



The Spiritual Light

The Spiritual Light

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This issue is dedicated to our beloved Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. May the Lord keep and bless him in his new life of prayer. In this issue, you will find articles on events, programs, and *News from the Vatican* that we hope will keep your spiritual light burning during this summer season.

We continue to be blessed with the contributions from Gary Forse. His article "Diaconate Formation Reflection" is truly inspiring.

We also feature articles on the lives of Blessed Fr. Junípero Serra, St. Lupita Zavala (a new saint from México), and the saints that we celebrate this season. May their lives and the Holy Spirit prompt you to rediscover your journey of faith so you too will become a true herald and witness of the Gospel as they were.

We have also included a list of Bible studies, Prayer Groups, and two Featured Ministries that you may want to get involved with. Additionally, the Cenacle, and excerpt of How to Double your Happiness may be of interest to you too.

As always, we welcome your ideas so please do not hesitate to contact Ruth Stone or myself.

We wish you a **safe, happy, and fun filled summer!**

Margarita Prinz

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A Publication of Adult Faith Formation Team
Summer Issue (June - August 2013)



The Light

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

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.

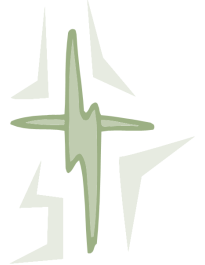
We look for topics in which our parishioners say they are interested. This knowledge came from a survey done in the infancy of this ministry and we search for speakers well known for the topics they present. Agreement on topics and speakers are reached by consensus rather than majority and our annual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

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adult
Faith
Formation
Ministry



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isGodcalling?

YOU to ...

If you are a single Catholic man or woman (ages 18 and 45) who keeps wondering: "Does God really want me? Is this His voice I am really hearing? Then this program is for you. It is called Life Awareness and is given annually in the Archdiocese especially for those men and women having a discernment problem.

The program is sponsored by the retreat center, Serra Clubs of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the Archdiocesan Vocations office. It will be held on the weekend of July 26-July 28. It consists of group discussions, one on one conversation, prayer, quiet time and social activities. Each program is led by a staff of Archdiocesan and Order priests, sisters and brothers. There is no charge for the weekend. It is being held at Holy Name Retreat Center, 430 Bunker Hill Road in Houston. If you have never been to this retreat center, you are really in for a treat. For more information visit Houston-vocations.com or contact Danny Matranga at 713-462-0136. Remember it is free. If you apply yourself, the weekend will give you the answer you are seeking.

Ref: The Texas Catholic Herald, May 14, 2013, Page 3

Annual Day of Prayer for Priests

June 7th was a special day even before Blessed John Paul II selected it as the annual day we should all pray for our priests. He deliberately picked the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, thus combining the priesthood of Jesus with the priesthood of the priests of the world.

Jesus Christ was the initial priest in our faith. Our priests, once ordained, are the stands in for Jesus in His priesthood. So Blessed John Paul II decided to join the two in a worldwide celebration annually on the Feast of the Sacred Heart.



It was in 2002 that Blessed John Paul II announced that June 7th, the feast of the Sacred Heart, would hereafter be remembered and celebrated as a day of prayer for our priests - worldwide. Think of the magnanimity of the celebration. You can be an active participant in this day. Check on Annual Global Rosary for Priests for information on joining the world wide recitation of the rosary. This will give you a list of participating (85) shrines praying a particular mystery of the Rosary at a particular half hour on this particular day.

You can join a group of fellow parishioners to pray the rosary in your own parish asking Our Lady's protection for all our priests - a spontaneous recitation.

You can help organize a parish celebration with our priests there as this is a celebration particularly for them.

Finally, you can say your rosary alone, giving thanks for the clergy we have and through the rosary to the Blessed Virgin Mary, asking God for their sanctification and protection plus the strength to continue walking in the path of Jesus, the priest. Don't let the day go by without some sort of prayerful activity for our clergy.



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Lake Jackson, TX

For Your Information

Flag Day—June 14



After three decades of state and local celebrations, beginning June 14, 1889 Flag Day was officially established by Proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson May 30, 1916. However, celebrations continued but no national holiday was declared. It was not until August 3, 1949 that President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as NATIONAL FLAG DAY. And so it was and is. There is a saying that to get something done governmentally, it takes an Act of Congress. And so it does. Ref: <http://www.org/flag.day.html>

Father's Day—June 16

Now it's your time, Dads. May your family do themselves proud showing off their love for the head of the family. **HAPPY FATHERS' DAY** to all of you Dads. Stretch back in YOUR chair and relax and enjoy your day.



First Day of Summer—June 21



Summer will begin June 21, 2013 at 1:04 AM EDT. Timing of summer solstice begins annually when the sun reaches its farthest point north of the equator. This occurs annually on June 20 or June 21 in North America, depending on your time zone.

<http://www.almanac.com/content/first-day-summer-solstice>

Independence Day—July 4

Be glad you are an American citizen. Think back to all the wars and battles at which our flag has flown, the battles and wars she has seen won. So get her out of the closet, see that she is OK to fly once more and get a lump in your throat as she proudly waves from the flag pole at your home. Attend some festivity to celebrate your citizenship.

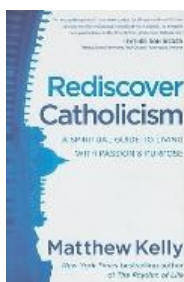


Quotations from “Rediscover Catholicism” by Matthew Kelly

OUR HELPERS—LOOK AROUND AND SEE THEM

God gives us husbands, and wives, brothers and sisters, parents, colleagues, and friends to help us see things as they really are. And there is no relationship more precious in the world than the friendship of people we love, trust and respect enough to allow them to correct us when we are not seeing things as they really are. We need to be constantly mindful of our ability to deceive ourselves and our tendency to distort the way we see things in our relationship with God and our relationships with others.

Page 154; Rediscover Catholicism by Matthew Kelly





Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



Benedict XVI First and Last Salute

On February 11, 2013, Pope Benedict XVI shocked the world when he announced that he will be retiring on February 28, becoming the first pope in centuries to step down from his post. After the day's consistory for causes for canonization, he announced his resignation declaring: "After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry".

On February 28, he became Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and moved to Castel Gandolfo. He is expected to move into the Mater Ecclesiae monastery once its renovation is complete. His "Fisherman's Ring" was destroyed along with the lead seal of his pontificate. Before leaving the Vatican, he issued his last tweet: "Thank you for your love and support. May you always experience the joy that comes from putting Christ at the center of your lives."

Early Life

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was born Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger at Marktl am Inn, Bavaria, Germany on Holy Saturday, April 16, 1927 and was baptized the same day. He was the youngest of three children. His father was a policeman, from a family of farmers of modest economic resources. His mother, a hotel cook before she married, was the daughter of artisans.

He grew up in Traunstein, a small village in a profoundly Roman Catholic region of Germany, near Salzburg, Austria. It was here where he received his Christian, cultural, and human formation as the Nazi regimen was becoming stronger in the 1930s.

In 1939, he entered preparatory seminary but could not avoid the reality of the time and was briefly a member of the Hitler Youth when membership became mandatory in 1941. In 1943, he was enrolled in an auxiliary ant-aircraft corps and deserted in late April 1945.

Priesthood

After the war ended, he and his older brother Georg reentered the seminary and both were ordained on the same day, June 29, 1951, in Munich. In 1953, he obtained his doctorate in theology with a thesis entitled "People and House of God in St Augustine's Doctrine of the Church". Father Ratzinger qualified for university teaching with a dissertation on: "The Theology of History in St. Bonaventure" four years later.

From 1959 to 1969, he taught at the universities of Bonn, Münster, Tübingen, and Regensburg. He made notable contributions to the Vatican II Council, from 1962 to 1965 as theological advisor to Cardinal Joseph Frings, Archbishop of Cologne.

On March 25, 1977, Pope Paul VI named him Archbishop of Munich and Freising becoming the first diocesan priest to take the pastoral governance of the Bavarian Archdiocese in 80 years. He received his Episcopal ordination on May 28, 1977 choosing "Cooperators of the Truth" as his motto. On June 27 of the same year, Pope Paul VI made him a cardinal with the priestly title of "Santa Maria Consolatrice al Tiburtino."

On August 25 and 26, 1978, he was part of the conclave that elected Pope John Paul I, who named him his Special Envoy to the III International Mariological Congress in Guayaquil, Ecuador in September. Again in October 1978, he was part of the Conclave that elected Pope John Paul II.

Cardinal Ratzinger held several posts during Pope John Paul II's papacy. He was president of the Preparatory Commission for the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which after six years of work (1986 – 1992) presented the new Catechism to the Holy Father. On November 25, 1981, he was nominated



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, the office charged with safeguarding the doctrine of the Church, and he stayed in this office until his papal election in 2005.

In May 2001, Pope John Paul II issued a *motu proprio* titled "Sacrament of Holiness Protection" assigning responsibility for certain grave crimes under canon law, including sexual abuse of a minor, to Ratzinger's congregation. The document compelled diocesan bishops from all over the world to forward their case files to Rome, where the congregation would make a decision in the course of action.

During 2003 – 2004 more than 3,000 case files were received at the congregation. John L. Allen Jr. National Catholic Reporter senior correspondent wrote on March 17, 2010: "Ratzinger was punctilious in studying the files, making him one of the few churchmen in the world to have read the documentation on virtually every Catholic priest ever credibly accused of sexual abuse. As such, he acquired familiarity of the problem that virtually no other figure in the Catholic Church can claim". Of the 500-plus cases that the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith dealt with prior to Benedict's election to the papacy, the substantial majority were returned to the local bishop authorizing immediate action against the accused priest, no canonical trials, no lengthy process, just swift removal from ministry and, often, expulsion from the priesthood.

John Allen stated that "Two days before the opening of the conclave in 2005, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago met Ratzinger in his Vatican office to discuss the American sex abuse norms, including the "one strike and you're out" policy. Those norms had been approved grudgingly in late 2002 by the Vatican, and only for a five-year period. George said he wanted to discuss with Ratzinger the arguments for making the norms permanent. Ratzinger, according to George, showed "a good grasp of the situation." Forty-eight hours later, Ratzinger was the new pope. As is the custom, the cardinals gathered in the Sistine Chapel made their way, one-by-one, to the new pontiff in order to pledge their support and obedience. As George kissed his hand, Benedict XVI made a point of telling him, in English, that he remembered the conversation the two men had about the sexual abuse norms, and would attend to it. The new pope's first words to a senior American prelate, in other words, were a vow of action on the crisis."

Papacy

On April 19, 2005, Benedict XVI was elected pope at the age of 78. He is the oldest person to have been elected pope since Pope Clement XII (1730–40). He had served longer as a cardinal than any pope since Benedict XIII (1724–30). He was the ninth German pope, the eighth having been the Dutch-German Pope Adrian VI (1522–23). The last pope named Benedict was Benedict XV, an Italian who reigned from 1914 to 1922, during World War I (1914–18).

His theology, as promulgated during his pontificate, consists mainly of three encyclical letters: "*God is love*" in 2005, "*Saved by Hope*" in 2007, and "*Charity in Truth*" in 2009, as well as apostolic documents and various speeches and interviews.

Pope Benedict has stated that he chose his papal name to honor both Saint Benedict, the patron saint of Europe, and Pope Benedict XV, who, as pope during World War I, worked tirelessly to end the war. Likewise, Pope Benedict XVI had been a great voice for peace in the conflicts in Iraq and throughout the Middle East.

Because of his age, Pope Benedict was often regarded as a transitional pope but he clearly desired to make his mark. During the first two years of his pontificate, he released two of his three encyclicals, an apostolic exhortation, "*The Mystery of love*" in 2007, on the Holy Eucharist; and the first volume of a projected three-volume work on the life of Christ, *Jesus of Nazareth*. He made Christian unity, particularly with the Eastern Orthodox, a central theme of his pontificate, and he made efforts to reach out to traditional Catholics, such as the schismatic Society of Saint Pius X.

His many publications consist of 66 books, 3 encyclicals and 3 apostolic exhortations. His address to the Catholic Academy of Bavaria on "Why I am still in the Church" had a wide resonance; in it he stated with his usual clarity: "one can only be a Christian in the Church, not beside the Church". May God bless Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Ref: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/index_en.htm

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/biography/documents/hf_ben-xvi_bio_20050419_short-biography_en.html , <http://www.biography.com/people/pope-benedict-xvi-15045109> .



The Liturgical Season

Corpus Christi

June 2



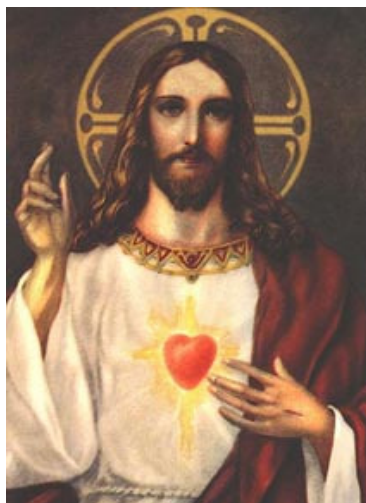
The Feast of Corpus Christi is one time when our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is exposed not just to faithful Catholics but to the entire world. This is a time when Catholics can show their love for Christ in the Real Presence by honoring Him in a very public way. It is also a wonderful way in which we can show our love for our neighbors by bringing Our Lord and Savior closer to them.

The full name of this feast is *Corpus et Sanguis Christi* or The Body and Blood of Christ. "The feast of the Blessed Sacrament was established in 1246 by Bishop Robert de Thorte of Liege at the suggestion of St. Juliana of Mont Carvillon. It was extended to the universal Church by Pope Urban in 1264. The office composed by St. Thomas Aquinas and customary procession was approved by Popes Martin V and Eugene IV. It is celebrated in June, the first Sunday after the feast of the Trinity." (*Modern Catholic Dictionary*, by John A. Hardon, S.J.)

Ref: <http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/pea/cchristi.htm>

Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 7



Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
I. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of (*here name your request*). Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be to the Father....Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

II. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you." Behold, in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of (*here name your request*). Our Father...Hail Mary....Glory Be To the Father....Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

III. O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away." Encouraged by your infallible words I now ask for the grace of (*here name your request*). Our Father....Hail Mary....Glory Be to the Father...Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender Mother and ours.

Say the Hail, Holy Queen and add: St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us.

-- St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Read more: http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/sh_novena.htm#ixzz2TfVyKY4H



The Liturgical Season

Immaculate Heart of Mary

June 8



A Solemn Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Most Holy Virgin Mary, tender Mother of men, to fulfill the desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the request of the Vicar of Your Son on earth, we consecrate ourselves and our families to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and we recommend to You, all the people of our country and all the world.

Please accept our consecration, dearest Mother, and use us as You wish to accomplish Your designs in the world.

O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and Queen of the World, rule over us, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, Our King. Save us from the spreading flood of modern paganism;

kindle in our hearts and homes the love of purity, the practice of a virtuous life, an ardent zeal for souls, and a desire to pray the Rosary more faithfully.

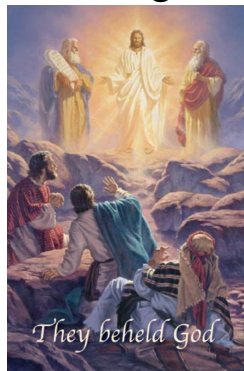
We come with confidence to You, O Throne of Grace and Mother of Fair Love. Inflamm us with the same Divine Fire which has inflamed Your own Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. Make our hearts and homes Your shrine, and through us, make the Heart of Jesus, together with your rule, triumph in every heart and home. Amen.

--Venerable Pope Pius XII

Read more: http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/lm_consecr.htm#ixzz2TfXVXak6

Transfiguration of Our Lord

August 6



August 6th is the feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. This is told in the Synoptic Gospels - Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36 and 2 Peter 1:16-18. The name of the mountain where this takes place has been called Mount Tabor and /or the Mountain of the Transfiguration.

After telling the apostles He would be put to death in Jerusalem, He took three of the Apostles with Him to the Mount of the Transfiguration. It was here that He was transfigured before them. His face became as radiant as the sun and His clothes as white as snow. As at His Baptism the Voice of God, the Father, was heard from a cloud proclaiming: "This is my beloved Son"

The brightness of Jesus at this time was not something new to His nature. It was the manifestation of His divine nature revealing along that divine nature

along with God's voice speaking from the cloud and revealing that Jesus was His Son. There could be no doubt that Jesus was divine and that He was the Son of God.

For the Apostles present the event gave them a glimpse of the glories of heaven and of the resurrected body promised to all Christians.

As the Transfiguration was taking place, two other persons appeared with Jesus, Moses who represented the Old Testament Law and Elijah representing the Prophets. Jesus stood between the two and spoke with them. His appearance in the manner gave the impression of the fulfillment of the laws of the Prophets.

The Transfiguration was not celebrated generally as a feast until Pope Callixtus III elevated it to a feast to celebrate the Christian victory at the siege of Belgrade in 1456. At this battle the Muslim Turks were defeated and the Islamic advance into Europe was halted. Pope Callixtus elevated the date to a feast. He established August 6 as the feast of the celebration of the Transfiguration. It is celebrated to this day on that date.



The Liturgical Season

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15



Celebrated every year on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay, a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts and a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Feast of the Assumption is a very old feast of the Church, celebrated universally by the sixth century. The feast was originally celebrated in the East, where it is known as the Feast of the Dormition, a word which means "the falling asleep." The earliest printed reference to the belief that Mary's body was assumed into Heaven dates from the fourth century, in a document entitled

"The Falling Asleep of the Holy Mother of God." The document is written in the voice of the Apostle John, to whom Christ on the Cross had entrusted the care of His mother, and recounts the death, laying in the tomb, and assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Tradition variously places Mary's death at Jerusalem or at Ephesus, where John was living.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life is a defined dogma of the Catholic Church. On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII, exercising papal infallibility, declared in "*Munificentissimus Deus*" that it is a dogma of the Church "that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." As a dogma, the Assumption is a required belief of all Catholics; anyone who publicly dissents from the dogma, Pope Pius declared, "has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith."

While the Eastern Orthodox believe in the Dormition, they object to the papal definition of the dogma, seeing it as unnecessary, since belief in Mary's bodily assumption, tradition holds, goes back to apostolic times.

Ref: <http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/Assumption.htm>

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 22



Pius XII established this feast in 1954. But Mary's queenship has roots in Scripture. At the Annunciation, Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, Mary is closely associated with Jesus: Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. We can also recall that in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court.

In the fourth century St. Ephrem (June 9) called Mary "Lady" and "Queen." Later Church fathers and doctors continued to use the title. Hymns of the 11th to 13th centuries address Mary as queen: "Hail, Holy Queen," "Hail, Queen of Heaven," "Queen of Heaven." The Dominican rosary and the

Franciscan crown as well as numerous invocations in Mary's litany celebrate her queenship.

The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption and is now celebrated on the octave day of that feast. In his 1954 encyclical *To the Queen of Heaven*, Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because she is Mother of God, because she is closely associated as the New Eve with Jesus' redemptive work, because of her preeminent perfection and because of her intercessory power.

Ref: <https://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/saint.aspx?id=1115>



The Light

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

Save the Date

The Impact of Papal Office in the Church and Society

By

Fr. Callistus Isara



Sunday August 4, 2013

Family Life Center

7:00 pm

CHECK THE BULLETIN FOR MORE INFORMATION



Diaconate Formation Reflection

By Gary Forse



First and foremost, let me begin by thanking each and every one of you for the incredible support and interest you have shown to Camille and me as we continue Diaconate Formation. Currently, I have just finished another semester of course work and service ministry and will begin Summer School. It was a particularly stressful semester and believe me your prayers and encouragement were felt. After this summer, there are three remaining semesters of study and if all goes according to plan, ordination to the Permanent Diaconate will happen in February of 2015. Time really flies!

As part of the Diaconate Formation process each of us is assigned to a Diocesan ministry. I have been assigned to Special Youth Services. These men and women minister to the youth in our Juvenile Probation Facilities throughout the Diocese. Currently, the Diocese serves in Harris County and Fort Bend County. The goal of SYS is to have volunteers in all the county Juvenile Probation Detention Centers of the Diocese. I have only been involved in the program a few months, but would like to share my initial reflection from my first visit to the Harris County Juvenile Detention Center.

It is almost impossible to describe the various emotions and thoughts that I have experienced as I have attended orientation meetings, training, and clergy meetings over the last couple of months leading to the time I would actually go into a facility. It has been an emotional roller coaster as my mind moves from fear, to anxiety, to excitement and of course doubt. Working with Special Youth Services would not have been my choice of ministries. What I am slowly beginning to understand as I visit with those involved with SYS is what a positive impact the ministry has had and continues to have on the lives of these children.

Spending the day with Dcn. Dan Guilbert was amazing. What a positive, caring messenger of God. It is so powerful watching the way the "kiddos" respond to him. I was especially touched by a letter that one of the kids wrote for the SYS Newsletter. Joshua told of how the only person that had visited him in the nine months that he had been in detention was Dcn. Dan. Because Dcn. Dan has been there for him, he has learned that neither God nor Dcn Dan will forsake him. Joshua has grasped, maybe for the first time in his life, what it means to be loved by God.

Dcn. Dan knows he cannot save them all. Although he started the day a bit under the weather, as the day progressed, it was obvious that as he brought hope, love and prayer to these kids that he too was being energized and strengthened for his mission. It was really powerful to see how the Holy Spirit was at work guiding us to certain kids and bringing kids to Dcn. Dan that were in need of prayer and support. Although I was very concerned about my natural tendency to judge these kids, I found that after we started meeting and praying with them, I really did not have any thoughts about what they had done, but began to focus more on what they needed.

Lord God, thank you for the gift of those that work with SYS and especially Dcn. Dan Guilbert. I pray that you will continue to guide me and direct me in this service that I have been called to. Help me to understand these kids and their situations and give me the wisdom to share the words that they need to hear. Amen.

I hope you will prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to work with these young people. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to know how you may volunteer.

Please continue to pray for me and Camille and pray for more men in our Parish to come forward and answer the call to the Permanent Diaconate.

Gary Forse, 979 236-3431 or gtforse@swbell.net



The Light

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

Bible Studies

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

The Lectionary

<i>Day</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Time	9:30 am
Location	Room 149
Leader	Joe Lesnau
Tel.	979-265-6221

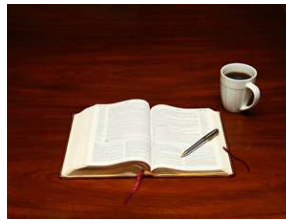


Adult Faith Sharing

<i>Day</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Time	10:45 am
Location	Room 149
Leader	Gary Forse
Tel.	979-299-3145

Men's Faith Sharing

<i>Day</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
Time	6:00 am
Location	Angelina Room
Leader	Duane Williams
Tel.	979-297-5564



Gospel of St. John

<i>Day</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
Time	9:30 am
Location	Room 149
Leader	Bettie Carmody
Tel.	979-265-6509

Recess

<i>Day</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Time	9:15 am
Location	"F" Wing
Leader	Jeanne Schroll
Tel.	979-297-5860



Recess

<i>Day</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Time	9:15 am
Location	Room 149
Leader	Pam Walker
Tel.	979-297-9746



Acts of the Apostles

<i>Day</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Time	9:30 am
Location	Library
Leader	Doris Hickner
Tel.	979-297-7726





The Light

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

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
2 nd Monday	7:00 pm	Lay Apostle Meeting Luminous Mysteries	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

Hurricane Prayer

Hurricane season will soon be upon us. This is a prayer the Friday Bible Study group uses and starts each meeting during the hurricane season with this prayer.

“God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude. You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control; the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, and invade our land and spread chaos and disaster.

“During this hurricane season, we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time. Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son in Our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true Spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us.” Amen



How to Double Your Happiness

An excerpt from Fr. Mathew Linn's Presentation on April 24, 2013 by Adele Baxter.

What if right this moment your salary doubled in size? Imagine the possibilities: twice as many meals out, twice as much money for retirement and twice as many weekend getaways. Yet the new study, "Happy Money: the Science of Spending", found that those making twice as much were only 9% happier and many were less happy. Lasting, deep happiness is tied to other factors such as under indulging, seeking out experiences, giving to others, and finding what you are called to do. Come and explore where science and the gospel intersect in doubling your happiness.

How do you reach out to give love and life to others? The happiest people are in countries where they celebrate life. In some of those countries they have little income, but they celebrate life.

Fr. Matt asked us to picture ourselves in our Doctor's office and the Doctor has just told you that you only have a year to live. He asked us, "What would you do if you only had a year to live. Spend a little time with your eyes closed and think about that question. Most of us picture our families, children, grandchildren and spending time with each of them. Time is precious. We all need to spend some time pondering these questions.

Fr. Matt talked about his father who had a large garden and one of his greatest pleasures was sharing his crops with friends and neighbors. Most of us love to share with others, our time, talent, and treasure.

Daily Examine — 5 Minute Prayer Process

1. Place your hand on your heart and ask Jesus to bring to your heart the moment today for which you are most **grateful**. If you could relive one moment, which one would it be? When were you most able to give and receive love today? Ask yourself what was said and done in that moment that made it so special. Breathe in the gratitude you felt and receive life again as you relive that moment. Recalling a positive memory before sleeping and upon awakening heals the unconscious all night long and starts the day positively.
2. Ask God to bring to your heart the moment today for which you are **least grateful**. When did you struggle to give and receive love or life? Ask yourself what was said and done that made it so difficult. Embrace this as you would a crying child trying to tell you its problem and need. Pray the serenity prayer and breathe in what you need to grow during what is to be accepted and to change what is to be changed.

Healing Hurts While Sleeping

Return to your positive memory and relive it. Take deep breaths and let God fill you just as you are until every part of your body is relaxed and filled with peace. Breathe out any tension in your body from the day. Say, "Thank you, Lord" and fall asleep filled with peace. Breathe out any tension in your body from the day. Say, "Thank you Lord" and fall asleep resting in God's arms. Upon awakening, say, "Thank you Lord," and try to recall the memory you slept with.

This will teach your unconscious to hold the positive memory all night so as to return to it each morning. Your sleep will restore you and your day will start off stepping into God's will which is always to give and receive more life and love with us now and forever. (John 10:10). Great Law of Love Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 24:13-35.

Examine Alternative Questions

1. What moment today am I most grateful? Least Grateful?
2. When did I give and receive the most love today? Least Love?
3. When did I feel most alive today? When did I feel life most draining out of me?
4. What was today's high point? Low point?
5. Particular examine: Let the 2 examine questions find what solves and exacerbates any problem.



The Light

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

The Cenacle Retreat House



The Cenacle Retreat House is located on North Kirkwood between Memorial and Briar Forest. Its spacious grounds of 9 wooded acres are defined by bayous on both sides. The interstate is very close, but the noise of the traffic is not a problem within the retreat center. When you enter these grounds, you are no longer in the chaos of Houston traffic but are in another world of silence and prayer.

If you are a walker, there are trails through the woods for you to take. There are quiet places along the way to stop, sit, rest and meditate if you so desire. If you

like to run or to take long walks, as a Cenacle guest, you have a private access gate to the scenic paths of the Terry Hershey Park.

On the spacious grounds of the Cenacle you will find several places which are ideal for prayer and meditation. Such an area is the lovely chapel just waiting for your visit. As you walk (slowly) the grounds, you can hear the splash of a fountain, beckoning you to come by for a visit. You can also walk the labyrinth, relax in a hammock, and wander along garden paths lined with beautiful flowers. An unexpected treat may be when you come upon the Stations of the Cross. This is a real treat to have them outside and to walk with your Lord as He slowly goes toward Golgotha. There are also Stations of the Light - Stations of Joy. These stations are based on the way the early followers of Jesus celebrated the continued presence of the Risen Jesus through the practice of the Stations of the Light marking fourteen post-Easter encounters with Jesus. These are just some of the outdoor aides to prayer and meditation. Inside you will find the chapel, library, book store and the Cenacle Art Cove.

If you want a deeper relationship with God, you may wish to have a spiritual advisor walk with you. He/she has been trained in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and will be able to help you recognize and learn just what it is that God is saying to you. Should you feel you have the calling to be a Spiritual Director and want to enhance your relationship with God even further, the Cenacle offers a 3 year formation program for spiritual Directors.

The Cenacle sponsors all sorts of retreats by renowned speakers and has private overnight accommodations. There is anything from an overnight stay to as many days as your retreat is scheduled. Their chef will provide gourmet meals and snacks and drinks for in between meals.

You may get the schedule of retreats and days of prayer along with other religious programs scheduled by visiting Ministry@CenacleRetreatHouse.org.





Featured Ministries

The Ministry of Ushers



A *Ministry to People*

“Among the servants of God who comprise the membership of the Body of Christ, ushers are called to provide a very special service in their exercise of a true liturgical ministry. They are ministers of the Church and servants of the faith-community in the highest moment of its self-realization when it gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. “

“Because of the nature of their service ushers especially should bring to their ministry a strong sense of community. They are Church-builders...”

The Sunday Assembly

“The warm friendliness and open hospitality of ushers provide an essential ingredient that prepares the congregation for the recreate work of the Holy Spirit, ...”

A Ministry to the Community

“Perhaps more than all other ministers, they (ushers) have to be people oriented. Strangers need to be put at ease, visitors need to be welcomed, the physically and mentally handicapped need to experience the love of the community and to realize their importance to its Christian integrity.”

“An usher’s warm welcome and gentle courtesy can set the whole tone for anything that might happen within the hearts of those who gather. Ushers are more than doorkeepers; they are doors giving open access to the warmth of holy fellowship in the Spirit of Jesus.”

A Ministry of Grace

“Being warmly welcomed at the door by the usher is already a Eucharistic grace for the worshippers.”

A Ministry of Joy

“...Ushers should serve with obvious pleasure. As C. S. Lewis says, “Joy is the serious business of heaven.”

Other Notable Passages

“Ushers are not some sort of ecclesiastical policemen or policewomen.-They are hosts, not marshals.”

“Ushers, therefore, should see themselves first of all as part of the worshipping community and seek to become its most attentive participants.”

“...all ministers should strive constantly for higher standards of excellence in their ministry; none should strive more assiduously than those engaged in the ministry of hospitality, the ushers.”

For more information please contact **Ursula Clarke** at urclarke@dow.com, or 979-236-9879



Featured Ministries

Ministry to the Sick

St. Michael's provides a simple and effective service to the infirm and to shut-ins through a dedicated corps of volunteers who are committed and dedicated to delivering the Eucharist and their love to those who cannot come to meet it.

Who is needed?

Parishioners' who, through prayer, are willing to "fill their own cup before they share with others."

What do I do? How do I do it?

The basic need is visitations to Brazosport Regional Health Hospital, to the local Nursing homes, and to our brothers and sisters who cannot leave their residences. Frequency of visits is varied – it could be one Sunday per month to the hospital or it could be weekly to a neighbor or friend who is shut-in. Your commitment will be individualized to fit your situation.

General procedures for the visits will be discussed in group meetings that will be scheduled following Stewardship Sunday.

Training in handling and serving the Eucharist will be available for all who need it.

What are the rewards?

What better way to answer our call to be ministers? What better way to answer our Parish focus on the Eucharist?

Additional information may be sought from:

Lillie Alcala at 979-265-6426 or

Sherry Bergen at 979-297-9948.





Featured Blessed and New Saints



Blessed Junípero Serra was born Miguel José Serra in Majorca, Spain on November 24, 1713. He died in Monterey, California on August 28, 1784.

At birth, he was a very tiny, weak little baby. He was baptized quickly because everyone was afraid he would die. Miguel Serra grew up to be a small man. His parents could not read or write but they wanted their little boy to go to school. So, he went to a school near their home that was run by Franciscan friars and turned out to be one of the best students the friars had ever seen. Besides that, he had a voice like an angel.

When Miguel was fifteen, he was sent to Palma to continue his studies. There, he worked hard and lived the life of a Franciscan friar. After two years, he joined the order. He took the name of Junípero after a friend of St. Francis of Assisi. The original Junípero was a man known as "the little jester of God."

He was inspired to become a missionary during his novitiate when he was captivated by the lives of the Franciscan missionary saints and the spiritual giants who evangelized México: Pedro de

Gante, Bernardino de Sagún, and Juan de Zumárraga (first bishop of México). He was ordained at 24, received a doctorate in philosophy, and became a university professor at the age of 30. But, his missionary dream was still alive in him.

In 1749, he crossed the ocean in company of friar Francisco Palou who would become his biographer and a lifetime companion in the New World. During the trip, they had to suffer thirst, hunger, near shipwreck, storms, and privations of all kinds. But Junípero was never heard to complain. Upon their arrival at Veracruz, México on December 6, 1749, he decided to walk 275 miles over four mountains ranges to México City.

Junípero spent the first months in México at the College of San Fernando, which was one of the three apostolic colleges in México. The colleges were training centers for the formation of an elite corps of missionaries: a specially selected group of men of exalted spiritual ideals and austere way of life. As such, San Fernando played a central role in shaping Junípero's missionary character.

Junípero served nine years in the Sierra Gorda Mountains. This was home to the Pame Indians whom the Spanish had been trying to evangelize with no success for 200 years. During these years, he worked tirelessly for his beloved Pame Indians. His religion was his one great passion in life which meant one thing: any churches to be built must be glorious. And glorious they are. He worked alongside the Indians in constructing the five baroque missions which are still active parishes today.

But, he didn't stop at construction work. He taught himself and others to sew and made brightly colored clothing for the children. He learned the Otomí language and translated the catechism into the Pame language. He arranged colorful pageants, dramas, liturgies, and processions. He was also concerned for the Indian's temporal needs: livestock, seeds, and grains were provided so that the missions could become self-supporting agricultural and economic communities. By the end of his stay with them, the Pames were fervent Christians, the graineries were filled and the missions were flourishing.

In 1767 the expelling of all Jesuits from Spain and its colonies, by King Carlos III, led the government to ask the Franciscan Order to replace them as missionaries in Baja California. Serra was appointed head of these missions. The next year the Spanish governor decided to explore Alta California, which is now the state of California.

Serra spent the rest of his life as head of the Franciscans in California. Already over fifty years old, dangerously thin, asthmatic, and seriously injured in one of his legs, the fearless Serra led the founding of the Mission of San Diego in 1769, aided an expedition in locating San Francisco Bay, and personally



Featured Blessed and New Saints

founded eight other missions, including his lifelong headquarters, the mission San Carlos Borromeo at Carmel. At the age of 70 Father Junípero Serra died at Mission San Carlos Borromeo and is buried there under the sanctuary floor. Junípero Serra's notable influence in California's history granted him a place in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol building in 1931. At the unveiling of his statue, California Senator Isidore B. Dockweller said, "worthy of first place among the immortal heroes who created our nation". He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1988 and is the Patron of Serra International, a global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church.

Ref: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13730b.htm>, <http://www.sfmuseum.net/bio/jserra.html>,
<http://www.serra.org>

New Mexican Saint - Lupita Zavala



María Guadalupe García Zavala was born on 27 April 1878 in Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico, to Fortino García and Refugio Zavala de García.

As a child she was known for her piety and made frequent visits to the Basilica of Our Lady of Zapopan, which was located next to the religious goods shop run by her father. Her love for God was particularly demonstrated in her love for the poor.

"No" to matrimony, "yes" to Jesus - Although as a young woman she planned to marry Gustavo Arreola, she suddenly broke off her engagement when she was 23 years old. The reason: María "understood" that Jesus was calling her to love him

with an undivided heart as part of the religious life, and she fully believed that she was called to do this by giving assistance to the poor and sick.

Foundress of the "Servants" - When María confided to her spiritual director, Fr Cipriano Iñiguez, her "sudden change of heart", he told her that for some time he had the inspiration to found a religious congregation that would provide assistance to the hospitalized. He invited María to join him in this foundation. The new Congregation, which officially began on 13 October 1901, was known as the "Handmaids of St Margaret Mary (Alacoque) and the Poor".

"Poor with the poor" - María worked as a nurse, giving assistance to the first patients that were welcomed into "their hospital". Regardless of the poverty and lack of material goods of the patients, compassion and care for the physical and spiritual well-being of the sick were the primary concerns, and María gave of herself wholeheartedly to carry out this task of love.

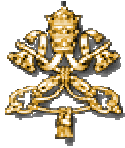
Sr. María was named Superior General of the quickly-growing Congregation, and taught the Sisters entrusted to her, mostly by means of her example, the importance of living a genuine and joyful exterior and interior poverty. She was convinced that it was only through loving and living poverty that one could be truly "poor with the poor".

In times of "dire straits", Mother María asked her spiritual director for permission to go begging in order to collect money for the hospital. Together with other Sisters, she would seek offerings until the needs of the hospital and patients were met, and would ask no more than was necessary. The Sisters also worked in parishes to assist the priests and to teach catechism.

Risking life to help those hiding - From 1911 until 1936, the political-religious situation in Mexico became uneasy and the Catholic Church underwent persecution. Mother María put her own life at risk to help the priests and the Archbishop of Guadalajara to "go into hiding" in the hospital.

The last two years of Mother María's life were lived in extreme suffering because of a grave illness, and on 24 June 1963, she died at the age of 85. During the lifetime of the foundress, 11 foundations were established in the Republic of Mexico. Today, the Congregation has 22 foundations and is present in five different Nations: Mexico, Peru, Iceland, Greece and Italy.

Ref.: http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20040425_zavala_en.html



YEAR OF FAITH²⁰¹²₂₀₁₃

Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization



OPENING LIFE TO NEWNESS OF GOD

Vatican City, 28 April 2013 (VIS) – “Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord,” Pope Francis exhorted the people gathered in St. Peter's Square to participate in the Mass at which he conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 44 faithful from around the world. Following is an excerpt of his homily.

The Newness of God - In the second reading, we listened to the beautiful vision of Saint John: new heavens and a new earth, and then the Holy City coming down from God. All is new, changed into good, beauty and truth; there are no more tears or mourning. This is the work of the Holy Spirit: he brings us the new things of God. He comes to us and makes all things new; he changes us. The Spirit changes us! And Saint John's vision reminds us that all of us are journeying towards the heavenly Jerusalem, the ultimate newness which awaits us and all reality, the happy day when we will see the Lord's face, that marvelous face, the most beautiful face of the Lord Jesus and be with him for ever, in his love.

You see, the new things of God are not like the novelties of this world, all of which are temporary; they come and go, and we keep looking for more. The new things which God gives to our lives are lasting, not only in the future, when we will be with him, but today as well. God is even now making all things new; the Holy Spirit is truly transforming us, and through us he also wants to transform the world in which we live. Let us open the doors to the Spirit, let ourselves be guided by him, and allow God's constant help to make us new men and women, inspired by the love of God which the Holy Spirit bestows on us. How beautiful it would be if each of you, every evening, could say: “Today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed a sign of love towards one of my friends, my parents, and an older person.” How beautiful!

The Trials of Life - A second thought. In the first reading Paul and Barnabas say that “we must undergo many trials if we are to enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). The journey of the Church and our own personal journeys as Christians are not always easy; they meet with difficulties and trials. To follow the Lord, to let his Spirit transform the shadowy parts of our lives, our ungodly ways of acting, and cleanse us of our sins, is to set out on a path with many obstacles, both in the world around us but also within us, in the heart. But difficulties and trials are part of the path that leads to God's glory, just as they were for Jesus, who was glorified on the cross; we will always encounter them in life! Do not be discouraged! We have the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome these trials!

Firm Hope in the Lord - And here I come to my last point. It is an invitation which I make to you, young confirmed, and to all present. Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. Pay attention, my young friends: to go against the current; this is good for the heart, but we need courage to swim against the tide. Jesus gives us this courage! There are no difficulties, trials or misunderstandings to fear, provided we remain united to God as branches to the vine, provided we do not lose our friendship with him, provided we make ever more room for him in our lives. This is especially so whenever we feel poor, weak and sinful, because God grants strength to our weakness, riches to our poverty, conversion and forgiveness to our sinfulness. The Lord is so rich in mercy: every time, if we go to him, he forgives us. Let us trust in God's work! With him we can do great things; he will give us the joy of being his disciples, his witnesses. Commit yourselves to great ideals, to the most important things. We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals, my dear young people!

The new things of God, the trials of life, remaining steadfast in the Lord. Dear friends, let us open wide the door of our lives to the new things of God which the Holy Spirit gives us. May he transform us, confirm us in our trials, and strengthen our union with the Lord, our steadfastness in him: this is a true joy! So may it be.



MARY HELPS US FACE LIFE

Vatican City, 4 May 2013 (VIS) – At 6:00pm this afternoon, the Holy Father took possession of the Basilica of St. Mary Major with the traditional kiss of the crucifix. It is the second time, since the beginning of his pontificate that Francis has gone to pray at the oldest Marian shrine in the West, which houses the image of “Salus Populi Romani” (Protectress of the Roman People). In his homily, the Pope highlighted three aspects of Mary’s maternity: she helps us to grow, to face life, and to be free.

“With his Passion, Death and Resurrection,” the Bishop of Rome said, “Jesus Christ brings us salvation. He gives us the grace and the joy of being God’s children, of calling him truly by the name of Father. Mary is a mother and a mother worries above all about the health of her children. What does this mean that the Madonna safeguards our health? I am thinking mainly of three aspects: she helps us to grow, she helps us to face life, and she helps us to be free.”

Mary Helps Us to Grow - A mother helps her children to grow and wants them to grow well. This is why she teaches them not to give in to laziness - which is something that also arises from a certain well-being - not to not to slip into a life of ease that desires nothing beyond material possessions. A mother takes care that her children grow always more, that they grow strong and capable of taking on responsibility, of committing themselves in their lives, and of holding high ideals. This is exactly what the Madonna does in us. She helps us to grow humanly and in faith, to be strong and not to yield to the temptation of being superficial persons and Christians, but to live responsibly, always reaching higher.”

Mary Helps Us to Face Life - Then a mother thinks of her children’s health, also teaching them to face life’s difficulties. You can’t teach, can’t care for one’s health by avoiding problems as if life were a highway without obstacles. A mother helps her children to look realistically at life’s problems and to not get lost in them but to tackle them with courage; not to be weak and to know how to overcome them with the healthy balance that a mother “feels” between the limits of safety and the areas of risk. A life without challenges doesn’t exist and a boy or a girl, who doesn’t know how to face them, putting themselves on the line, is a boy or a girl without a backbone? Mary lived many difficult times in her life, from the birth of Jesus - until Calvary. And like a good mother she is close to us so that we never lose courage in the face of life’s adversities, in the face of our own weakness, in the face of our sins. She gives us strength, pointing us to the path of her Son. From the cross, indicating John, Jesus tells Mary: “Woman, here is your son”, and to John: “Here is your mother!” We are all represented in that disciple.”

Mary Helps Us to Be Free - One last aspect, a good mother also helps to make important decisions with freedom. But what does freedom mean? Certainly not doing whatever you want. Freedom does not mean, so to say, throwing whatever we don’t like out the window. No, that isn’t freedom! Freedom is given to us so that we might know how to make good choices in life! Like a good mother, Mary teaches us to be, like her, capable of making important decisions at this time when, so to speak, the “philosophy of the temporary” rules. It is so difficult to commit ourselves definitively. And she helps us to make definitive choices with that full freedom with which she answered ‘yes’ to God’s plan for her life.

“How difficult it is, in our times, to take make definitive decisions? The temporary seduces us. We are victims of a tendency that pushes us towards the ephemeral part of the fascination of remaining adolescents our entire lives! We must not be afraid of definitive commitments, of commitments that involve and affect our whole lives. In this way life becomes fruitful and this is freedom: having the courage to make these decisions with greatness.”

“Mary’s whole existence is a hymn to life, a love song to life. The “Salus Populi Romani” is the mother who gives us health in our growth, gives us health to face and overcome problems, gives us health in making us free to make definitive choices. She is the mother who teaches us to be fruitful, to be open to life, to never lose hope, to give life to others - both physical and spiritual life. This is what we ask of you this evening, O Mary, ‘Salus Populi Romani’, give us the health that only you can give, so that we may always be signs and instruments of life.”

After praying the Rosary, Francis went out of the basilica and addressed the many faithful awaiting him in the piazza saying: “Thank you so much for your presence here at the home of the mother of Rome, of our Mother. Long live the Madonna. She is our Mother. Let us entrust ourselves to her so that she might safeguard us like a good mother. I pray for you but I ask that you pray for me because I need it. Three “Hail Marys” for me. I wish you a good Sunday tomorrow. Until we meet again. Now I give you the blessing - to all of you and all your families.



PRESENTATION OF PONTIFICAL YEARBOOK 2013

Vatican City, 13 May 2013 (VIS) – This morning, Cardinal Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone S.D.B., and Archbishop Angelo Becciu, substitute for General Affairs, presented the Holy Father with the 2013 edition of the "Annuario Pontificio" (Pontifical Yearbook, the Holy See's annual directory), in the presence of the officials responsible for compiling and printing the volumes. The "Annuarium Statisticum Ecclesiae" (the Church's Statistical Yearbook), which the same dicastery is also responsible for, was also presented.

A reading of the information given shows some changes relative to the life of the Catholic Church in the world from 2012 to the election of Pope Francis.

In that period, it is noteworthy that there were erected: 11 new Episcopal Sees; two personal ordinariates; one apostolic vicariate; and one apostolic prefecture. Also, one territorial prelature was elevated to the rank of diocese and two apostolic exarchates were elevated to the rank of eparchies.

The statistical information, which refers to the year 2011, reveals details about the Catholic Church in the 2,979 ecclesiastical circumscriptions around the planet. The number of Catholics in the world increased from 1.196 million in 2010 to 1.214 million in 2011, an increase of eighteen million faithful, corresponding to a growth of 1.5%. Over the last three years the presence of baptized Catholics in the world has remained stable at around 17.5%.

The number of Catholics with respect to the total population varies considerably between the continents. Their numbers have increased in: Africa (by 4.3%), which has reported a 2.3% increase of its population between 2010 and 2011. In Asia, an increase in Catholics greater to an increase in the population was also recorded (of 2% compared to 1.2%). In the Americas and in Europe the increase in numbers of Catholics is equal to the population increase (.3%).

In 2011, the total of baptized Catholics had a distribution of, by continent: The Americas (48.8%); Europe (23.5%); Africa (16%); Asia (10.9%); and Oceania (.8%). From 2010 to 2011, the number of bishops increased from 5,104 to 5,132, a relative increase of .55%. The increase mainly involved Oceania (+4.6%) and Africa (+1%) while Asia and Europe are slightly below the world average and no variation is seen in the Americas.

The steady increase in the number of priests which began in the year 2000 has continued. On 31 December 2011, their numbers stood at 413,418 compared to last year's 412,236. Nevertheless, this was not homogeneous growth. In Africa and Asia the increase was, respectively, +39.5% and +32% (with an increase of more than 3,000 in 2011 alone). In the Americas the situation is stationary (122,000 priests) while, over the last decade, Europe has seen a decrease of more than 9%.

The number of permanent deacons registered a strong increase: from 29,000 in 2001 to 41,000 in 2011. Those present in North America and Europe count for 97.4% of the total.

The number of non-ordained male religious increased, slightly surpassing 55,000. Their numbers are increasing in Africa and Asia (+18.5% and +44.9% respectively) and decreasing in the Americas (-3.6%), in Europe (-18%), and in Oceania (-21.9%).

There is a strong decrease in the number of female religious, which currently registers 713,000 members in contrast to 792,000 in 2001. There are fewer female religious in Europe (-22%), Oceania (-21%), and the Americas (-17%). Nevertheless there is significant growth in their numbers in Africa (+28%) and in Asia (18%).

Candidates for the priesthood, diocesan and religious, have increased since 2001 (112,244) by 7.5%. In 2011 there were 120,616 registered. The strongest increase in seminarians was in Africa (+30.9%), and Asia (+29.4%), while Europe and the Americas registered a decrease in their numbers of 21.7% and 1.9% respectively.



POPE CANONIZES MARTYRS OF OTRANTO, COLOMBIAN LAURA MONTOYA, AND MEXICAN GUADALUPE GARCIA ZAVALA

Vatican City, 12 May 2013 (VIS) – “Let us look to the new saints in light of the Word of God that has been proclaimed,” the Pope said during his homily at the Mass in which three new saints were canonized. “It is a Word that has invited us to faithfulness to Christ, even unto martyrdom. It has recalled for us the urgency and beauty of bearing Christ and his Gospel to all. It has spoken to us of the witness of charity, without which even martyrdom and mission lose their Christian savior.”

The Martyrs of Otranto were more than 800 men from the southern Italian city who had survived the siege and invasion of Otranto only to be decapitated on the outskirts of the city when they refused to renounce their faith and died witnessing to the Risen Christ. “Where did they find the strength to remain faithful,” the Pope asked. “It is precisely from the faith which makes us see beyond the limits of our human sight, beyond this earthly life. God will never leave us without strength and serenity. While we venerate the Martyrs of Otranto, let us ask God to sustain the many Christians who, precisely at this time, now, and in many parts of the world, are still suffering violence, that He give them the valor to be faithful and to respond to evil with good.”

The second saint canonized, Mother Laura Montoya, “was an instrument of evangelization, first as a teacher and then as the spiritual mother of the indigenous peoples in whom she instilled hope, embracing them with the love she had learned from God, bringing them to him with a pedagogical efficiency that respected their culture and didn't put itself in opposition to it. This first saint born in the beautiful Colombian land teaches us to be generous with God, to not live the faith in isolation, as if it were possible to live the faith in an isolated way but to communicate it, to bear the joy of the Gospel with words and witness of life in every sphere in which we find ourselves. She teaches us to see Jesus' face reflected in others, to overcome indifference and selfishness, which corrode Christian communities and corrode our hearts, and she teaches us to embrace everyone without prejudice, without discrimination, and without reticence, but with sincere love, giving them the best of ourselves and above all sharing with them what we have that is most precious, not our deeds or our institutions. No! What we have that is most precious is Christ and his Gospel.”

Saint Guadalupe Garcia Zavala, “renouncing a life of ease, and how damaging the easy life, well-being, can be; the “gentrification” of our hearts that paralyzes us, to follow Jesus' call, who taught her to love poverty so that she could love the poor and the sick more. The poor, the abandoned, the ill, the marginalized are the flesh of Christ. Mother Lupita touched Christ's flesh and taught us this way of acting: of not being embarrassed, not being afraid, not being disgusted to 'touch the flesh of Christ'! This new Mexican saint invites us to love as Jesus has loved us and this entails not being locked up in oneself, in our own problems, our own ideas, our own interests, in this little world that causes us so much harm, but to go out and go in search of who needs attention, understanding, and help, in order to bring them the warm nearness of God's love through tactful gestures of sincere affection and love.”

At the end of his homily, the Pope emphasized that the new saints teach us “faithfulness to Jesus and his Gospel, to proclaim him in word and with our lives, witnessing to God's love with our love and with our charity towards all.”





The Light

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

The Saints

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

St. Justin Martyr

Feast: June 1st



Justin was born in Samaria around 100 A.D. His parents were Roman noble colonists. As a youth he was pretty interested in philosophy. His interest in the subject grew as he matured and he found himself studying all varieties of pagan wisdom - Stoicism, Pythagoreanism, and Platonism. It was strange that his study of the pagan philosophies led him to the study of Christianity and he became converted about the year 130. His conversion was rather strange and not planned. He was walking by the sea near the town of Caesarea and met an old man going the same direction. This "old Man" told him the truths and richness of Christianity, all about Jesus and the Hebrew prophets. Encouraged to pray by what he had heard, Justin began to understand about the true God. Becoming more informed and converting to Christianity He used His great knowledge to teach.

He explained to the pagans, having been one of them in his youth, why they should not worship idols. He was able to reveal the mysteries of the true faith so that they could understand. He

traveled to other lands always teaching and debating publicly. He did this so well that he became known as an apologist.

Apologetics is a word derived from the Greek. In ancient Greek it referred to a formal defense of a belief, an explanation or argument for one's philosophy or religion. The word can be found several times in the New Testament, including the Gospels. It is written so as to persuade unbelievers of the true aims of the Church, and especially of the unique nature of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Justin became so adept at this new method of learning that he began to write his "apologies" so as to reveal the true faith to the unbelievers he met in his travels. He wrote two open letters to the Emperor Antoninus Pius and his son, the philosopher, Marcus Aurelius. These became known as the First Apology and The Second Apology and were written as an explanation and defense of the faith.

Justin wrote so much that it was inevitable that his writings offend someone in authority. It was Cresens, a cynic philosopher and Justin was writing about his immortality. He was arrested for being a Christian and brought before the Prefect Rusticus to be accused. Rusticus sentenced him to death, but just before sentencing Justin, he asked Justin: "If you are killed, do you suppose you will go to heaven". Justin answered: "I do not suppose it, but I know and am fully persuaded of it." With that profound statement of Christian belief, Justin and five other martyrs were beheaded around the year 165.

St. Justin is considered the most important of the second century apologists. He remains an outstanding model for lay apostles of today. He spent his life in attempting to join the wisdom of the world with the greater riches of Christianity. He did this mainly through his writings in which he did not apologize for his being a Christian. He explained it in such terms that he brought many others to the faith. He was canonized through the Pre-Congregation process.

Ref: <http://www.saintjustin.org/st.jbiog.htm>,
http://www.ignatiusinsight.com/features/ceo_apologetics_oct04.asp



The Light

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The Saints

St. Martha

Feast: July 24



Jesus enjoyed a special friendship with Martha, her sister Mary and their brother, Lazarus. He was a frequent guest in their home in Bethany, a small village 2 miles from Jerusalem. Three of his visits are mentioned in the New Testament and we are familiar with each of them: Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-55 and John 12 1-9.

Many of us find it easy to identify with Martha. She is the ultimate good hostess. When Jesus and His disciples came to visit, Martha, immediately after greeting them, went to work cooking and serving them. However, as much as she loved Jesus and liked waiting on Him, she felt that all present should take part in the preparation of the refreshments. She saw her sister, Mary, sitting at the feet of Jesus giving rapt attention to what Jesus was saying. Martha made her way to the side of Jesus and asked Him to tell Mary to help her. Jesus recognized the

need for the work to be done. He also knew which of the two tasks were the more important. Therefore, He quietly told Mary that her job was important, but Mary had the more important task, that of listening to Jesus talk about His way of life.

When Jesus visited Martha again it is because her brother Lazarus was ill. Martha, recognizing that the healing power of Jesus is needed, sent for him. But before Jesus can get there, Lazarus dies. However, Martha has learned her lesson well from the previous visit she had with Jesus. This time through her conversation with Jesus, she shows faith and courage.

Martha heard that Jesus was coming to Bethany and went to meet him. She trusted Jesus and had the courage to say: "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died". Then Jesus told her that Lazarus would rise. He also said: "He, who believes in me, even if he dies, shall live. Do you believe this?" Martha answered: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world." Jesus then worked a great miracle. He called Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus appeared for all present to see, still in his burial clothes. Those who were there witnessed this miracle.

As is mentioned in the New Testament, Jesus comes once again to the home of his three friends to have supper with them. This time there was quite a difference in the attitude presented by Martha. She served them as usual, but this time she presented a much more loving attitude. She served with a joyful heart.

St. Martha was canonized by the Pre-Congregation process. She is the patron saint of cooks, and household workers.

Ref: www.catholic.org/saints/saintphj?saint_id+79



The Saints

St. Lawrence of Rome

Feast: August 10



The date of birth for Lawrence of Rome can be disputed, but it is believed he was born about 225 AD in Osca, Hispania (now modern day Spain). He died a martyr's death on August 10, 258 AD which has remained his feast day. He was canonized during the Pre-Congregation era.

His parents sent him to Saragoza to complete his studies in Humanities and Theology. It was here that he met the future Pope Sixtus II who came from Greece. This was the future pope who was to develop as one of the most famed and esteemed educator in what was then the most renowned center of learning. Eventually they both left Spain for Rome.

Sixtus II was elevated to patriarch in 257 and it was at that time he ordained Lawrence a deacon. Lawrence was still rather young, but Sixtus appointed him first among the seven deacons who served in the patriarchal church. Therefore, he was called the archdeacon of Rome.

This was a position of great trust and responsibility as it involved the care of the treasury and riches of the church and the distribution of alms among the poor. According to St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Roman authorities had established the norm to be that all Christians who had been denounced must be executed and their goods seized and given to the Imperial treasury. It was in the month of August 258 that Emperor Valerian used that edict and the clergy seized were immediately put to death. Sixtus II, Pope at this time, was captured (Aug. 6, 258) in the cemetery of St. Callixtus while celebrating the liturgy. He was promptly executed. Four days later Lawrence received his wish and suffered the martyr's death. He was the last of the seven Deacons to die.

Tradition tells many things about St. Lawrence. One concerns a Holy Chalice. Lawrence was able to send this to his parents through a trusted and faithful friend. The friend was to travel back to Huesca, and the relic would remain safely hidden in the monastery of San Juan de la Pena which was the core of spiritual strength for the emerging kingdom of Aragon. While others dispute this journey, Catholic traditionists accept the fact that the Chalice arrived to the monastery for preservation and veneration. Historical records reveal that this chalice has been venerated and preserved by a number of monks and monasteries through the ages. Today the Holy Grail, as it is called, is venerated in a special chapel in the Catholic Cathedral of Valencia, Spain.

After the death of Pope Sixtus II, the prefect ordered Lawrence to turn over the riches of the Church to the pagan treasury. Lawrence asked for three days which gave him a little time to gather the jewels. This is in the writings of St. Ambrose. Lawrence quickly began to distribute as much as he could of the Church's property (its riches) to the poor to prevent the riches being gathered into the prefect's treasury. On the third day, he presented himself at the head of a small delegation to the prefect and was ordered to give up the riches he had brought. He presented the poor, the crippled, the blind and the suffering and told the prefect that there was no greater treasure the Church had than those he was presenting. This was attributed to be an act of defiance which led directly to his martyrdom.

Tradition says that Lawrence was sentenced at San Lorenzo in Miranda, imprisoned in San Lorenzo in Fonte, and martyred at San Lorenzo in Panisperna. The prefect had a great gridiron prepared with burning coals beneath it and had the body of Lawrence placed upon it. Lawrence suffered a long time under this torture, but he was still able to speak out and say: "this side is well done, turn me over."



The Saints

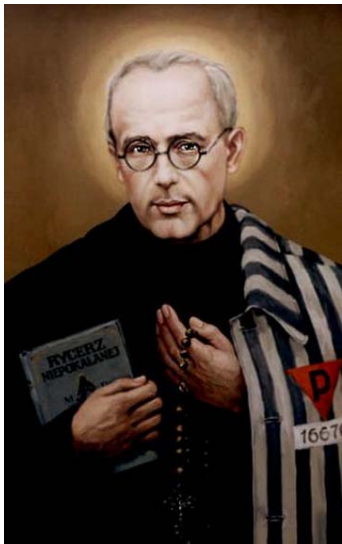
St. Lawrence of Rome

Ever since the fourth century St. Lawrence has been one of the most venerated saints in the Roman Catholic Church. A church was built over his tomb and became one of the seven principal churches in Rome. It is Rome where he is especially honored as he is one of the city's patrons. Several churches in Rome have been dedicated to him. His feast on August 10 has the rank of feast and is celebrated throughout the entire Catholic world. It is on this date the reliquary containing his burned head is displayed in the Vatican for veneration. Lawrence was elevated to sainthood through the Pre-Congregation Process. He is the patron saint of librarians, archivists, cooks, and tanners.

Ref: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_of_Rome

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Feast: August 14th



Maximilian was born in 1894 in Poland and became a Franciscan. He contracted tuberculosis and, though he recovered, he remained frail all his life. Before his ordination as a priest, Maximilian founded the Immaculata Movement devoted to Our Lady. After receiving a doctorate in theology, he spread the Movement through a magazine entitled "The Knight of the Immaculata" and helped form a community of 800 men, the largest in the world.

Maximilian went to Japan where he built a comparable monastery and then on to India where he furthered the Movement. In 1936 he returned home because of ill health. After the Nazi invasion in 1939, he was imprisoned and released for a time. But in 1941 he was arrested again and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz.

On July 31, 1941, in reprisal for one prisoner's escape, ten men were chosen to die. Father Kolbe offered himself in place of a young husband and father. And he was the last to die, enduring two weeks of starvation, thirst, and neglect. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Ref: http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=370

Pre-Congregation Beatification and Canonization

Pre-Congregation is the name applied when holy people were being considered for beatification or canonization. It designated those personages being considered for beatification and/or canonization. The local bishops, primates and/or patriarchs had all the authority in making the decision as to whether the people nominated would be elevated to this holy status.

This was the process used before the current process - investigation of holy people being performed by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints which began in the 11th century. It was then the popes found it necessary to retract Episcopal authority. The Pre Congregation process was nullified. From that time forward it was decided by the papal authorities that virtues and miracles of person proposed for this holy status should be examined in general councils. It was a Bull published in 1634 by Pope Urban VII that put an end to the confusion and discussion. Pope Urban made it publicly known that all discussion regarding these holy people would be left to the Holy See exclusively not only in matters of canonization but in those of beatification.

Ref: <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/define88.htm>



From The Web

iPadre #302 – Dolores Hart: Hollywood Heartthrob Becomes Nun



Excerpted from iPadre Catholic Podcasting by Fr. Jay Finelli at <http://www.ipadre.net/2013/05/ipadre-302-dolores-hart-hollywood-heartthrob-become-nun/>

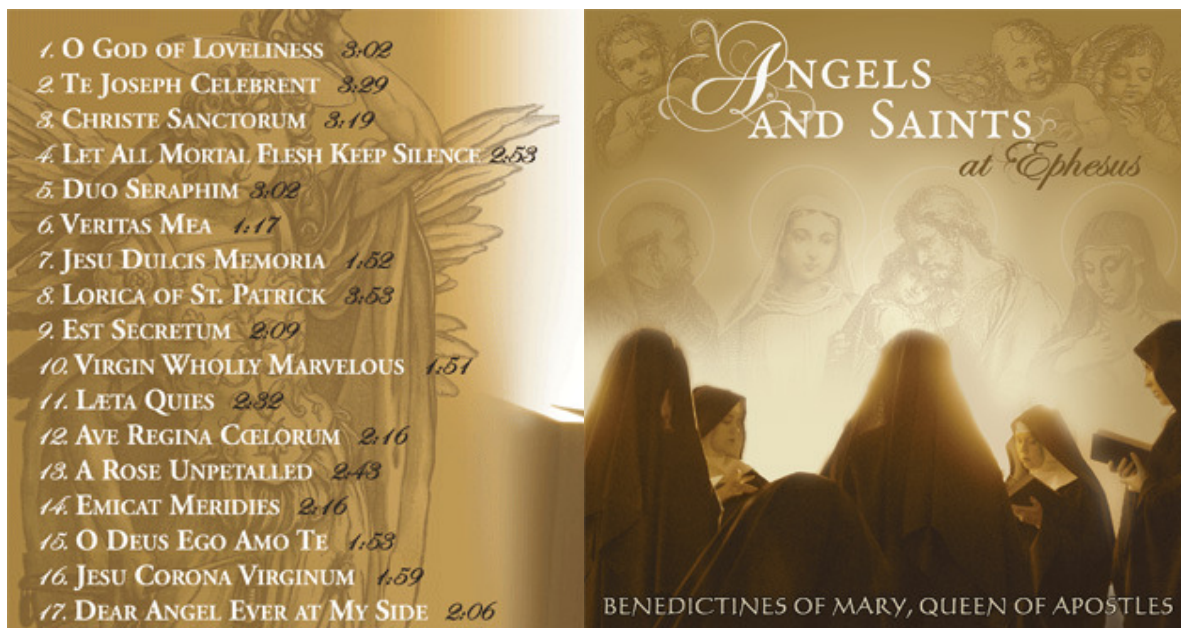
Father Jay Finelli is a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence in the state of Rhode Island. He is a webmaster, podcaster, and blogger. In his free time, Father is an avid Live Steam enthusiast.

In this show, Fr. Jay have an interview with former Hollywood heartthrob becoming a Benedictine Nun – Mother Dolores Hart.

Mother Dolores Hart, the woman who left her movie career to become a Benedictine nun, has released a new biography explaining her shift from a rising star in Hollywood to life as a cloistered religious.

“The Ear of the Heart: An Actress’ Journey from Hollywood to Holy Vows,” by Mother Dolores Hart and Richard DeNeut was released May 7 from Ignatius Press.

New Album by the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles



This new album was released in stores on May 7, but when you purchase it from their website, a significant amount of the proceeds will go directly to their community. May God reward you!

Visit <http://benedictinesofmary.org/>



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From The Web

Helpful Catholic Websites

St. Michael the Archangel-Lake Jackson, TX	http://www.smlj.org/index.htm
Vatican main website	http://www.vatican.va/phome_en.htm
Vatican News Services	News.va
EWTN home page	http://www.ewtn.com/index.asp
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston	http://www.archgh.org/
Catholic Online	http://www.catholic.org/
Catholic Online Saints	http://www.catholic.org/saints/
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	http://www.usccb.org/
USCCB Daily scripture	http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/
National Catholic Register Newspaper	http://www.ncregister.com/
American Catholic	http://www.americancatholic.org/
US Catholic	http://www.uscatholic.org/
Catholic News Agency	http://www.catholicnewsagency.com
Liguorian a Redemptorist Publication	http://www.liguorian.org/
Liguori Publications	http://www.liguori.org/
The New American Bible	http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENGo839/_INDEX.HTM
Catholic Answers	http://www.catholic.com/
Catholics Come Home	http://www.catholicscomehome.org
Whispers in the Loggia—a Catholic blog	http://whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com/



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Important Dates In This Trimester

Date	Celebration	Date	Celebration
June 1	St. Justin, Martyr	July 25	St. James, Apostle
June 2	Corpus Christi	July 29	St. Martha
June 7	Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	July 30	St. Peter Chrysologus
June 7	World Day of Prayer for Sanctification of Priests	July 31	St. Ignatius of Loyola
June 8	Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Aug. 5	Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
June 14	Flag Day	Aug. 6	Transfiguration of Our Lord
June 21	First Day of Summer	Aug. 10	St. Lawrence
June 24	Nativity of St. John the Baptist	Aug. 14	St. Maximilian Kolbe
June 27	St. Cyril of Alexandria	Aug. 15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
June 29	St. Peter and St. Paul	Aug. 22	Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
July 4	Independence Day	Aug. 27	St. Monica
July 11	St. Benedict Abbot	Aug. 28	St. Augustine
July 16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Aug. 29	The Passion of St. John the Baptist
July 22	St. Mary Magdalene		

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