population by emancipation and by immigration, while he has opened to us new sources of wealth, and has crowned the labor of our working-men in every

department of industry with abundant rewards. Moreover, he has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage, and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war into which we have been brought by our adherence as a nation to the cause of freedom and humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions.

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November next as a day which I desire to be observed by all my fellow-citizens, wherever they may be then, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe. And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid, that on that occasion they do reverently humble themselves in the dust, and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the great Disposer of events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony throughout the land which it has pleased him to assign as a dwelling-place for ourselves and for our posterity throughout all generations.

Abraham Lincoln



THE HOLY SEE

Pope Francis' Catechesis



The Family and the Downward Spiral of Poverty

Vatican City, 3 June 2015 (VIS) – The living conditions that put the family to the test and render it vulnerable, starting with poverty, will be the themes of Pope Francis' catechesis starting from today, he announced to the faithful attending this week's Wednesday general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The Holy Father spoke about the misery and degradation that can accompany poverty, in

the suburbs of metropolises and in rural areas alike, a situation that is often aggravated by war that has a profound impact on civilians. "In truth, war is the 'mother of all poverty', a great predator of lives, souls, and of the dearest and most sacred affections", he said.

However, he added, there are many families who, although poor, seek to live their daily lives with dignity, often openly trusting in God's blessing. Nevertheless, this "must not justify our indifference, but rather increase our shame! It is almost a miracle that, even in poverty, families continue to form, and indeed preserve as best they can, the special humanity of their bonds. It is a fact that irritates those planners of well-being who consider sentiments, procreation and family bonds as a variable secondary to the quality of life."...

"What will become of us if we give in to the blackmail of violence and money, and go so far as to renounce the affections of the family? A new form of civil ethics will arise only when those responsible in public life recognize the social bond, starting with the fight against the downward spiral of poverty in the family that leads us to the abyss"... "The immense labor of the family is not quoted on balance sheets, naturally!" he exclaimed. "It is not merely a question of bread. We are talking about work, education, and healthcare. It is important to be clear about this".

"We must endeavor to stay ever closer to families afflicted by poverty", he repeated. "In effect, social misery affects the family and at times destroys it. The lack or loss of work, or its precariousness, has serious repercussions on family life, putting relationships under stress... Added to these material factors there is also the damage caused to the family by false models, propagated by the mass media, based on consumerism and the cult of appearances, which affect the poorest social classes and increase the disintegration of family bonds".

"The Church is Mother, and must never forget the tragedy of her children. She too must be poor, to become fruitful and to respond to so much suffering. A poor Church is a Church that practices a voluntary simplicity in her own life – in her institutions, in the lifestyle of her members – to break down walls of separation, especially those that separate us from the poor. This takes prayer and action. Let us pray intensively to the Lord to awaken us, to make our Christian families agents in this revolution of family closeness that is now so necessary. This is what the Church has been made of since the very beginning. And let us not forget", he warned, "that the judgment of the needy, the small and the poor prefigures the judgment of God."



Pope Francis' Catechesis



The family faced with death

Vatican City, 17 June 2015 (VIS) – Bereavement in the family was the theme of Pope Francis' catechesis during this Wednesday's general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"Death is an experience that affects all families, without exception. It is part of life; however, when it touches someone

close to us, it never appears natural to us. For parents, the loss of a child ... is an affront to the promises, gifts and sacrifices of love joyfully offered to the life we have brought into being... And a child suffers something similar when he or she is left alone by the loss of one or both parents. The emptiness and abandonment that opens up inside the child is even more distressing on account of the fact that he does not have the sufficient experience to 'give a name' to what has happened. In these cases death is like a black hole that opens up in the life of families, for which we are unable to give any explanation. And at times we even reach the point of blaming God".

"But many people – and I understand them – become angry with God, and blaspheme. 'Why? There is no God, God does not exist! Why has He done this to me?'. But this anger arises from great pain; the loss of a son or a daughter, a father or mother, is an immense pain. ... In these cases, death seems like a hole". But physical death, the Pope warned, has "accomplices" that are even worse: "hatred, envy, pride and greed, the sin of the world that works for death and renders it even more painful and unjust. Family ties appear to be the predestined and helpless victims of these powerful auxiliaries of death that accompany human history... May the Lord free us from growing accustomed to this".

Thanks to God's compassion given to us in Jesus, "many families demonstrate in their actions that death does not have the last word... The darkness of death must be faced with more intense love. In the light of the Resurrection of the Lord, Who never abandons any of those whom the Father has entrusted to Him, we can remove the 'sting' from death, as the apostle Paul said; we can prevent it from poisoning life, from spoiling our affections, from making us fall into the darkest emptiness. In this faith, we are able to console each other, knowing that the Lord has defeated death once and for all. Our dear ones have not disappeared into the darkness of nothing: hope assures us that they are in the good and strong hands of God. Love is stronger than death", the Pope emphasized...

Faith gives us birth and rebirth in hope, reiterated Francis, recalling the passage from the Gospel in which Jesus revives the widower's son, restoring him to his mother. "This is our hope", he exclaimed. "Jesus will restore to us all our dear ones who have passed away, He will return them to us and we will meet them again. ... Let us remember this gesture of Jesus ... as the Lord will do the same with the loved ones in our family". This faith, he said, "protects us from a nihilistic vision of death, as well as from the false consolations of the world, 'so that the Christian truth does not risk mixing itself with myths of various types'", giving way to rites of superstition, ancient or modern".

The Pope concluded by urging all pastors and all Christians to express in the most concrete way the sense of faith in relation to the family experience of bereavement. "The right to weep must not be denied", he exclaimed. "Even Jesus was deeply moved and profoundly troubled by the bereavement of a family he loved... The work of God's love is stronger than the work of death. We must seek to be 'accomplices' to that love, with our faith. ... Death was defeated by Jesus on the cross. Jesus will restore all of us to our families".



Pope Francis' Catechesis



The wounds of the family

Vatican City, 24 June 2015 (VIS) – Following his recent catechesis on external threats to the family, such as poverty and illness, during today's general audience the Pope spoke about those wounds that are produced as a result of family cohabitation.

In all families there are moments of discord, but when harmful words, acts and indifference are ignored, they can be aggravated and transformed into arrogance, hostility and contempt, which can become

deep lacerations, dividing husband and wife and inducing them to seek understanding, support and consolation elsewhere. "But often, these forms of support do not think of the good of the family. ... And frequently the effects of separation have an impact on the children".

"But do we still know what a wound to the soul is? Do we feel the weight of the mountain that crushes the soul of a child, in families in which the members treat each other badly and harm each other, to the point of breaking the bonds of conjugal trust?" asked the Pope. ... When adults lose their head ... when the father and mother harm each other, the soul of the child suffers greatly, feeling a sense of desperation. And they are wounds that leave a lifelong mark".

"In the family, everything is interconnected: when its soul is wounded at some point, the infection spreads throughout. ... Husband and wife are one flesh", emphasized the Pope, "But their creatures are flesh of their flesh. If we think of the severity with which Jesus warns adults not to offend the little ones, we can also better understand his word on the grave responsibility of safeguarding the conjugal bond that is at the origin of the human family. When a man and a woman become one flesh, all the wounds and neglect of the father and mother are brought to bear on the living flesh of the children".

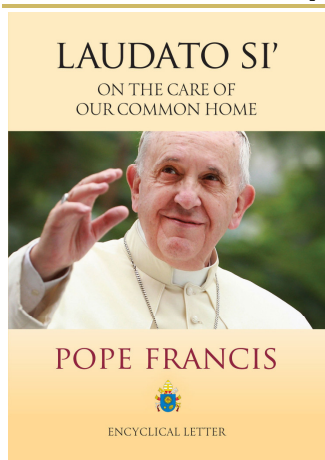
The Holy Father also spoke about those cases in which separation is inevitable or indeed morally necessary "to remove the weaker spouse, or young children, from the wounds caused by arrogance and violence, debasement and exploitation, estrangement and indifference".

However, he said, there is no lack of those who, thanks to God, "supported by faith and love for their children, bear witness to their faithfulness in a bond in which they have believed, however impossible it may seem to revive it. Not all separated people have this vocation, though. Not all recognize, in their solitude, the Lord's call to them. We find many families in irregular situations around us. And this poses many questions: how can we help them? How can we accompany them? How can we accompany them so the children do not become hostages to their father or mother?"

The Pope concluded his catechesis by asking the Lord for "great faith, to look upon reality through the eyes of God; and great charity, to be near to people with a merciful heart".



Overview of Pope's Francis Encyclical *Laudato Si'*



The following text offers a summary of the key points of the six chapters of this Encyclical published by the Vatican Information Services on June 18, 2015:

Chapter One – WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR COMMON HOME (Pollution and climate change; Climate as a common good; The issue of water; Loss of biodiversity; Decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society; Global inequality; A variety of opinions).

The chapter presents the most recent scientific findings on the environment as a way to listen to the cry of creation, “to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.”

Chapter Two – THE GOSPEL OF CREATION (The light offered by faith; The wisdom of the Biblical accounts; The mystery of the universe; The message of each creature in the harmony of creation; A universal communion; The common destination of goods; The gaze of Jesus).

To face the problems illustrated in the previous chapter, Pope Francis selects Biblical accounts, offering a comprehensive view that comes from the Judeo-Christian tradition. With this he articulates the “tremendous responsibility” of humankind for creation, the intimate connection among all creatures and the fact that “the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone”.

Chapter Three – THE HUMAN ROOTS OF THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS (Technology: creativity and power; the globalization of the technocratic paradigm; The crisis and effects of modern anthropocentrism; The need to protect employment; New biological technologies).

This chapter gives an analysis of the current situation, “so as to consider not only its symptoms but also its deepest causes”, in a dialogue with philosophy and the human sciences.

Chapter Four – INTEGRAL ECOLOGY (Environmental, economic and social ecology; Cultural ecology; Ecology of daily life; The principle of the common good; ...

The heart of what the Encyclical proposes is integral ecology as a new paradigm of justice; an ecology “which respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship to our surroundings”. In fact, “nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live”. This is true as we are involved in various fields: in economy and politics, in different cultures particularly in those most threatened, and even in every moment of our lives.

Chapter Five – LINES OF APPROACH AND ACTION (Dialogue on the environment; In the international community; Dialogue for new national and local policies; Dialogue and transparency in decision-making; Politics and economy in dialogue for human fulfillment; Religions in dialogue with science).

This chapter addresses the question of what we can and must do. Analyses are not enough: we need proposals “for dialogue and action which would involve each of us individually no less than international policy”.... Pope Francis insists on development of honest and transparent decision-making processes, in order to “discern” which policies and business initiatives can bring about “genuine integral development”.

Chapter Six – ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY (Towards a new lifestyle; Educating for the covenant between humanity and the environment; Ecological conversion;



Overview of Pope's Francis Encyclical *Laudato Si'*

Joy and peace; Civic and political love; Sacramental signs and the celebration of rest; The trinity and relationships between creatures; Queen of all creation; Beyond the sun).

The final chapter invites everyone to the heart of ecological conversion. The roots of the cultural crisis are deep, and it is not easy to reshape habits and behaviors. Education and training are the key challenges: "change is impossible without motivation and a process of education" (15).

The full text of the encyclical in English can be consulted at:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html



*Laudato Si': On Care For
Our Common Home*
Discussion Guide

Encyclical Discussion Groups Coming in January 2016

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation



2015-08-10 Vatican Radio - Pope Francis has decided to set up a "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" which will be celebrated on **September 1st annually**.

He made the announcement in a letter to the heads of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

The Pope said: Sharing with my beloved brother the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew his concerns for the future

of creation (cfr Encyclical Letter. *Laudato Si*, 7-9) .., I wish to inform you that I have decided to set up also in the Catholic Church, the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" which, beginning this year, will be celebrated on the 1st of September, as the Orthodox Church has done for some time now.

The annual World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live. The celebration of the Day on the same date as the Orthodox Church will be a valuable opportunity to bear witness to our growing communion with our orthodox brothers. We live in a time where all Christians are faced with identical and important challenges and we must give common replies to these in order to appear more credible and effective.



St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Lake Jackson, TX

Presentation of the Eighth World Meeting of Families



Vatican City, 25 June 2015 (VIS) – This morning in the Holy See Press Office a press conference was held to present the Eighth World Meeting of Families, to be held in Philadelphia, U.S.A., from 22 to 27 September this year, on the theme “Love is our mission. The family fully alive”. The speakers were Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family; Archbishop Charles Joseph Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. of Philadelphia with his auxiliary, Bishop

John J. McIntyre, and Jerry and Lucille Francesco, a couple from the same archdiocese, now married for fifty years.

Archbishop Paglia emphasized that the Meeting is a valuable opportunity to place the family at the center of the Church and of civil society. “It is a duty”, he said, explaining that the meeting is about and for families, who are its protagonists and main recipients. “The family builds the Church and sustains society. ... During the days of the conference, we will present the results of some international research that has scientifically studied this positive influence. The family constantly asks for help and support in the entire ecclesial community – and in the next few days I will write to all the monasteries of the world to ask them to accompany these very important days with their prayers – and from civil society as a whole, which cannot remain indifferent to such beauty and goodness that is so effective and so viable”.

The prelate went on to highlight the global nature of the event, and the hope that it will be seen and reported on worldwide. “The family is the heritage of all humanity, at every latitude, in every culture; it is blessed by all religions. That is why we wanted a significant presence of other Christian denominations and of major world religious traditions. ... We are working so that delegations from around the globe and especially from the world's poorest local Churches will be present. Philadelphia will be a great worldwide celebration of families: in the spectacle, we will be able to get a glimpse; we will have to show the beauty and the possibility of all humanity becoming a single family of peoples. It is the dream of peace; it is God's dream”.

This universality will be enshrined in the final gesture of the meeting: the archbishop revealed that at the end of Mass on Sunday, 27 September, Pope Francis will give the Gospel of Luke, “the Good News of God's mercy, which is Jesus, to families from big cities on the five continents: Kinshasa, Africa; Havana, America; Hanoi, Asia; Sydney, Australia; and Marseilles, Europe. This is a symbolic gesture that will announce the sending of a million copies of this book to the five cities involved. We want the Gospel of Mercy to be announced in the great cities of the world so that they may build bonds of love between them, in the Church and in society”.

The archbishop of Philadelphia gave some data on the Meeting, which more than a million people are expected to attend, and from which representatives of more than a hundred nations have registered. So far 6,100 volunteers have offered assistance of various types and the event organizers intend to make more than 5,000 buses available. More than 1,600 people have signed up to the “Host a Family” program.

For more information on the events linked to the meeting,

See <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/>



The Saints

*O Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary, infuse into me grace,
wisdom, charity, chastity and humility.*

St. Andrew

Feast: November 30



By Anne Calhoun

Saint Andrew, along with his brother Simon Peter, was a fisherman. Andrew became a disciple of Saint John the Baptist but when John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" Andrew understood that Jesus was greater than any other man. Andrew left John the Baptist to follow Jesus. He became the first disciple of Jesus. For a time he kept his trade of being a fisherman while following Jesus but Jesus one day asked him to give up everything to follow Him always. Andrew and Simon Peter did as Jesus asked because He had promised to make them fishers of men.

It is believed that after Jesus' crucifixion Saint Andrew went to Greece to preach the Word of God. There he was tied to an X-shaped cross, not nailed, and he lived two days in that state of suffering. While he was hanging on the cross he was still preaching the gospel to the people gathered around him and whoever would listen. Two big countries, Russia and Scotland, along with many smaller countries, and Greece, have chosen Saint Andrew as their patron saint. He is the patron saint of fisherman. His name means "strong and manly".

Saint Andrew inspires me to be stronger and not give up as easily. If he could hang on a cross for two days and still be preaching the gospel than I can at least preach to those around me. He gave up everything to follow Jesus, he was selfless. He teaches us that material things have no value when we are taken up with God in the end. We need to follow in his footsteps and try to be selfless. This saint really speaks to me because from the beginning he believed that Jesus was the son of God, he did not doubt that Jesus was the messiah.

St. Joan of Arc

Feast: May 30



By Sabrina Finley

Saint Joan of Arc is known for her courageous actions while fighting for the French Army, as well as her rigid confidence in God. Born into a Christian family in 1412, she began hearing the voices of St. Michael, St. Catherine, and St. Margaret at the age of twelve. At this time, France was being fought over by its dauphin, Charles, and the English King Henry. Joan's village was caught on the border of this dispute, and urged by the voices of the saints that she'd begun hearing four years previously; Joan stepped forward to help Charles and his cause. After some hesitation, he gave her a small group of men to take to the war front.

Joan's bravery and skill with war strategy earned her quick success. She fought offensively, a sharp contrast to Charles' previous



The Saints

St. Joan of Arc

Feast: May 30

strategies. She led the siege of several fortresses before she was captured. Joan's words to her captors about the saints who spoke to her were used against her, and she was condemned to death as a heretic. She was burned at the stake at the age of nineteen.

I heard St. Joan of Arc's story for the first time when I was in sixth grade. I was inspired by her bravery and blind faith. How amazing that not just a woman, but a sixteen-year-old girl could play such a large role in a war during this time period. Guided by the voices of saints, she followed the will of God into battle. We are called to follow Joan's example by allowing God to lead us through the battles of our daily lives. Joan is the patron saint of soldiers, but I think that we are all fighting some sort of war in our lives. I pray that we, as Saint Joan of Arc did, strive to follow God into our wars with unwavering faith.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



By Annika Moreno

Mother Teresa's birth name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. She was born on August 26, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia. The Bojaxhius were very devout Catholics. Her father was heavily involved in their home church and local politics. When Agnes was eight her father passed away from unknown causes. Agnes and her mother became close after their loss and formed a great bond that lasted her whole life. Through this relationship her mother showed her how to deeply love, serve and have a heart for charity.

Agnes was twelve when she felt called to the religious life

while on a pilgrimage to the Church of the Black Madonna in Letnice. She responded to the call when she was eighteen; she joined the Sisters of Loretto and chose to take the name Sister Mary Teresa after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. Soon after she was called to India. There she made her first vows and taught at a school in Calcutta run by her order. Sister Mary Teresa had a deep love for the girls she taught. Her hopes were to help them gain knowledge and skills to get out of poverty. After her final vows she took the name "Mother".

About ten years after her final vows she received a "call within a call". Christ told her to stop teaching to work with the poorest and sickest people of Calcutta. She could not just get up and leave; her convent would not let her leave without permission and she took a vow of obedience. She sought approval to leave the convent to pursue her call for nearly a year and a half. When she was finally approved to leave she did basic medical training for six months and then took on her famous white and blue sari and went out to aid "the unwanted, the unloved, the uncared for"

I love Mother Teresa because she is relatable and she is authentic. She is like me. She has had doubts; her wise mother raised her for most of her life. Her circumstances never got to her and she always had a great Christ like spirit, making her a great role model. Mother Teresa went on to win a Nobel peace prize for her service to humanity. I strive to care as deeply and do everything with my whole heart like she does. I also pray that my generation can be more like her and lead our country back to our faith.

Mother Teresa was beatified on October 19, 2003 by Pope John Paul II.



“CREATING A FAMILY OF LOVE”

By: Joe & Cathy Garcia-Prats



Joe & Cathy has been married for 42 years and they are the proud parents of 10 sons ranging in age from 21 to 39.

Joe is a Professor and practicing neonatologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and holds joint appointments in the Department of Pediatrics and Center for Ethics, Medicine and Public Issues. He obtained his undergraduate degree at Loyola University New Orleans. He received his medical degree at Tulane Medical School and did his pediatric training and fellowship in neonatology at Baylor College of Medicine.

Cathy is a former first grade teacher and received her Bachelor of Science degree from Loyola University, New Orleans and has served on the Board of Directors of several organizations in the Houston area including; the Galveston-Houston Archdiocesan Board of Education. They have written several books as a couple and individually, they lecture on family, marriage and parenting.

Saturday, September 19 , 2015

After 5:30 P.M. Mass

Family Life Center

A light dinner and nursery, for children age 3 and under, will be provided. To RSVP and reserve, please call Margarita Prinz at 979-297-0297 no later than September 14th.

Presented by the Adult Faith Formation Ministry



For Your Information



NEW TALKS NOW AVAILABLE

Visit our Kiosk in the Hall of the Family Life Center.



Online Reflections



WORLD
MEETING OF
FAMILIES

Philadelphia 2015

September 22-27, 2015

The office of Family Life Ministry is providing brief reflections on marriage and family in accordance with "Love is our Mission: The Family Fully Alive" the preparatory catechesis offered by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Pontifical Council for the Family.

Find Reflections at:

<http://houstonwmf.weebly.com/>



Important Dates In This Trimester

Date	Celebration	Date	Celebration
Sept. 1	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	Oct. 12	Columbus Day
Sept. 3	St. Gregory the Great	Oct. 14	St. Callistus
Sept. 7	Labor Day	Oct. 15	St. Teresa of Jesus
Sept. 8	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)	Oct. 22	St. John Paul II
Sept. 9	St. Peter Claver	Oct. 28	Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles (Feast)
Sept. 11	Patriot Day	Nov. 1	All Saints Day (Solemnity)
Sept. 14	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast)	Nov. 2	All Souls Day (Feast)
Sept. 15	Our Lady of Sorrows	Nov. 9	The dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Feast)
Sept. 16	Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian	Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Sept. 21	St. Matthew, Apostle (Feast)	Nov. 18	The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul
Sept. 29	Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (Feast)	Nov. 22	Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe (Solemnity)
Sept. 30	St. Jerome	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day
Oct. 1	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus	Nov. 29	First Sunday of Advent
Oct. 7	Our Lady of the Rosary	Nov. 30	St. Andrew (Feast)

**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic
Church**

100 Oak Drive, South
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Phone: 979-297-3041

Fax: 979-297-7895

E-mail: church@smlj.org

Web Page: www.smlj.org