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WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL TWO-PART NEWSLETTER!

With positive feedback about our two-part Winter 2020 *Hand in Hand* newsletter and its Advent and Christmas sections, it made sense to continue the same format for this Spring 2021 *Hand in Hand* newsletter! Again, the first half is to be read through during the Lenten season, while the second half is to be saved until sunset on Saturday, April 3, which begins the Easter season. **Make sure you do not peek** into the Easter part of this newsletter in the same way that you do not search for your Easter baskets with sweets until that time! Wink wink! Otherwise, God could be hoppin' mad, if you get my pun! Haha!

I hope you will enjoy the many things

this unique two-part newsletter has to offer you! As begun from our Autumn 2020 newsletter, scattered throughout in both parts are various sections from St. John's School for the Deaf's publication, "Our Young People." They include stories, clips, photos, Pleasantries, and News of St. John's.

The Immaculate Conception, patroness of our country, pray for us! St. Joseph, pray for us during his year. St. John the Evangelist, patron of our archdiocese, pray for us! St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of the Deaf, pray for us! St. René Goupil, our Deaf saint, pray for us!

Blessed Lent and Easter seasons to you! Keep safe and healthy! God bless!

FR. CK CORNER: YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

By Fr. Christopher Klusman



Prayers to you that your Lenten season is filled with blessings. I hope this beautiful season has been filled with many opportunities for deeper prayer, increased courage for fasting, and inspired almsgiving that led you into a much deeper and richer relationship with Jesus

Christ. That is the sole purpose of Lent: to draw us closer to and deeper in Christ.

I also hope that this Lenten season allowed you to learn more about an extremely important person in our Communion of Saints: St. Joseph. It was a HUGE

► **FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued on Page 2.**

Go to Joseph

Go to Joseph when life seems
Filled with doubts and gloomy dreams
Which obscure the exile's goal,
Pressing down the weary soul.

Go to Joseph when the light
Shines again and all seems bright;
Thank him for the help he gives,
Who with God forever lives.

Have Saint Joseph for your friend,
All through life, until its end,
Then, like him, with Jesus near,
And His Mother, you'll not fear.

MISSION STATEMENT - DEAF APOSTOLATE

The Deaf Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee exists to enable all Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to participate fully in the liturgical, educational, pastoral, spiritual, and human concerns ministries in the Church.

► FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued from Page 1.

surprise when Pope Francis announced the Year of St. Joseph that began last December 8, 2020, and will continue to December 8, 2021. I LOVE these special years. I still couldn't forget

the previous special years, such as when Pope Benedict XVI had special years like the Year of St. Paul (June 2008 - June 2009), Year of the Priest (June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010), etc. There still were many more, such as the ones by Pope Saint John Paul the Great who had a Year of the Rosary (October 2002 - October 2003), the Year of the Eucharist (October 2004 - October 2005), and many more too. Those were wonderful opportunities for us to learn and grow deeper in our Catholic faith. One beautiful fruit that people had been sharing with me is how much they are learning about St. Joseph, which many (including me) had not learned before! With St. Joseph as part of the Holy Family with Jesus and Our Lady, it will be impossible to let him go as our spiritual father when the "Year of St. Joseph" ends. We must be close to him intimately within the fabric of our daily lives forever.

With that in mind, I am excited to announce that you will find various articles, clippings, and other things about St. Joseph in this Newsletter, as well as in the upcoming Summer and Fall 2021 Newsletters. There will be several additional things in the Winter 2021 Newsletter as we sadly wrap up the Year of St. Joseph.

One interesting thing that I learned about St. Joseph is that he has his own month, March. There is also a day of the week dedicated to him, which is Wednesday! So, to quote from Fr. Donald Calloway's beautiful book (Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father), "in light of St. Joseph's day of the week being Wednesday... is there another form of devotion to St. Joseph you might be willing to do on a Wednesday to honor St. Joseph (for example, praying the Litany of St. Joseph, the Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of St. Joseph, or the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary)?" Traditionally, Wednesdays would be the day that we pray the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary and I was intrigued that we can pray



Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christ, have mercy.	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
Lord, have mercy.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Jesus, hear us.	<i>Jesus, graciously hear us.</i>
God, the Father of Heaven,	<i>Have mercy on us.</i>
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,	<i>Have mercy on us.</i>
God, the Holy Spirit,	<i>Have mercy on us.</i>
Holy Trinity, One God,	<i>Have mercy on us.</i>
St. Joseph,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Renowned offspring of David,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Light of Patriarchs,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Spouse of the Mother of God,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Foster father of the Son of God,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Diligent protector of Christ,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Head of the Holy Family,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most just,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most chaste,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most prudent,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most strong,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most obedient,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most faithful,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Mirror of patience,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Lover of poverty,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Model of artisans,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Glory of home life,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Guardian of virgins,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Pillar of families,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Solace of the wretched,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Hope of the sick,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Patron of the dying,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Terror of demons,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Protector of Holy Church,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,	<i>spare us, O Lord.</i>
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,	<i>graciously hear us, O Lord.</i>
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,	<i>And prince over all his possessions.</i>
He made him the lord of his household.	



Let us pray, — O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

the Joyful Mysteries instead in honor of St. Joseph! Aren't we learning so much?

Also, that the name "Joseph" means "increase." How perfect that we can go to him to ask as an intercessor for help in **increasing** our faith, **increasing** our prayer time with God, **increasing** our dependence on God, **increasing** our love of God, **increasing** in us our likeness of God, and **increasing** our hope in God in today's confusing and chaotic world. May you continue to study, learn, love, imitate, and depend on St. Joseph in all the days of your life! This is the beginning of something great!!!

St. Joseph, pray for us!

The Pillars of Lent

Almsgiving
Prayer
Fasting



St. Andrew Parish

DEAF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

FROM THE DELAVAN CORNER: LENT IS NOT POP PSYCH



**By Jennifer Paul, Coordinator
Deaf Religious Education
& Deaf Ministry
St. Andrew Parish, Delavan**

The phrase “pop-psych” stands for popular psychology. Popular psychology refers to ideas and information that are so

widespread for so long that they are believed to be true and facts. Some examples of pop-psych are:

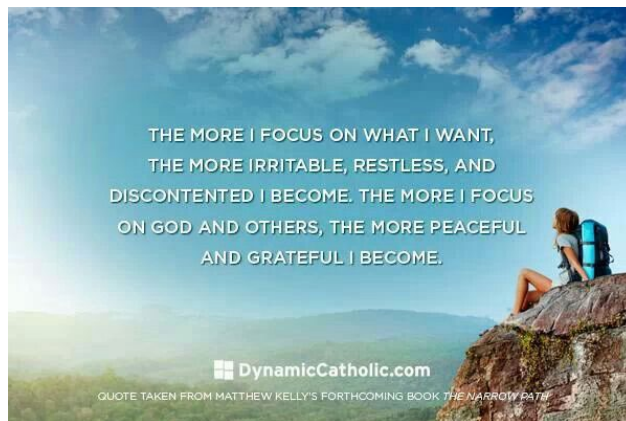
1. Keep smiling no matter how you feel. Over time, you will feel happy.
2. Let out your anger by punching or kicking something. The anger will go away.
3. We use only 10% of our brain.
4. Listening to Mozart makes you smarter.

There are many more examples. Research studies proved them wrong – forcing yourself to smile won’t make you happy internally. Punching or kicking something would not make your anger away. Also, the idea of only 10% of our brain being used is misleading because there is so much about the brain that we do not know. Finally, listening to Mozart does not make you smarter. If so, how would we explain so many smart deaf people?

Seriously, and relating to the season of Lent, people who do not understand the spiritual significance of Lent would think that the season is about annual dieting and detoxing our physical bodies of impurities and ‘bad’ foods. Ironically, unlike the examples above, research has shown how fasting

is beneficial for our health i.e., weight loss, lower cholesterol, lower blood pressure, and improved blood sugar control. So, it could be tempting to explain away the significance of Lent as an opportunity to do just that.

Catholics declaring that they are giving up chocolates for Lent, although commendable, only serves to perpetuate the misconception. We have been learning that Lent is not about giving up sweets but essentially about getting rid of distractions that cloud over our relationship with Jesus and finding peace in Him.



Distractions are earthly pleasures and comforts that give us a false sense of peace. It is frighteningly easy, when complacent, to forget God and get entrapped in the unrelenting pursuit for that sense of peace and satiety. If we are satisfied by the acquisition of these worldly goods, that sense of peace is short-lived and you would then need to find something else to get that feeling back, which is also short-lived, and so on and on.

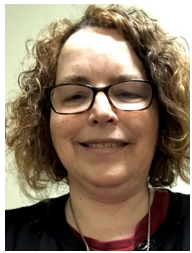
Research shows that being happy with a new car – we all know how much pleasure the ‘new car smell’ is – fades after three months. If a person took pleasure in owning an expensive, status-symbol car, and therefore committed oneself to pay for it for five years, they would stop enjoying the experience after three months. Yet they are saddled with the payment month in and month out for five long years. Very often, the debt becomes a burden and weighs you down, sapping the false joy that they originally had in the first three months. That is not peaceful.

► FROM THE DELAVAN CORNER - Continued on Page 4.

2021 LENTEN VIRTUAL CATHOLIC DEAF WEEKEND RETREAT

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

Lent has 3 pillars: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. For our Lenten Catholic Deaf Weekend Retreat, from February 26 to 28, our theme was: **“Hearken to His Face: Prayer and Its**



Minette Sternke

Many Different Forms,” and the focus was specifically on prayer. Our guest presenter was Minette Sternke, a Deaf Consecrated Virgin from the Diocese of Peoria.

This was our first ever virtual weekend retreat, which happened because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were so thankful to God that, while we couldn't meet in person in a retreat house, we still were able to meet through Zoom. Throughout the whole

weekend, we learned, through St. Teresa of Ávila's famous definition, “prayer is a conversation with God.” Applying it to the Deaf community, prayer is when we go face-to-face with God. Imagine that?! Not only that, we couldn't believe how much we learned in such a short time over the weekend about the many forms of prayer and the *many, many, many* different ways to do prayer. One lesson we learned (among many) is that we could never run out of ways to pray.

On Friday evening, we exchanged introductions with each other and learned that there are five forms of prayer. Minette presented to us the first form of prayer: Thanksgiving. Then we signed off with a homework assignment to give at least 10 minutes of prayer to God.

On Saturday morning, we shared our previous evening's experiences regarding the homework assignment. One amazing thing was that someone, during prayer, found in some random prayer book, a description about “hearkening to God's Face”!

► FROM THE DELAVAN CORNER - Continued from Page 3.

Then something bad happens that takes away all the worldly goods which give you pleasure and satiety. What would you do then? How would you feel? We need to remember NOT to depend on worldly goods for pleasure and to feel satisfied. How do we break free of that deception?

Lent is exactly how. It is a reminder – a gift – for us to let go of the worldly goods and the distractions that they are and to



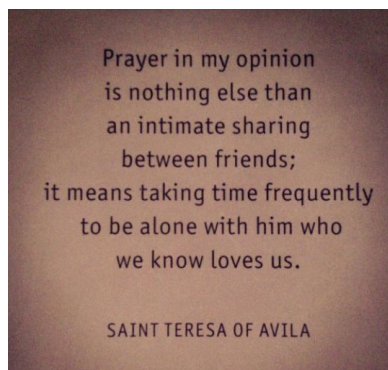
That gave us all goosebumps because that was our retreat theme title! Everyone was amazed at it being a sign of God's Providence! During the remainder of Saturday morning, we learned about the second form of prayer: Petition. After a lunch break, we learned about the third form of prayer: Intercession.

On Sunday morning, we learned about the fourth kind of prayer: Adoration/Worship. Then we went straight into learning about the greatest prayer, the Mass. Minette guided us with wonderful explanations about the different parts of the Mass and its prayers. Then we had a live-streamed Mass together.

Throughout the retreat, we even learned while there are forms of prayer, sometimes the ways we pray can include more than one, such as one prayer can include both thanksgiving and praise. Another prayer can include adoration and petition. Sometimes more than two, three, or four forms! All Sunday afternoon, we closed with learning about the fifth form of prayer: Praise.

Throughout some parts of the retreat, we had small group sessions.

Overall, everyone felt it was a worthwhile retreat that opened their eyes to see more about prayer and how rich and deep the Catholic faith teaches us about prayer. It would take years and years and years to try every kind of prayer that our faith has in her treasury! Many thanks to Minette Sternke for sharing her weekend with us and may God bless her!



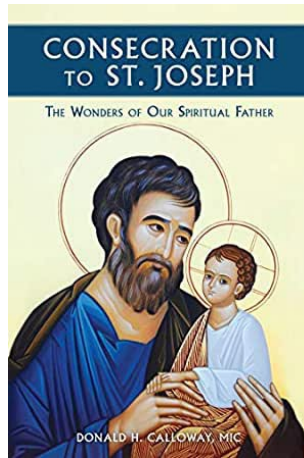
look at our relationship with God, which is a source of peace. Do we take the time to get to know Him by praying? Do we put aside time to read more about Him? Do we take the time to look around us and discern what is good for us spiritually, that helps our journey as Catholics and devout servants of God?

Only by serving Him and being faithful to Him through good times and bad times can we have a true sense of peace. It is a spiritual truth and no pop-psych.

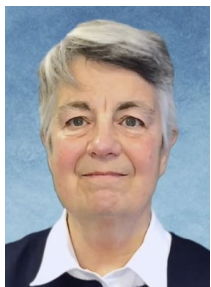
33 DAY CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH JOURNEY IN ASL

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

With the gifts of the proclamation by Pope Francis of the Year of St. Joseph, which is from December 8, 2020, to Dec. 8, 2021, and Fr. Donald Calloway's beautiful book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, we received another gift from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Deaf Apostolate: a 33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph Vlogs – from Sunday, February 14, to the Consecration Day on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph – in American Sign Language (ASL)! The daily vlogs featured Sr. Kathleen Schipani,



IHM, Fr. Sean Loomis, and Deacon Billy Griffin. Having the 33-Day Consecration to St. Joseph made accessible in ASL is a huge gift to the Deaf community that we can't be more thankful for! For me, waking up in the morning to rush to watch the newest vlog posting on Youtube is a delight! I want to personally thank the Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for doing and sharing this with all of us. May



Sr. Kathleen Schipani



Fr. Sean Loomis



Deacon Billy Griffin

God and St. Joseph bless them for their wonderful gift and service to all of us. The Deaf Apostolate in Philadelphia also had their weekly small group sessions with their own group in Philadelphia during the 5 weeks of this 33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph, as well as the Deaf Apostolate in

Milwaukee. With our same group meeting every Monday evening through Zoom, we shared how the journey went for each of us, clarified and answered lingering questions about the vlogs, and answered questions presented by the facilitator to help us understand St. Joseph better.

I had asked several of our group members to share their thoughts about this 33-Day Consecration to St. Joseph and about why they are part of this and/or the impact it has on them.

"The reason I wanted to join these Monday meetings is to know more about St Joseph and his life. When this is over, I will be fully blessed and honored knowing him. Not only that but to gain better understanding and to faithfully follow his good examples of being a spouse, parent, and friend. Of course, a big access to ASL."

"I'm on this journey to increase my prayer life, and honor my late father, who prayed to St. Joseph daily."

"I want to learn more about St. Joseph since all that I really know of him are the events related to the birth of Jesus and up to Jesus' Presentation in the temple. Also I want to learn the meaning of being consecrated to St. Joseph. I hope to gain a better understanding of who St. Joseph is and also, how he can be a person that we can ask for help in our daily lives. I have a feeling there are others like me who are learning things about St. Joseph that they did not know, and may not come to know, if this offering was not available in ASL."

"I am on this journey because my husband encouraged me to join and I am grateful for his encouragement. I hope to get a better understanding of St. Joseph. Before this journey, St. Joseph was a forgotten saint for me and now I am in wonder of why I didn't have a devotion to him before this journey. Deaf Catholics need more opportunities for accessibility in ASL. Thank you to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Archdiocese of Milwaukee."

"Grew up not knowing or learning about St. Joseph, who he is, and this journey helps me to better understand who he is. Also helps to become better man, aka role model. St. Joseph is known as Happy Death Saint... I didn't know that."

► CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH - Continued on Page 6.

THE GIFT OF SUNDAY

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

On January 25, 2021, on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle, Archbishop ListECKI released a theological reflection titled, "The Gift of Sunday." This document is worth your time, as it reminds us, "that [we] seek to understand anew, now more than ever, what is meant by authentic rest, authentic communion, and authentic worship" (Paragraph #2). Since God rested on the seventh day and that Sunday is the day of our Sabbath, we need to restore our ability to find rest on that day. If we don't make our Sunday right, our week won't be made right. Besides, if Sunday isn't made right, our life won't be made right. "We require a rest that re-centers, re-orient, and re-focuses the body, mind, and soul on our Creator himself" (Paragraph #4). The best way to



do this, first and foremost, is to attend Mass on Sunday. This is our authentic rest, authentic communion, and authentic worship.

One point that I loved in this document is that we also have to make our Fridays right to make Sundays right. Sunday is always the day of the Resurrection and the new creation, all throughout the year. However, Sunday is not the only day of the week that holds special value to the Christian. We also recognize that the glory of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday was preceded by the loving sacrifice of the Cross on Good Friday. The Real Presence of Christ in the Mass, on the altar, is the manifestation of the whole Paschal Mystery that incorporates both Good Friday and Easter Sunday. For this reason, since our earliest days, Christians have marked Fridays throughout the entire year (not only during Lent) as days especially devoted to penance and to contemplation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Paragraph #23).

► [THE GIFT OF SUNDAY - Continued on Page 7.](#)

► [CONSECRATION OF ST. JOSEPH - Continued from Page 5.](#)

"I joined the Consecration to St. Joseph group as something to learn/read during Lent. I do not have the usual Lenten Reflection booklet and I thought this would be a good thing to do. What I am especially enjoying is the weekly gathering where we share our thoughts on the weeks "readings". Last week's discussion was very inspiring."

"Often not much is taught about St. Joseph, so I was happy to learn more about who he is. Having the vlogs in ASL helps so much for I learn many things, like "Prudent" has ASL sign of 'wisdom.' All this helps me to be more like him and how consecration is so important."

Last March 19, we had the tremendous gift of being invited by the Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to join them via Zoom in sharing our experience and making the Consecration of St. Joseph on the Solemnity of

Consecration Chart

START OF THE 33 DAYS	FEAST DAY	CONSECRATION DAY
December 22	Feast of the Holy Spouses	January 23
January 1	Presentation of the Lord	February 2
February 15*	Solemnity of St. Joseph	March 19
March 30	St. Joseph the Worker	May 1
April 11	Our Lady of Fatima	May 13
July 20	Our Lady of Knock	August 21
September 30	All Saints	November 1
November 8	Our Lady of Loreto	December 10
November**	Holy Family	December

* During a leap year, when February has 29 days, the starting date is February 16.

** The Solemnity of the Holy Family generally falls on the first Sunday after Christmas. If Christmas itself is on a Sunday, be sure to check what day the bishops designate as the Solemnity of the Holy Family and begin your consecration 32 days before the consecration date (Day 33).

St. Joseph! The video was eventually posted on the Youtube and Facebook pages.

A difficult experience for all of us is the ending of our Monday evening sessions. We hope that we will continue to learn more about St. Joseph and live faithfully our Consecration to St. Joseph. You are never too late to make a Consecration for you can look at other Feast days of St. Joseph and work your way back 33 days to begin this journey and I'm sure the vlogs in ASL will still be on the Youtube website by Deaf Catholic

Philly that you can also make the Consecration to St. Joseph! Go for it as it is worth it!

The one thing people who had already made Consecration in 2021 is they can do it again in the following years as a great way to re-affirm, re-promise, and offer again our whole lives to our "spiritual father," so that we can be more like him, thus becoming more like Jesus!

St. Joseph, pray for us!

► **THE GIFT OF SUNDAY - Continued From Page 6.**

I love how this leads us to remember Sunday as a “little Easter,” as understood from the earliest days of Christianity. You can’t have Easter without Lent, Christmas without Advent, and Sunday without Friday.

You can easily access the PDF document of “The Gift of Sunday” at <https://www.archmil.org/Sunday-Initiative/Reflection.htm>.

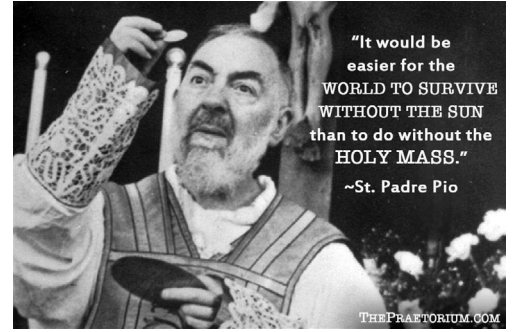
In the document, some sections are numbered. Fr. Christopher had shared with the Deaf community Youtube videos translated into ASL for each numbered section in the document. If you are interested, please email him at: deafapostolate@archmil.org to receive links for those videos.



Please come back to Mass as our parishes pride themselves

on making these places of worship safe. Invite others back too to the Mass. While the Covid pandemic has taught us many things, the biggest lesson

is the tremendous value of the Mass for we can’t ever again take it for granted! The Mass is priceless, precious, and life-sustaining. We cannot live without the Mass that brings us the Most Holy Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord! St. Padre Pio said, “It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without the Holy Mass!” Let’s all help ourselves and each other restore the beautiful gift of Sunday in our lives so that we can experience authentic rest, authentic communion, and authentic worship! See you at Mass!



The mother lion saw her young offspring chasing a hunter around and around a tree. “Baby,” she called, “don’t play with your food.”



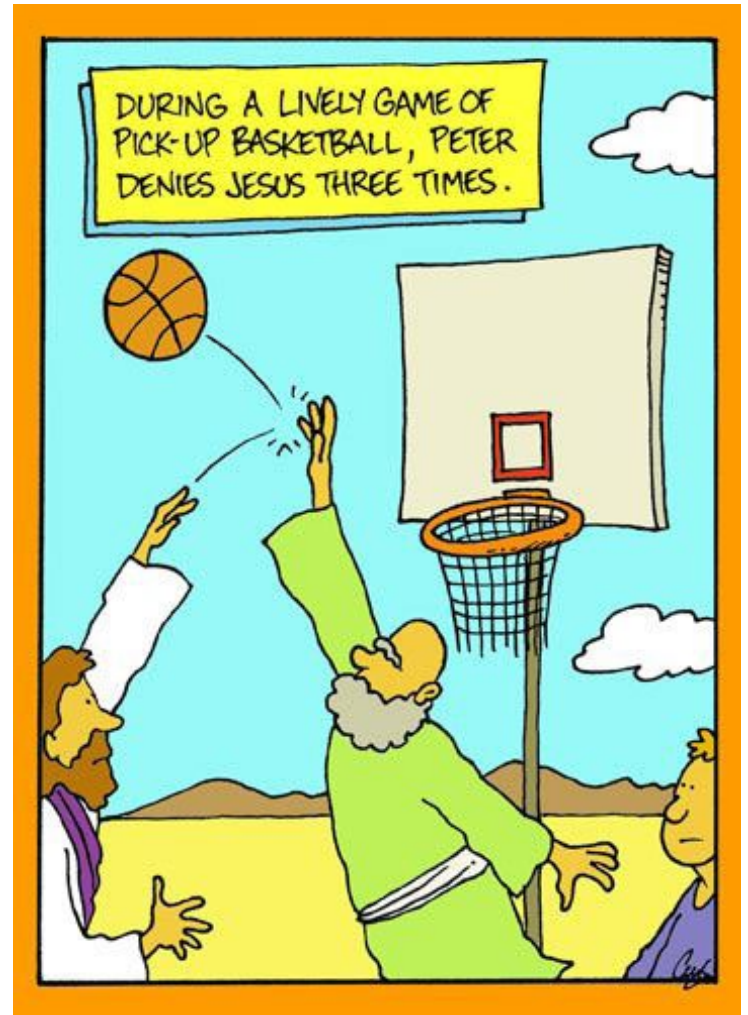
REFLECTION QUESTION:

Try to start a conversation with your family and/or friends about this question.

What was the most difficult thing you ever gave up for Lent? Why?



“How did you happen to hit the pedestrian?” the policeman asked. “But I didn’t hit him,” declared the motorist. “I came to the stop sign and stopped. I motioned to him to go across, and he fainted!”



In St. John's School for the Deaf's publications of the "Our Young People," there is a section that has their current news. I hope you will enjoy these various news clippings:

News of St. John's



Most of the faculty members were able to attend the Conference on Education of Deaf Children at Wisconsin State College in Milwaukee on May 7th. The Sisters of St. Joseph's Institute for the Deaf in University City, Missouri, gave some excellent demonstrations with their pupils.

Among the hardest problems that challenge our deaf youngsters is the inconsistent American language. The pupils in Sister Reynildis' room want to know why it's good grammar to speak of a "pair of pants," when you can't say "a pair of coats."

Father Gehl was happy to receive birthday greetings from former pupils now attending high school at St. Rita's, Cincinnati, Ohio. They were Judy Lerg, Betsy Hood, Michaella Montoya, Susan Tadych, James Smith, Arthur Roehrig, David Sommers, Bernard Prusak, John Kaleta, Robert Ryan, Ronald Vasofsky, Robert Bolger, and Joseph Otis.

Be not troubled, however great the temptations that assail you. Let the enemy rage at the door; let him stamp, thump, romp, yell, do the worst in his power; we are sure he cannot enter but by the door of our consent. Let us keep it closed, often taking a look to see that it is properly fastened, and there is nothing to fear. Humble yourself very much, and be not at all surprised. The lilies that grow among thorns are the whitest. *What does he know, who has not been tempted?* — St. Francis de Sales.

CATHOLIC QUIZ (ADVENT)

1. What word do we remove from Liturgy/Mass during Lent?

- (a) Gloria (b) Alleluia
- (c) Amen (d) Hosanna

2. The word "Lent" means _____ ?

- (a) Forgiveness (b) Remembrance
- (c) Springtime (d) Reconciliation

3. The requirement of abstinence during Lent begins at age 14 and ends?

- (a) Age 60 (b) Age 65 (c) Age 70 (d) No age limit

4. Simon carries the Cross with Jesus in which Station?

- (a) Third (b) Fifth (c) Seventh (d) Tenth

5. In which Gospel does Pontus Pilate wash his hands before the crowd?

- (a) Matthew (b) Mark (c) Luke (d) John



(Answers on page 9.)



Renewal Prayer for Deaf Catholic Church

Father, we ask you to look with mercy at us,
your Deaf Catholic Church.

We ask you to bless us, inspire us to always love you
above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray to you for our bishops, our spiritual leaders.

Please bless them and give them the strength
and wisdom to guide us, their people.

Help them to recognize, understand, and respond
to our unique needs.

Please bless the priests, deacons, religious, and lay people
who serve our community.

Inspire them so that they may
then inspire all hearts of deaf people
to know, love, and serve you and your Catholic Church.

Father, we pray to you for our baptized
Deaf Catholic brothers and sisters.

Please send your Holy Spirit to enkindle and
renew their hearts

so that they may continue to grow spiritually
through making time for prayers, receiving sacraments,
and serving other people.

Our young baptized Deaf Catholics are growing up
in a challenging and confused world.

Almighty God, please help them understand
that the way of the world does not give life;
your way alone gives true life.

Please touch their hearts and guide them to find your love.

Bring them back to the Church.

Put in them the desire to pray, to receive the
sacraments and to serve other people.

Holy Spirit, come and transform each of us
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Mary, our Mother, pray for us. Amen.

OUR HAND IN HAND LOGO

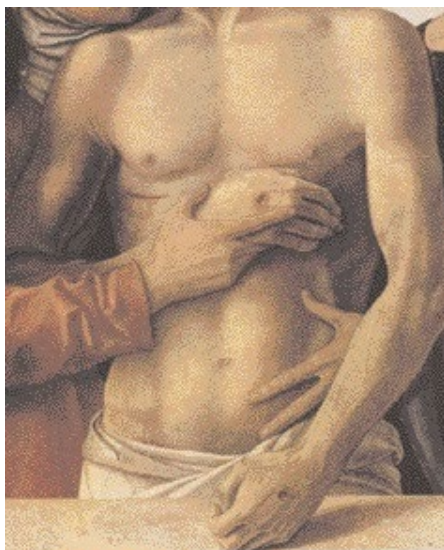
By Fr. Christopher Klusman

Begun in Fall 2019 Newsletter, an article/feature is chosen from an older Hand in Hand Newsletter to revisit important people, events, news, and places of our rich history. This selection is from the Fall 2019 Newsletter as it fits perfectly with the theme of Lent. I hope by looking at the image that it will inspire you to deeper prayer at the beauty of this image and what it means. May Our Lord and Our Lady's hands hold yours.

In our recent Summer Hand in Hand Newsletter, I hoped you enjoyed the article about the history of the Hand in Hand Newsletter. The first Hand in Hand logo premiered during the July/August 1992 Newsletter. Then came the second logo in the September/October 1997

Newsletter. With our second logo used in existence for 22 years, it felt right for a new and updated logo.

While you look at the top left corner, reflect on what you think would be the meaning of this new logo? Ironically, around the time of September/October,



the Holy Spirit enflamed my heart to use two particular hands for the new logo. The 2 new particular hands are not just some hands, but are some of the most precious hands in our history! They are the hands of the Blessed Mother Mary and Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Not only that but that Mary's hand is holding Christ's Pierced Hand, which is what the title of our Newsletter means: *Hand in Hand!*

Finding the perfect image was no easy task. The painting that is now in Milan, Italy that was painted in the year 1470 is by a famous Italian Renaissance artist, Giovanni Bellini. The painting is *The Pieta or The Dead Christ Supported by the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist*.

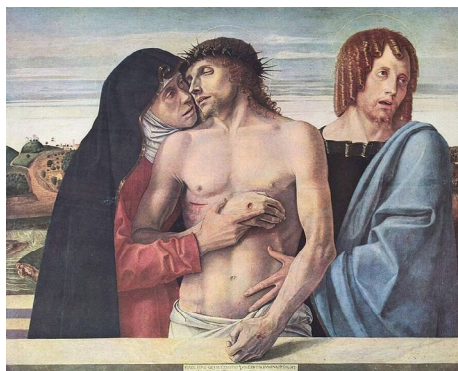
What is the deal with hands and the Deaf community? The Deaf community truly values hands for many reasons, such as being able to communicate with our hands a beautiful language: American Sign Language (ASL). Also, God made each of us, including our hands. Jesus was pierced because He truly loves us and suffered and died for our salvation. If



First Hand in Hand logo from July/August 1992.



Second logo from September/October 1997.



you look behind Jesus and Mary's Hands, you will see Jesus' Body, with the pierced side that spilled out His Precious Blood and Water, symbolizing the Creation of the Catholic Church through Baptism

and the Eucharist (The Body and Blood of Christ). Also, the birth of the Catholic Church from Jesus' Side shows why He is the Bridegroom (Spouse) and the Church (us) as His Bride. If you study the logo more and more, you can probably discover more things... This is why it is so beautiful for us to have this as our new logo. **Our Lady's maternal hand in the Pierced Hand of Our Lord!** So beautiful! So precious! So amazing!

Quiz Answers: 1b; 2c; 3d (The requirement of fasting begins at age 18 and ends at 60); 4b; 5a

"A teacher noticed that one little boy was drawing everything in heavy black crayon. He drew black horses, black cows, and black barns. Disturbed by what was going on in his mind, she called a meeting of the little boy's parents, the principal of the school, and a psychiatrist.



They finally got to the root of the trouble – it was the only crayon he had.

ST. JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE OF LENT

By Fr. Christopher Klusman



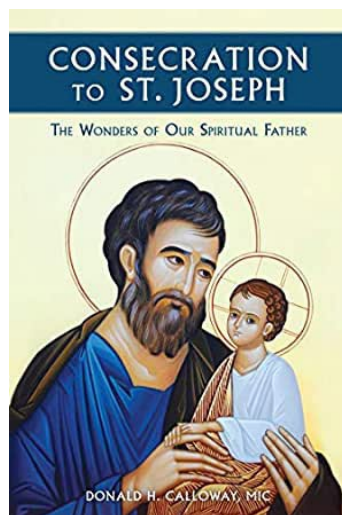
In honor of the Year of St. Joseph, this article will introduce us to various events of his life that can teach us how to live the teachings of Lent. Remember, he is the adopted father of Jesus, who taught Jesus while he

was growing up. St. Joseph has so much to teach us too.

One particular period in the life of St. Joseph is his wedding to the Blessed Virgin Mary. While many people taught that Our Lady conceived “before marriage,” that always bothered me as it never felt right to me. Thankfully, I read in various trustworthy sources that one has to understand first-century Jewish culture to know what really happened and that Our Lady and St. Joseph was married before Our Lady became pregnant! In Jewish culture, when they both were betrothed to each other, it was the start of their marriage to each other. While they were both married, they lived separately as St. Joseph had to prepare to receive his wife into their new home (and joint-life) together. A powerful clue to this is that, if they were still engaged, why was St. Joseph so distraught about having to divorce her quietly if they were still “engaged?!”

A big shock that happened was Our Blessed Mother’s pregnancy. Before the time was right for them to move in together, she became pregnant through the Holy Spirit. She wasn’t an “unwed mother.” She was a “wedded mother” when she became pregnant. Upon reading these sources that understood the first-century Jewish culture, I felt SO relieved and it felt so right. Now, there is another situation.

The other situation that also never felt right to me was whenever I was taught/told about St. Joseph thinking about divorcing Our Blessed Mother quietly due to suspicion of her doing adultery!? Huh?! Until I read Fr. Donald Calloway’s book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, I was pleased to read this on



page 143 about what was really going on with St. Joseph:

- 1) *The Suspicion Theory*: Saint Joseph suspects Mary of adultery, and as a result, he decides to obtain a divorce. According to Jewish law, if a just man wants to divorce his wife because she has been unfaithful, he is required to stone her. Saint Joseph, being a just man, does not want to stone Mary, so he seeks to divorce her quietly. This theory was promoted in the apocryphal literature and held by several Fathers of the Church.
- 2) *The Stupefaction Theory*: Saint Joseph is perplexed and stupefied by Mary’s pregnancy, but he does not doubt Mary’s innocence. He is dumbfounded and doesn’t know what to do. Confused, he decides to divorce Mary. Some Fathers of the Church adhere to this theory and greatly promote it. It becomes the most common theory and is known as “Joseph’s Doubt.”
- 3) *The Reverence Theory*. Saint Joseph discovers that Mary is pregnant, but he does not doubt her purity and innocence. Instead, he doubts his worthiness and ability to take care of Mary and the child. A just man, he knows that Mary belongs to God and he considers himself unworthy of living with Mary. He decides to separate himself from her quietly out of justice to God and reverence to Mary. He is willing to leave the picture so as not to reveal her mystery. Some Fathers of the Church, as well as many medieval saints, theologians, and mystics promote this theory.

With the *Reverence Theory* being the one that made the most sense, it was the one that felt most peaceful to me on what someone like St. Joseph would think and do. It made perfect sense because St. Joseph is also the Just One. He is also SO humble that he doesn’t even have a quotation in Scripture! With St. Joseph so loving, so chaste, so just, and so humble, he would’ve felt SOOO unworthy to be the husband of the mother of Jesus (the Second Person of the Trinity!) and also to be the adopted father of Jesus?! If any sane man was in St. Joseph’s position, he would be running away, screaming, and in a tremendous panic!!! But, St. Joseph humbly realized that it is God’s Will and His plan for him, to which he humbly accepted, even though he still felt unworthy of this tremendous gift and honor. It is by depending on God for His graces that we can do what God has in plan for each of us.

With Lent as a time of deep spiritual reflection and struggle,

► ST. JOSEPH’S EXAMPLE OF LENT - Continued on Page 11.

WINTER/SPRING 2021 WEBINAR SERIES

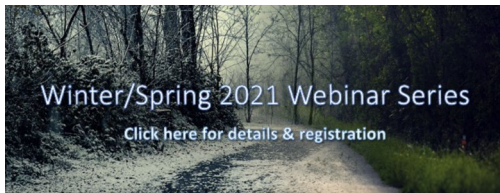
As indicated in previous newsletters, the Fall webinar series were helpful. I can't say enough about having Catholic workshops accessible in our language, including several that connect to Deaf issues. After our annual NCOD Pastoral Week Conference, from January 7-10, it was wonderful news to find out that they will continue the webinar series!



So far, we had two Winter/Spring 2021 webinars. The first one was on Thursday, February 18, and it was about the Year of St. Joseph. The presenter was Sr. Bonnie McMenamin, SSJ, of the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey. Her religious order is the Sisters of St. Joseph. She shared with us about the amazing person of St. Joseph, Pope Francis' designation of 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph and how this will apply to our lives.



Sr. Bonnie
McMenamin



Fr. Scott Wallisch



Our most recent webinar was on Tuesday, March 16, by Fr. Scott Wallisch, who serves as the Chaplain for the Deaf in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. His topic was "Seating at the Last Supper." Here is the excerpt from the website of his presentation: "We are used to the Leonardo da Vinci painting's version of what the seating looked like at the Last Supper. It obviously did not actually look like that. In fact, it was vastly different. And knowing what the seating actually looked like makes the Last Supper passage in the Gospel of St. John so much more meaningful!"

I hope for more webinars from NCOD.

To register for the Winter/Spring webinar series, you will need to be a current NCOD member. It is not too late to join or renew your NCOD membership from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. You can go online at www.ncod.org for the NCOD membership form.

► ST. JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE OF LENT - Continued from Page 10.

St. Joseph, through the *Reverence Theory*, shows how we should think and do, thus giving us the example for Lent and onwards. We are so unworthy of the great gifts of God, but He searches us, wants us, loves us, and shares so abundantly His many gifts with us. St. Joseph truly went through a lot of unexpected challenges in his early years of marriage with Our Blessed Mother, due to her incredible pregnancy. But, again, with the *Reverence Theory* as the most preferred and the one that made the most sense, we are called to deeper reverence of Our God, Our Lady, and St. Joseph and all the saints and angels during this Lenten season. We do this with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, which softens our hearts towards a deeper repentance that leads to a deeper conversion in our relationship with God!

St. Joseph, Example of Lent, pray for us!!

The Forge #554

"Love Saint Joseph a lot. Love him with all your soul, because he, together with Jesus, is the person who has most loved our Blessed Lady and been closest to God. He is the person who has most loved God, after our Mother."

~ St. Josemaría Escrivá



Scepter

ST. RITA OF CASCIA, MODEL SAINT FOR THE MEANING OF LENT

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

During the season of Lent, it is always nice to have a model saint that we can learn, grow, and imitate that shows us how to understand and live in the way that fulfills the purposes of Lent for the rest of our lives.

For Lent, the model saint is St. Rita of Cascia. One of the reasons why I chose her -- or she chose us by coming up during my prayer on who the Model Saint for the Meaning of Lent will be for this newsletter -- is because she is the patron saint of the Catholic High School for the Deaf. Many of our Deaf students from St. John's School for the Deaf went there after graduating from the eighth grade. Also, her life was full of many challenges, yet she steadfastly carried out the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

While borrowing some excerpts (in italics) from the website (<https://st-rita.org/the-story-of-st-rita-of-cascia/>) on her life, let's see why she is a model saint for the meaning of Lent. You will note that my comments are in normal font.

EARLY LIFE

Saint Rita "was born in the year 1381 in the village of Roccaporena, near Cascia, Italy. Her parents, Antonio and Amata Lotti, considered her birth a very special gift from God, for Rita was born to them as they were already advancing in age.

Rita was the only child. Her name is actually Margherita, which in the local dialect means, "pearl." But she was known as Rita. She was baptized in the church of St. Augustine in Cascia.

As a young girl Rita frequently visited the convent of the Augustinian Nuns in Cascia and dreamed of one day joining their community. Her parents, however, had promised her in marriage, according to the custom of the day, to Paolo Mancini, a good man of strong and impetuous character. Rita accepted her parents' decision, resolved to see this as God's will for her.

MARRIED LIFE

The young couple was joined in marriage and soon twin boys were born to them. Rita found herself occupied with the typical



concerns of a wife, mother, and homemaker of Roccaporena, while Paolo was employed as a watchman for the town. In Cascia, as elsewhere, a great rivalry existed between two popular political factions, the Guelphs and the Ghibellines. As a minor official of the town, Paolo often found himself drawn into the conflict, and the strain that this caused

probably accounts for the tension, which he sometimes brought into the Mancini household. By her prayer, patience, and affection, however, Rita was able to ease the stress and worry her husband experienced, but she was not able to shield him altogether from the dangers to which society exposed him.

Her husband, Paolo, was violent and ill-tempered. In anger, he often mistreated Rita verbally and physically. Yet, she lovingly and patiently helped him in every way possible.

What is amazing is that Rita helped Paolo to become a better person. They lived together for 18 years. Paolo even renounced a family feud between the Macinis and Chiquis. But, sadly, the feud between the Mancini and Cascia grew turbulent. A shocking thing happened when one of Paolo's allies betrayed him.

DEATH OF HUSBAND AND SONS

One day as Paolo was returning home from work, he was ambushed and killed. The pain which this unexpected and violent death inflicted upon Rita was only compounded by the fear she felt that her two teenage sons, moved by the unwritten law of the "vendetta," would seek to avenge their father's death. Rita's only recourse was to prayer and persuasion.

Rita remembered her parents' peacemaking example and she even forgave her husband's murderers! She had tried so hard to convince her sons to do the same. Tradition said that Rita tried to show her twin sons the image of the Crucified Christ who had forgiven those that killed him. What was difficult was that Paolo's brother (the twins' uncle), Bernardo, kept trying to encourage the twins, leading them to be like what their father, Paolo, was like before when he was more violent. St. Rita prayed

► ST. RITA OF CASCIA - Continued on Page 13.

► **ST. RITA OF CASCIA - Continued from Page 12.**

to God, asking Him to take her sons before they lost their souls to the mortal sin of murder. One year later, her prayers were answered when both of her sons fell prey to dysentery and died.

As it happened, the death of both boys from natural causes a short time later removed them from physical and spiritual danger. Despite her great burden she could still thank God that they had died in peace, free of the poison of murder to which hatred and revenge might have otherwise drawn them.

PEACEMAKER

Now alone in the world and without family responsibilities, Rita once more turned her thoughts to the desired vocation of her youth, that of joining the Augustinian Nuns of Saint Mary Magdalene Monastery. Some of the religious of the community, however, were relatives of the members of the political faction considered responsible for Paolo's death, and so as not to tempt the harmony of the convent, Rita's request for admission was denied. Fortunately, she was not to be easily dissuaded from following what she knew to be God's plan for her. She implored her three patron saints — Saint John the Baptist, Saint Augustine, and Saint Nicholas of Tolentino to assist her, and she set about the task of establishing peace between the hostile parties of Cascia with such success that her entry into the monastery was assured.

Isn't St. Rita amazing with her example of great trust, patience, and perseverance to help make peace to restore harmony? She went to her husband's family and helped them to put aside their anger and stubbornness. Their rivals were also amazed by that demonstration of peace that they both exchanged a peace embrace and signed a written agreement, putting the vendetta to rest forever. There is a painting of the scene of peace on a wall of the Church of St. Francis in Cascia reminding people of the power of good over evil and a great tribute to St. Rita for achieving the impossible.



THE GIFT OF THE THORN

At the age of 36, St. Rita was finally able to enter the Augustinian convent. But, there is a cool story about when the conflict was resolved. It was said that she was transported into the monastery of St. Magdalene through levitation at night with the help of the three saints that she prayed to.

At the age of thirty-six Rita pledged to follow the ancient Rule of Saint Augustine. For the next forty years she gave herself wholeheartedly to prayer and works of charity, striving especially to preserve peace and harmony among the citizens of Cascia. With a pure love she wanted more and more to be intimately joined to the redemptive suffering of Jesus, and this desire of hers was satisfied in an extraordinary way. One day when she was about sixty years of age, she was meditating before an image of Christ crucified, as she was long accustomed to doing. Suddenly a small wound appeared on her forehead, as though a thorn from the crown that encircled Christ's head had loosed itself and penetrated her own flesh. For the next fifteen years she bore this external sign of stigmatization and union with the Lord. In spite of the pain she constantly experienced, she offered herself courageously for the physical and spiritual well being of others. During the last four years of her life Rita was confined to bed and was able to eat so little that she was practically sustained on the Eucharist alone. She was, nevertheless, an inspiration to her sisters in religion and to all who came to visit her, by her patience and joyful disposition despite her great suffering.

The wound on her forehead stayed open and visible from the first day it appeared on her forehead until the day she died. Her name sign is an "R" touching the wound on her forehead.

THE ROSE

One of those who visited her some few months before her death — a relative from her hometown of Roccaporena — was privileged to witness firsthand the extraordinary things wrought by Rita's requests. When asked whether she had any special desires, Rita asked only that a rose from the garden of her parents' home be brought to her. It was a small favor to ask, but quite an impossible one to grant in the month of January! Nevertheless, on returning home the woman discovered, to her amazement, a single brightly-colored blossom on the bush where the nun said it would be. Picking it, she returned immediately to the monastery and presented it to Rita who gave thanks to God for this sign of love. Thus, the saint of the thorn became the saint of the rose, and she whose impossible requests were granted her became the advocate of all those whose own requests seem impossible as well. As she breathed her last, Rita's final words to the sisters who gathered around her were, "Remain in the holy love of Jesus. Remain in obedience to the holy Roman Church. Remain in peace and fraternal charity."

For 40 years as a nun in the convent, she prayed for her husband, Paolo, and her twin sons.

DEATH

Having faithfully and lovingly responded to God's many

▶ ST. RITA OF CASCIA - Continued from Page 13.



invitations to her in the course of her seventy-six years, Rita returned to God in peace on May 22, 1457.

Her body, which has remained incorrupt over the centuries, is venerated today in the shrine of Cascia, which bears her name. Her feast is observed on the anniversary of her death, 22 May.

What was amazing was that when she died, the convent bells rang even though no one was pulling to ring the bells. People came to the convent due to the ringing of the bells to be informed of the death of St. Rita. The nuns had prepared for her burial and placed her in a simple wooden coffin. A carpenter who had been partially paralyzed by a stroke said, "If only I were well. I would have prepared a place more worthy [for St. Rita.] Saying those words, he was healed, making him St. Rita's first miracle. The carpenter then worked on making an elaborate and richly decorated coffin that would hold St. Rita's bodies for several centuries. Her burial had never happened because



people noticed that she wasn't decaying. So, to this day, you can see her incorrupt body in the St. Rita Shrine in Cascia.

St. Rita was beatified by Pope Urban VIII in 1627 and canonized a saint by Pope Leo XII on May 24, 1900. She was often shown in a black habit, which is not correct as the sisters of St. Magdalene monastery wore beige or brown. She is often showed to hold a

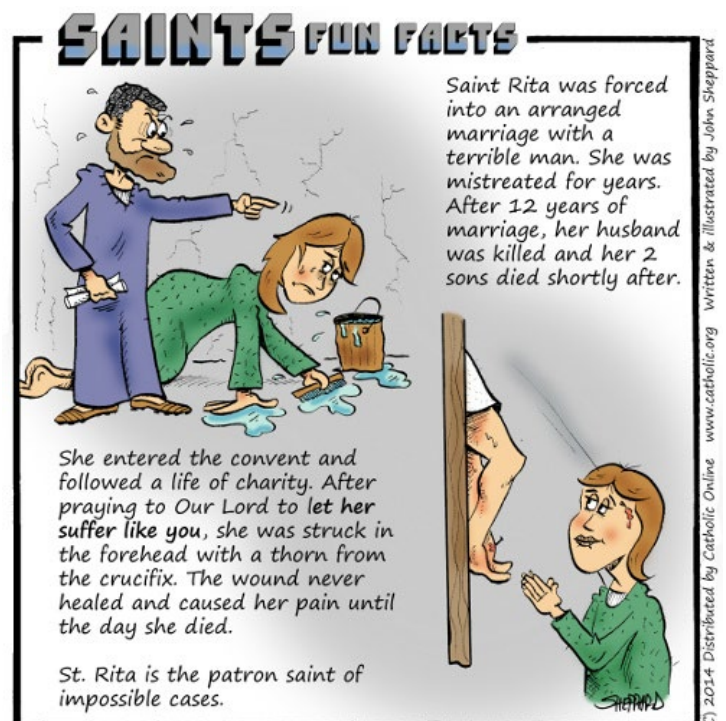



thorn, a large Crucifix, or a palm leaf with three thorns representing her husband and two sons. St. Rita is a patron saint of impossible causes, difficult marriages, and parenthood.

By reading and thinking about her life, we can clearly see why she is a model saint for Lent. Her life was full of tragedies, yet she still had joyful moments. She always kept to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. How do we respond when we encounter difficulties, struggles, challenges, or failures? Even if those cause us great suffering, do we try to push away that suffering and complain about it, or do we see that as a way of suffering with the Lord? Ever since St. Rita got the wound on her forehead which caused great suffering, she never complained until the day of her death. Do we go to our Lord through prayer? Why or why not? Do we encourage ourselves and others to fast, meaning give up things, especially things that harm us, like when St. Rita tried to encourage and help her husband give up his violent ways and her sons from seeking revenge? St. Rita is always giving, especially giving of her time and gifts to restore peace and harmony. She is truly a model saint for the meaning of Lent.

Last, but not least, if you would like to watch a movie about the life of St. Rita, there is a great movie called "Saint Rita," that is highly recommended to watch. You can see an image of its DVD cover. Thankfully, it has English subtitles.

St. Rita, pray for us!!





Our Young People

THE FRIEND OF THE DEAF

THE MYSTERY OF THE ROSES

Here is a powerful story borrowed from Our Young People: The Friend of the Deaf, April 1958 issue. It fits beautifully with the Lenten theme.

IT WAS not a very big church, and one you might easily miss, tucked in, as it was, between tall factories, where machinery roared endlessly, and black smoke belched forth, day and night, hanging like a pall above the surrounding buildings, until everything in the vicinity partook of the sombre hue.

“Sometimes, people referred to it as ‘The Church of the Slums,’ for it was in the heart of the slums, and the majority of the people who knelt at its altar were dwellers in the slums, men and women who earned a livelihood in the great surrounding factories, and into whose drab lives the Church brought almost the only note of beauty and refinement.

St. Michael’s – such was its dignified official name – boasted no gems of statuary, nor exquisite paintings, but the boards were scrubbed to a snowy whiteness, the brass work gleamed and the altar linen was always spotless.

One thing, however, worried Father Collins, the zealous priest in charge of St. Michael’s: very few of his faithful parishioners boasted gardens. Flowers did not bloom to perfection in the heavy, smoke laden atmosphere of the slums, and more often than not the hard workers of the Altar Society had to resort to artificial flowers for the decoration of the altars. It was only when wealthy friends from garden suburbs came to visit Father Collins that the altars glowed with fresh and fragrant flowers.

At the end of the church, in the shadow of the confessional, hung the Mission Cross, and on the small table beneath it, Father Collins had discovered each week, for some time past,

a small but beautiful bunch of perfect, crimson roses. Almost invariably the bunch consisted of five roses; on rare occasions it was larger; each bloom was perfect, and the color was always red.

The occurrence puzzled Father Collins; he was quite certain the roses were not grown in the district; and, although he was in and out of the church at many odd moments of the day and night, he never caught a glimpse of the donor.

However, they were always very welcome, and were invariably put on the high altar for Benediction, where they glowed, a striking note of color against the chaste white of the altar.

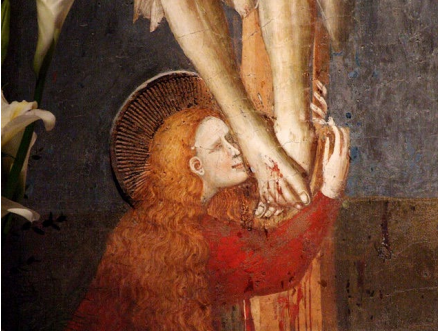
Once soon after one o’clock on a warm Spring day Father Collins was hurrying home to lunch, for which he was already late. He turned into the church for an instant, as he passed it on his way to the rectory. At first he thought the church was empty, but soon he noticed the slight figure of a woman kneeling at the Crucifix, her face pressed close to the nailed Feet and in her hand a bunch of vivid, crimson roses.

The priest glanced curiously at her as he knelt to make his own visit. She was a stranger to him. Her attitude seemed to indicate sorrow or trouble of some kind, and reversing his first intention of slipping quietly away he waited in the shadow of the Confessional until the woman rose from her knees, laid



► THE MYSTERY OF THE ROSES - Continued on Page 16.

▶ THE MYSTERY OF THE ROSES - Continued From Page 15.



the roses in their accustomed place and turned towards the door. She started slightly as she saw the priest and her face, exceptionally beautiful, hardened a little.

Courteously, Father Collins spoke. “So,” he said smilingly, “at last I have solved the mystery of the roses, which has puzzled my altar workers and myself for so long. It is you to whom we are indebted for the lovely flowers, and whom we must thank.”

“I wish for no thanks for the flowers I have left, which I have brought for a purpose of my own,” she said in a cultured but cold tone of voice.

The priest ignored the coldness of the tone. “And yet we are very grateful,” he said gently; “more especially as you are not a parishioner of St. Michael’s.”

“I am not a parishioner of any church,” she answered.

“But you are a Catholic.” It was a statement, rather than a question. Her face quivered slightly as she answered with hesitation, “I was – once.”

“And now?” prompted the priest quietly.

“Now – I am nothing. My faith? It went long ago – I flung it away, when I chose a life of sin.”

Father Collins’ heart stirred with pity. Here was a soul, deep perhaps in the mire of sin, whom he might win back again to Christ, could he but say the right word, could his hand but touch the right chord.

“And yet, you have enough Faith left to come each week to kneel at His feet and leave your flowers.” Father Collins was famed for his love of God and his zeal for souls. Never had he pleaded so earnestly and so gently as he did now, with this wayward girl who listened to him in silence and with averted face.

“You are very kind, Father, and I am deeply grateful to you, but for such as I am there is no going back, nor do I wish it. I chose wealth and pleasure, and with it sin. I did not sin in ignorance; I chose the sin freely and deliberately and I must abide now by what I have chosen. For me, it is now too late.”

“And yet, my child, the day will come, when you must leave all and appear before the judgment seat, and for you, that day may be nearer than you think. Perhaps the gentle Christ, whom you

admit you are willfully offending is holding out a last grace to you now. Peace and pardon await you; think well before you reject them.”

But the gentle words were spoken in vain; the priest knew human nature well, and knew that further pleading might only harden. His appeal had failed, for the time being, at any rate. One more word only he spoke.

“Should you ever need a friend,” he said gently, “come to me at the rectory, and I will do all I can to help you.”

The girl thanked him in a low voice and walked steadily out of the church, without another word.

With a heavy heart Father Collins knelt before the Tabernacle, all thoughts of lunch forgotten, and prayed earnestly and long for this unhappy soul.

Spring and summer passed; and regularly each week, the crimson roses were laid beneath the Mission Cross, but never gain did Father Collins meet the girl who left them. Then they ceased abruptly and the priest wondered if the spark of Faith which had prompted the gift had flickered out.

It was a bitter night of driving wind and rain, and the hour was close to midnight. Father Collins was about to retire, when an urgent telephone message came through from the district hospital. A bad pneumonia case had been brought in during the day, and the nurse in charge, had just discovered the woman was a Catholic. “Would Father Collins come at once?”

The priest was on his way in a few minutes. The only Catholic nurse met him at the door. “She’s unconscious, Father, and has been so nearly all day. There was no clue to suggest her religion, but a short time ago she spoke in delirium and muttered something about ‘red roses and a crucifix,’ and then she spoke clearly, just these words, in a tone of awful despair, ‘it is too late now, Father, it is too late for me.’ I rang for you at once.”

Father Collins’ heart gave a great bound, as he heard the words. Could it be the girl of the roses?

A minute later, he was beside her bed, already screened off, looking down with pitying eyes at the wasted form and burning face of the girl whom he had seen in health and strength a few months before. The nurse had everything arranged for the administration of the Last Sacraments. Quietly, Father Collins placed the Precious Burden he had carried on the small table beside the bed, he slipped a small crucifix between the restless fingers, then knelt beside the bed and prayed that consciousness might return to the girl and with it the grace necessary for true repentance.

Minutes passed. The girl had ceased her restless turning and lay quietly, her fingers only moving slowly over the Crucifix. Quite

▶ THE MYSTERY OF THE ROSES - Continued on Page 17.

▶ THE MYSTERY OF THE ROSES - Continued From Page 16.

suddenly, she opened her eyes, and spoke clearly.

“So you have come, Father; somehow I knew you would. I don’t deserve it, it is too late now, I refused the grace when it was offered to me.” Despair rang in her voice.

“My child, it is not too late; in His infinite goodness Almighty God is holding out another chance to you. He is never outdone in generosity. Your constant act of faith and love in bringing the roses to His Feet has brought its own reward. Your soul belongs to Him, He has purchased it at the tremendous cost, the cost of every drop of His Most Precious Blood. You will not cheat Him now of what is His by every right.”

Tears came into the dim eyes, and rolled down the burning cheeks, “Father, help me, it is so long, so long...”

How lovingly must the angels have smiled upon that scene, as the priest slipped on his stole and raised his hand in blessing. It was a long and bitter story, told in broken sentences and with scalding tears of sorrow and repentance.

And, like Magdalen of old, must have forgiven her, who loved much. A little later the Friend of sinners nestled in the heart from which He had been so long outcast, and a great calm came to the weary storm-tossed soul as the Pilot whispered, “Fear not, it is I.” And the last remnant of fear was exorcised as the Holy Oils anointed each sin-stained sense.

Lying quietly, with the Crucifix clasped between her clammy hands, the girl gave Father Collins a brief history of her life.

Born and reared in a country town, by excellent Catholic parents she had possessed unusual talents and beauty, which alas, had been her downfall. The country life had become unbearable to her, and against the wishes of her parents she had come to the city and taken a position. Her mother’s passionate love for her only daughter had foreseen something of the pitfalls and temptations to which her beauty and ignorance of the world would expose her, and with the wise instinct of the Catholic mother she had striven to make the girl’s Faith a sheet anchor and a safeguard.

“My mother had a particular devotion to Our Lord’s Sacred Wounds, Father; from the time I was a wee child she would point them out to me and let my baby fingers touch the nails in His Hands and Feet. When I left home she made me promise, that, whatever else I failed to do, I would always say some little prayer in honor of the Five Sacred Wounds, and she told me, no matter what my sin might be or how low I fell, I might still creep to His Feet, and hide myself and my sin in the Wound in His Sacred Side.

“And, alas, Father, I fell, lower than ever she could conceive of a child of hers, nurtured and cherished as I had been. I case

aside every practice of my Faith, save one – devotion to the Sacred Wounds. Hence my visits to your church, where I was quite sure I was unknown, to lay those roses, red as His Precious Blood, at His Feet. The altar rails and our Blessed Lady’s altar were no longer any place for me, but to the Cross I might still come, as Magdalen came of old. Hard and bitter as I had become, and deeply as my soul was sunk in sin I never left those Sacred Feet without a feeling of terrible remorse for the life I was leading, though I lacked the courage to break the chains of sin which held me in their grip.

“After I had spoken to you, Father, my conscience awoke to life, and my remorse became unbearable. I had almost made up my mind to abandon the life I was leading, when I was stricken down with this illness. Despair seized me. ‘It is too late now,’ the Tempter whispered, ‘a death-bed repentance is a farce for such as you.’

“I do not remember being brought to this hospital, but Father, you know the rest. Only tell me how you discovered me? Who brought you here?”

And the priest told her of her words, spoken in delirium about the roses, which had given the nurse the clue to her patient’s religion. That the only Catholic nurse in the hospital should have been detailed for this case was another proof of the pursuing love of the Good Shepherd.

“Week after week the roses you left at the Crucifix have been put on the altar during Benediction, and there they have silently pleaded your cause, while they breathed away their fragrant lives before their Creator and yours.”

In the grey hour which preceded the dawn, when the stars were paling in the heavens and even the busy life of the great hospital was hushed, the soul of the repentant girl passed from earth, fortified and consoled with every rite and blessing which that great Mother, the Catholic Church, holds in her keeping for her stricken children.

They buried her from the church in the slums, and many and fervent were the prayers offered for her soul by the humble folks who had not known her in life and to whom in death she was known simply as “The Girl of the Roses.”



Holy Week Schedule



PREPARING FOR MASSES FOR HOLY WEEK 2021

IMPORTANT: Due to the pandemic and possible restrictions on seating capacity, please contact the parish you plan to attend **as soon as possible** to find out if reservations have to be made, etc.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Deaf Apostolate will not post any filmed Masses for Holy Week on its Youtube page. There are plenty of other online Masses for Holy Week that can be seen by other Deaf priests or priests fluent in American Sign Language. If you would like to have a list of virtual Masses, please contact Fr. Christopher Klusman at deafapostolate@archmil.org.

St. Roman Parish, Milwaukee

1710 W. Bolivar Ave., 53221
Signed Mass (no voicing)
w/Fr. Christopher and Deacon David
Palm Sunday: 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 27
Holy Thursday: 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 1
Good Friday: 3 p.m. on Friday, April 2

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Milwaukee

5571 S. Marilyn St., 53221
Signed Mass (no voicing)
w/Fr. Christopher and Deacon David
Easter Sunday: 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 4

St. Andrew Parish, Delavan

714 E. Walworth Avenue, 53115
Interpreted Masses
Palm Sunday: 9 a.m.
Holy Thursday, None
Good Friday: Noon
Easter Sunday: 9 a.m.

St. Joseph Parish, Grafton

1619 Washington Street, 53024
Interpreted Mass
Palm Sunday: 4 p.m. on Sat., March 27
Good Friday: Noon
Easter Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

St. Peter Parish, Kenosha

2224 30th Avenue, 53144

NOTE: As of this date, updates are still coming from various parishes. If you want to know any updates for other parishes that have offered Interpreted Masses, as well as Open captioned Mass, in the past in our archdiocese, please email at deafapostolate@archmil.org for any updates that may arise at some time before/during Holy Week. Thanks for your patience as we work through complications from the Covid pandemic.



INTERPRETED & ASL *Masses* THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE



– ASL WEEKEND MASS –

Please email deafapostolate@archmil.org for updates on Signed Masses, due to unpredictability of the Covid pandemic.

***Times listed are subject to change due to the unpredictability of the pandemic.*
Current as of December 1, 2020.**

– INTERPRETED SUNDAY MASS –

Please check online before attending Mass, such as pre-registration requirements, etc.

St. Andrew Parish

714 E. Walworth Ave, Delavan, WI 53115
Time: 9 a.m.

Please request at least 5 days in advance to:
E-Mail: deafministry@saspcatholics.org
Website: standrews-delavan.org

St. Joseph Parish

1619 Washington St, Grafton, WI 53024
1st & 4th Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. and 3rd
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

E-Mail: parish@stjosephgraffton.org
Website: stjosephgraffton.org

MASS REOPENING GUIDELINES

CHANGES YOU'LL SEE

1. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

2. NO PROCESSIONS

3. NO PASSED BASKETS

4. NO HOLY WATER OR INCENSE

5. NO CUP

6. COMMUNION IN THE HAND AT THE END

7. DISMISSED ONE ROW AT A TIME

"I pray that we see courage, kindness, and selfless acts of love that foster community, help the needy, and encourage everyone to grow stronger in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. This is what it means to be Catholic."
— Archbishop Paul D. Etienne

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

***Times Listed Are Subject to Change due to the unpredictability of the Covid pandemic*
As of December 1, 2020**

St. Mary's Immaculate Conception

1610 Monroe St, West Bend, WI 53090
2nd Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Email: rprim@wbparishes.org
Website: stmaryparishwb.org

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

6400 Spring St, Racine, WI 53406
Time: 10 a.m. (on certain Sundays)
Please check with office prior to attending
E-Mail: svrana@stpaulracine.org
Website: stpaulracine.org

St. Peter Parish

2224 30th Ave, Kenosha, WI 53144
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Please request at least 3 days in advance to:
broadwayterp73@gmail.com.
Website: stpeterskenosha.com

– CLOSED CAPTIONED MASS –

St. Clare Parish

7616 Fritz St, Wind Lake, WI 53185
2nd Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.
E-Mail: bulletins@tds.net
Website: stclarewindlake.org





Deaf/ Hard of Hearing adults who use ASL, who desire a deep understanding of their faith and to be empowered to live and share their faith. This is an opportunity to encounter Jesus, and become a disciple – *Jesus' Deaf Crew!*

• *Interested?*

CLICK HERE

to complete a form to show your interest or email

JesusDeafCrew@gmail.com

• *Catholic Religious Enrichment Week*

is a two-year program in the summer.

Participants will have the opportunity for morning classes, Mass and times of prayer while enjoying time to socialize and enjoy the beauty of a 214- acre lakefront woodland surrounding Vineyard Lake in Brooklyn, Michigan.



pssst.

DO NOT OPEN UNTIL

EASTER





ARCHDIOCESE
of MILWAUKEE

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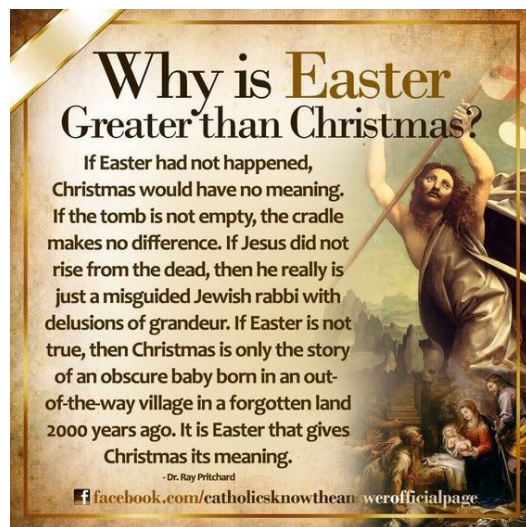
FR. CK'S CORNER: WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT: CHRISTMAS OR EASTER?

By Fr. Christopher Klusman



Welcome to the second half of the newsletter. I hoped you did not peek nor opened to this second half until Easter?!

I'm continuing with my previous newsletter article from Winter 2020, on how people celebrate Christmas as if there isn't an Advent season. Thinking about Lent; isn't it funny how people are very good about celebrating Lent and going into Holy Week? Once Holy Week is over, then the celebration of Easter. Do you ever see anyone celebrating Easter during Lent? Having Easter parties during Lent? Rarely... if any at all... It is sad that we often can really experience Lent, but oftentimes not really experience Advent.



Easter Morn

*When Jesus, Sun of Justice,
Arose on Easter morn,
When He the cross and passion
For our sins had borne.*

*He first appeared to Mary,
What joy when she her Son
Saw glorious and immortal,
Aglow with victory won!
ALLELUIA!*

While I had mentioned that Christmas began on the evening of December 24th, many people begin Christmas in November. It is like beginning to celebrate Easter in February. While the Christmas season begins on December 24th, many people are finished with Christmas already on December 26th, through seeing stripped Christmas trees already out on the front lawn ready for pick-up. Can you imagine if we did that for Easter? After Easter day of Sunday, April 4th, then no more Easter stuff. Put away the Easter baskets, take down the decorations, and no more "Alleluias." Food for thought...

Here is a question: **Which is more important: Christmas or Easter?**

Oftentimes, people have the impression (if you really search deep down) that Christmas is most important. I remember as a kid when I would ride on Christmas Day to my other

► FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued on Page 2.

MISSION STATEMENT - DEAF APOSTOLATE

The Deaf Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee exists to enable all Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to participate fully in the liturgical, educational, pastoral, spiritual, and human concerns ministries in the Church.

► FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued from Page 1.

families' houses for Christmas parties experiencing novelty and awe at seeing a McDonald's that is closed during the day?! Target is closed. Many stores, restaurants, and places closed!

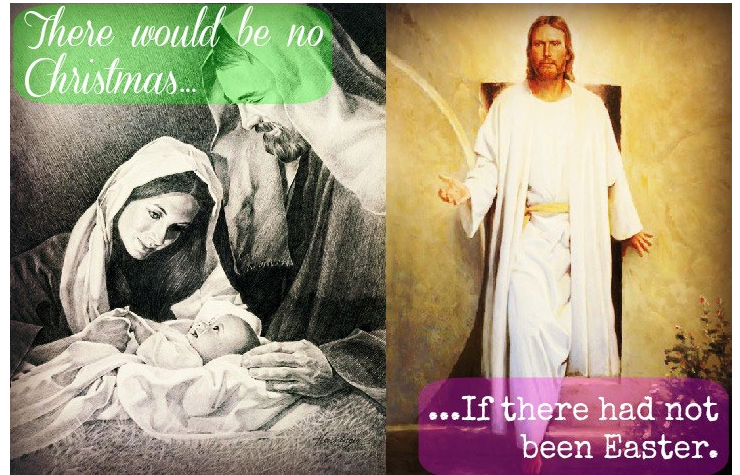


It was the strangest thing for my young eyes to see as my parents drove past these buildings. I had never seen anything like that on any other day except Christmas day/evening of December 25. It is a memory that still is deeply locked in my memories.

But what about Easter day? Even as a child and teenager, when my parents, again, drove me to other relatives' houses for Easter parties, I would see McDonald's open and busy. Stores were open and busy! Many buildings bustling with customers and visitors. My impression and understanding were that Christmas is more important than Easter. Because everything shut down on Christmas day, but not for Easter. So, Christmas had to be the most important.

But, when I got older and learning at the Seminary, can you imagine my surprise at learning the answer to the question: What is most important: Christmas or Easter? While my gut reaction was going to say, "Christmas!" But, I was told at the Seminary that it is Easter. Easter? *Easter? Huh?*

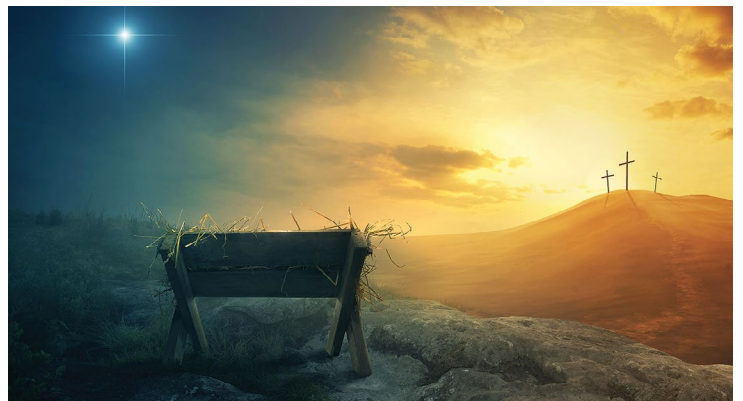
The more I studied, the more it made sense. Easter is the most important, greatest, and holiest day of the year. While Christmas is very important, it is Jesus' Death and Resurrection that changed everything! Christmas was important because it allowed the Second Person of the Trinity to become a human being, which leads Jesus to eventually offer Himself as a Sacrifice, while Jesus is also the High Priest, for our salvation. I will never forget one of my favorite lessons taught by Patty Kostechka to her Deaf students for religious education: Jesus opened the locked gates of heaven when He rose from the dead! What a momentous occasion! When Jesus was born, the gates of heaven were still locked as caused by Adam and Eve's sin and expulsion from the Garden. But, praise be to God that Jesus, the new Adam, alongside with Our Lady standing by Him at the Cross as the New Eve, was able to undo the mistake of Adam and Eve and unlock the gates of heaven, so that we, faithful followers, can enjoy



eternal life in Heaven with God and the Communion of Saints! What better gift can there be? In a way, the greatest gift of Jesus at Christmas led to the greatest gift of all time made possible at Easter: salvation with Jesus in heaven!

If only, *if only*, when driving on Easter day to a family party in celebration of Easter, if only would I see McDonald's closed. If only would I see Wal-Mart closed. If only Amazon stopped shipments on that day! If only... then what would that teach us about the importance of Easter?

Now, if I ask you the question: What is most important: Christmas or Easter? What would you say and why?



A woman went to a dentist for the fifth time to ask him to grind down her false teeth because "they don't fit." "Well," said the dentist, "I'll do it again this time, but no more. By every test, these should fit your mouth easily."

"Who said anything about my mouth," the woman replied testily. "They don't fit in the glass!"





St. Andrew Parish

DEAF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

FROM THE DELAVAN CORNER: EASTER AND BEYOND



**By Jennifer Paul, Coordinator
Deaf Religious Education
& Deaf Ministry
St. Andrew Parish, Delavan**

We hope that, by the time you read this, you have made the most out of the Lent season.

We hope that everyone – myself included – had managed to break free of the distractions and look outward and onto God. Did we look closely at where we get our sense of peace from? Is it our relationship with God rather than worldly goods? We are not saying to forsake all worldly goods. Rather we are saying not to **DEPEND** on them for our joy.

The more critical question is we had also made the time to look around us, to discern what is good for us spiritually, and finally to discard that which is not so good for us? Doing just that goes beyond Easter and helps our lifelong journey as Catholics.

Easter has significant chronological and spiritual terms – which come together to mean liturgical - is a gift for us to start anew on this journey. We made mistakes but God is mercy, and we keep trying. At this point, self-discipline is important. If you find your willpower lacking, pray and ask for help. Ask your friends for support. This is why we need to discern what is good for us – if you find yourself succumbing to temptations around certain people, maybe you need to reconsider how much time you spend with them. True friends are those who want you to be a better version of yourself and true friends also want you to have true peace and help you find it.

You would think it is too exhausting to keep trying but with prayer and practice, it would not be as difficult. On the contrary,

you would find yourself feeling peaceful and joyous and **WANT** to keep doing what is good and holy. Eternal life does not begin when we die but in the here and now. It begins at the very beginning with the Sacrament of Baptism. As we grow in the faith and receive the next Sacraments throughout life, we have the liturgical calendar to remind us of the holy journey and keep it up or to try again.



This parable in the Gospel of Matthew is also helpful and should motivate us on our lifelong journey as Catholics. I was reminded of this powerful parable in Fr. Christopher Klusman's recent Bible Study via ZOOM:

Hear then the parable of the sower -

The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart.

The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy.

But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.

The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.

But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. (Matthew 13: 18 – 23).

► FROM THE DELAVAN CORNER - Continued on Page 4.

► **FROM THE DELAVAN CORNER - Continued from Page 3.**

This parable helps us examine where we are along the journey. Do we understand Jesus' teachings? Or do we go beyond understanding and go deep in spirit? Or we do understand, run deep spiritually but do we also steer clear of thorns as well? Wherever we are along the journey, Easter is our liturgical –

chronological and spiritual – gift to celebrate the gift of eternal life, which begins in the here and now. Wherever we are along the journey, we keep trying to understand, to go deep spiritually, to get rid of thorns, and finally to yield plentiful fruits in service of God's children on Earth. Rejoice! For He is Risen!

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Try to start a conversation with your family and/or friends about this question.

What does Jesus' Resurrection mean to you? Why?



“Harriet,” inquired one recent bride of another, by telephone, “when baking a cake, and the recipe calls for a cup of sugar, do you use a small cup or a large one?”
 “That depends,” was the reply, “are you making a large cake or a small one?”



In St. John's School for the Deaf's publications of the "Our Young People," there is a section that has their current news. I hope you will enjoy these various news clippings:

**News
of
St.
John's**



Loretta had charge of keeping the holy water font in Room 2B filled. One day she poured the remainder of the holy water into the font, and then, thinking to be helpful, she went to the water faucet and filled the bottle up again.

Father Walsh, C.S.S.R. gave a day of recollection for the older children at St. John's. We were happy to have Father as our guest while he was giving a mission for the Catholic deaf of Milwaukee.


Many thanks to the friend of Mike Walters who donated a thirty pound box of candy to St. John's. That ought to keep the children sweet for a long time.

CATHOLIC QUIZ

1. **What was the Jewish feast being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?**
 (a) Pentecost (b) Passover
 (c) Hanukkah (d) Unleavened Bread
2. **What was Jesus wrapped in before He was buried?**
 (a) Sheep skin (b) Linen clothes
 (c) Golden robes (d) Goat skin
3. **Who rolled away Jesus' tomb stone?**
 (a) Soldiers (b) God (c) Jesus (d) angel
4. **How long did Jesus remain after His Resurrection before He ascended into heaven?**
 (a) 7 days (b) 14 days (c) 40 days (d) 50 days
5. **The 3 days of prayer traditionally celebrated on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Thursday are called?**
 (a) Rogation Days (b) Ember Days
 (c) Conciliation Days (d) Tempera Days



(Answers on page 7.)



Our Young People

THE FRIEND OF THE DEAF

TWO JOSEPHS

In honor of the Year of St. Joseph, here is a beautiful story borrowed from Our Young People: The Friend of the Deaf, March 1958 issue.

Little Joseph was standing in the school yard, intently watching Big Joseph, who was putting in repairs at St. Cecilia's.

Big Joseph was a carpenter, and had a hammer stuck in his belt, and a nail bag hung round his waist. Little Joseph was a schoolboy, and had a big, new, red, lead pencil – an H.B. – stuck in his belt, and a schoolbag slung over his shoulder.

He was thinking it must be great fun to be up on a ladder all day, and have no lessons to do. Perhaps Big Joseph was thinking it would be pleasant to be a little honest-eyed schoolboy, with nothing heavier than a schoolbag on one's shoulders.

The bell rang, school "went in," and Big Joseph kept his hammer still while the little ones said their morning offering, and said their prayers. Big Joseph had said no prayers that morning, or any other morning for – well, I would not like to say how long.

The sound floated up to the window where his ladder leaned. "Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name –" Big Joseph took off his hat.

"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee—" Big Joseph bowed his head.

When the prayers were over, the hammer went on, noisily driving nails to their places, and many a time Little Joseph raised his blue eyes to the window, where he could see just the rim of a brown felt hat.



At lunch time he made overtures of friendship.

"Hullo!" he said shyly.

"Hullo!" smiled the man with the hammer.

"Please sharpen this, will you," and the boy held up his new, red, lead pencil, that had "snapped" in the making of an elaborate capital "D."

The carpenter obligingly sharpened the pencil to a beautiful

point, and Little Joseph smiled his thanks.

They lunched together, and the boy pressed his companion to have some of the sponge cake "that mother made."

"Mother makes such nice cakes," he assured him, with a proud smile.

"What's your name, sonny?"

▶ TWO JOSEPHS - Continued on Page 6.

► TWO JOSEPHS - Continued from Page 5.

“Joseph – Joseph Curran. What’s yours?”

“Joseph Kenny.”

“Oh, are you a Joseph, too – and you are a carpenter? Now that is very nice. I suppose St. Joseph likes you very much, because he was a carpenter, too. I suppose he likes you better than me because I’m only Little Joseph – you are Big Joseph.”

“I think he likes you best, sonny,” Big Joseph said unsteadily.

“Oh, I’m afraid not. You see, I’m not very good. Sister scolds me a lot, because I never seem to be able to mind the board all the time, or listen to what she is saying always. I like looking around, and watching the children, and everyone who passes the window.”

Big Joseph sighed. Such little sins to be bewailing! Now, if he were to tell why St. Joseph could not like him “best!”

“This is St. Joseph’s month,” the little boy remarked, “and Sister said I’m to be very, very good to please him. I’ll try, but it’s hard, you know,” and the small sinner sighed and pressed his soft red lips into a determined straight line.

“Now, I must go and help Sister. May I have my lunch with you tomorrow?”

“Yes, sonny, of course.”

The days went on. They were not pleasant for Big Joseph. The children’s prayers floated up through the windows, or out through the doors, and wherever he worked their voices followed him.

What a long time since he had been at school. The Sisters had taught him, too – long ago – years and years ago – and he had never entered a school since the day he left St. Michael’s until he came to work at St. Cecilia’s.

It was a little old-fashioned school, St. Michael’s, and the desks were long and narrow. He always sat at the end, near the window. He was a little pure-souled schoolboy then, with honest eyes like Little Joseph’s.

Bang! Bang! rang the hammer on the nails. What a fool he was to let his thoughts go wandering in those old dead days. What a fool he was, with the grey hairs of old age already showing above his temples, to be thinking of the days when he was a little schoolboy!

He hammered and sawed and planed, and tried to drive away the memory of the old-fashioned school, and the thought of what he “should have been.”

Every day Little Joseph had lunch with him, and now it was Friday.

The fresh green of the trees hung over the school fence, and waved in the air when the wind blew through their branches.

Little Joseph had a bright yellow daffodil pinned in his coat, and was in the highest spirits.

He spread out his snowy serviette, set out his repast, and Big Joseph did likewise.

“Egg sandwiches,” said the little fellow, with a disdainful curl of his lips. “I don’t much care for them, you know, but it’s Friday. Fish sandwiches are nasty, and cheese nastier still, but eggs are not so bad after all.”

The carpenter had meanwhile commenced his lunch. Suddenly there was a crash. Little Joseph had started to his feet and upset the basket of tools.

“Oh,” he cried. “Oh, oh, Big Joseph, you are eating meat!”

The man actually blushed under the fire of those childish blue eyes.

“Oh, it’s Friday. You didn’t know, did you? Oh, say you didn’t know. You would not eat meat purposely on Friday? Would you?”

The man did not speak, but sat stupidly with the half-finished sandwich in his fingers.

Little Joseph moved closer to him. “You didn’t remember, did you? It’s no harm if you forgot.”

The man looked into the blue eyes, and tried to lie; but he could not.

“I know,” he said humbly.

Little Joseph’s eyes were wide open, horror-stricken.

Children are so given to hero-worship, and the boy had thought this big, strong man a hero, a wonderful hero, who could build houses, and was surely very dear to God and the good St. Joseph. And now –

“You won’t eat any more, will you? It’s a mortal sin, you know. Catholics should never eat meat on Friday. They do without it for a penance, because it was on a Friday Our Lord died to save everybody.”

Big Joseph knew all this; he learned it years ago, and kept the law rigidly – until – until – until he had gradually strayed away from the path.

The boy gathered up the lunch. “May I take it away to Tommy’s

► **TWO JOSEPHS - Continued from Page 6.**

dog? Here, you eat mine; they are not so bad; and I'll run home for more, because – “he stammered – “because you will want a lot bigger lunch than I do.”

Big Joseph spoke not a word, he was ashamed even to look at the boy; but he put the half-finished sandwich on top of the others, and Little Joseph ran away down to the end of the school yard, and tossed the parcel over to Tommy's dog. Then he raced home for a big Friday lunch for his friend the carpenter.

That afternoon, when the children were saying their prayers, Big Joseph put down his hammer and listened as was his wont. And when the sweet baby voices commenced the act of contrition, Big Joseph joined in too; but, oh, so softly; none but the angels could catch the words.

The children commenced a novena for St. Joseph's feast day, and Sister Mary Philomena told them to ask him for anything they wanted. The carpenter heard every word of her instructions, and the lovely stories she told about his patron saint. No one could tell stories like Sister Mary Philomena, even the big carpenter fell under her spell, and his plane moved quietly, smoothly, keeping a sort of accompaniment to her soft, low voice.

Little Joseph listened joyfully. He knew one thing he would ask the good saint. He would ask him to make Big Joseph good, and not let him eat meat on Friday ever again; and Big Joseph asked almost the same thing.

Before the novena closed, the carpenter's work was finished, and one afternoon he packed up his tools, put his hammer through the handles of the basket, and slung it up on his shoulder.

Just as he reached the school gate, little pattering footsteps sounded behind him, and his namesake caught his hand.

“Goodbye,” he panted. “I'm sorry you're going.” His voice sank to a whisper. “I put you in my novena to St. Joseph. And here,” he fumbled in the pocket of his blue sailor blouse. “Mother said I



could give you my tiny pocket statue of St. Joseph.” He drew out a little tin case, about an inch in length, opened it, and revealed a small metal statue of St. Joseph. “Keep it always in your pocket. Mother will get me another one.”

The man bashfully accepted the little gift, and bending down, pressed a shamefaced kiss on Little Joseph's high, white forehead. “Goodbye, my little mate,” he said; and then hurried away, ashamed of his emotion.

Big Joseph is quite changed now, all through his “job” at the school, where he met Little Joseph; and commenced the novena with the children of St. Cecilia's.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.

Quiz Answers:

1b; 2b; 3d; 4c; 5a

Little Mary had been promoted to the third grade.

Meeting the second grade teacher whom she liked very much, she said, “Gee, Miss Kate, I wish you were smart enough to teach me this year, too.”



ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO, MODEL SAINT FOR THE MEANING OF EASTER

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

We truly have a huge group of saints, so it is never easy to figure out which saint can help us learn more about the meaning of Easter. Again, through prayer, one saint popped out: St. Joseph of Cupertino. I thought, what a nice saint because of his name, which is the same as St. Joseph. It is perfect during the “Year of St. Joseph.” Also, St. Joseph of Cupertino’s father is a carpenter. Let’s look at this unique and fascinating saint.

Before we discuss his birth in 1603, let’s discuss his father. His father worked as a carpenter, but he wasn’t good with money. Sadly, his father died before St. Joseph of Cupertino was born. Since his mother was left with so much debt, she had to run away (out of shame) to give birth to St. Joseph of Cupertino in a stable at the back of the house. He was born in Cupertino, in the Kingdom of Naples, Italy. As a baby and child, he was very sickly and seemed to be dying many times, but still lived. His mother became so tired of him. While his mother was a good person, difficult circumstances made her hard. When St. Joseph made any mistakes, she would punish him very severely, without mercy. When St. Joseph was a little more than seven years of age, he developed a running ulcer that would never heal. St. Joseph of Cupertino eventually learned that nobody wanted him, even his mother. He accepted that very early in his life. So many times, St. Joseph did not know what he wanted or what he was doing. When St. Joseph of Cupertino was trained to be a shoemaker, he was too distracted that it was not a possibility.

The thing about St. Joseph is that many of the smallest things, such as the ringing of bells, left him frozen, standing with mouth open and eyes looking elsewhere. He was earned the nickname, “Bocca Aperta,” which means “open mouth.” In reality, when St. Joseph would become “frozen,” it was when he would go into a deeply spiritual moment of visions and ecstasies with God. But, poor St. Joseph of Cupertino because he was accused of being a “lazy bum.”



When St. Joseph reached 17 years of age, a begging friar came into his village. St. Joseph realized that he could become a friar and go around begging for bread, as one does not have to be smart to do this. He applied at several places and was turned down. While one community took him in as a lay-brother on a trial basis, they found him dull, difficult to teach, and his moments of suddenly standing still in the middle of something annoyed the community. For example, he would be carrying food into the refectory and all of a sudden, he would “freeze” and drop everything on the floor. He would also go down on his knees in the most unusual places, not aware of anything around him. Sadly, he was stripped of his habit (which he said was like their stripping off his skin) and kicked out. He would later say that to be the hardest day of his life, like everything in heaven and earth shut him out. While he was out, he realized he lost his regular clothes. He looked horrible as he didn’t have a hat, boots/stockings, and a moth-eaten coat. He looked so horrible that dogs came after him and tore more of what he had worn. Shepherds thought he looked dangerous, so he came across many difficulties. At this time, he was 18 years old and he would eventually go back to his mother. This wasn’t easy, as his mother found him to be a burden and didn’t want him back again. His mother was worried about the public shame of a son who

was kicked out of the monastery. Her mother’s brother was a Franciscan, so she went to him and asked him to take St. Joseph so she could be rid of him. So, they took him in and gave him the habit of the Third Order layman and employed him as a servant, mostly to take care of the monastery mule. While he would be in the stable, other friars would go there and notice a change in St. Joseph of Cupertino. They would be warmly welcomed by him. They were amazed at how humble he was, how light-hearted, how kind, and how willing he was to serve. St. Joseph was more careful and successful

► ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO - Continued on Page 9.

► **ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO - Continued from Page 8.**

at his work. He was able to also pray more and do more voluntary acts of penance. The Franciscans then decided to admit him into the Franciscan Order. While St. Joseph had always struggled to learn, as he was unfortunately called “The Dunce,” all efforts of teaching him was hopeless. Strangely, only one verse stayed with St. Joseph of Cupertino, which is a verse from Luke 11:27: “While [Jesus] was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, ‘Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.’”

Shockingly, St. Joseph of Cupertino had to pass tests by the bishop and special examination board into the diaconate and priesthood. When the bishop opened the New Testament, there was the same page of Luke 11:27! The bishop asked him to explain it and St. Joseph of Cupertino did. So he was admitted to the diaconate. A year later, the bishop was more than satisfied with what he heard of St. Joseph of Cupertino so he passed the test and became a priest at the age of 25!

The friars continued to struggle with him, even after realizing that when he would lose himself, he was actually losing himself in God. When St. Joseph of Cupertino would go out begging, he would come back with a full bag, but often without a sandal, girdle, rosary, or even parts of his habit. The reason was that people wanted relics of him so that the Holy Spirit could begin to work many miracles through him. Also, the people felt he looked like them and identified with him. Over 70 times, people said they saw him rise from the ground while offering Mass or praying. St. Joseph of Cupertino became so famous for the miracles (such as helping the blind see and curing a sick child) that he was finally kept hidden from the public, but he was happy for the chance to be alone with his beloved Lord.

One of his most famous flights was in front of Pope Urban VIII when he bent down to kiss the Pope’s ring that he flew almost 30 feet into the air in front of everyone! He couldn’t get down until the head of his order told him. Also, amid his ecstasies, St.

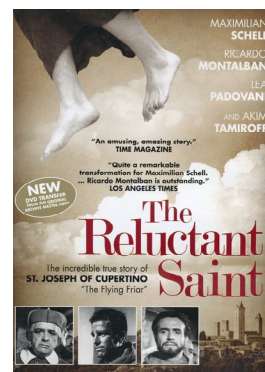
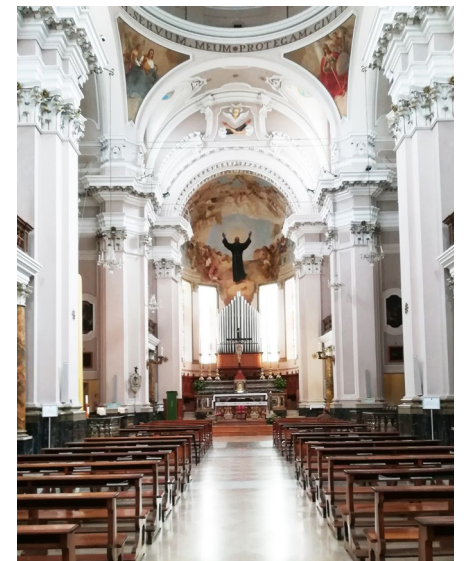
Joseph would fly towards the altar or over it when in the church. In the refectory, during a meal, he would suddenly rise from the ground with a dish of food in his hands while the others in the room were surprised! Sometimes he



would be able to fly into a tree. Many flying (levitating) experiences!

Sadly, St. Joseph of Cupertino began to be accused as an imposter and mischief. He was reported to the Vicar General and then the inquisitors of Naples. He was then reported to the General of the Order in Rome. St. Joseph of Cupertino, for reasons not known, had to be kept in safe custody, forbidden from speaking to anyone except the religious with him. He was transferred to many other places. Finally, in 1657, when he was taken to the last place, he said that he would never leave this place. He told his companions that the first day on which he failed to receive Holy Communion

would be the day he would die. When his health turned for the worst, he received Extreme Unction. He requested that his body be buried somewhere and forgotten. He died on September 18, 1663, at the age of 60.



St. Joseph is the patron saint of air travelers, pilots, astronauts, people with learning disabilities, and students preparing for exams. Pope Clement XIII canonized him a saint in 1767. His feast day is September 18. His body is on display at the

► **ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO - Continued from Page 9.**

Convent Basilica of St. Joseph of Cupertino in Osimo, Italy. Also, in that basilica, you will see an image of St. Joseph who seems to be flying behind the main altar.

Also, there is a great movie about St. Joseph of Cupertino that you can purchase that is also subtitled. It is called “The Reluctant Saint.” It is another beautiful movie worthy to watch and enjoy!

Last, why did I write about him as an example for Easter? St. Joseph of Cupertino is a man of joy! He was called names and seen as nothing. People have seen his joy as idiocy, dumbness, naïve, and retarded. He didn’t let that stop him nor think less of himself, even when people, like his own mother, didn’t want anything to do with him! While Jesus never gave up and conquered sin, death, and the Evil One, St. Joseph never gave up either. He kept going until the Lord called him home to heaven. When you think about the challenges that St. Joseph of Cupertino went through and how God stayed with him, we are inspired to remember that through our trials and challenges that we can rise above them. If we let God, He stays with us, encouraging us to see the light. It doesn’t require someone great to be great, but someone, even little, who knows the Risen Lord loved each one of us that He went through great lengths to suffer, die, and rise so that we can be with God with joy, happiness, and innocence for all eternity in the Great Light of God Himself! Alleluia!!!!!!

St. Joseph of Cupertino, pray for us!



SHOPPER: “How much are these tomatoes?”

GROCER: “Thirty-five cents, madam. They’re very nice.”

SHOPPER: “Did you raise them yourself?”

GROCER: “Yes, madam, they were thirty cents yesterday.”

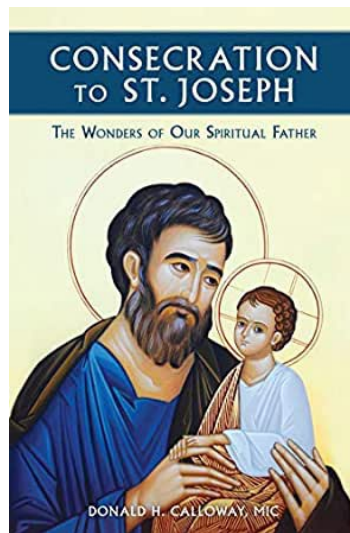


ST. JOSEPH, MODEL FOR THE EASTER SEASON

As begun from the Lenten section of this *Hand in Hand* newsletter, where we learned one example of how St. Joseph teaches us how to live according to the Lenten season, St. Joseph also has something to teach us about living the Easter season. St. Joseph is the patron saint of a happy death. During the Easter Vigil Mass, we see that Jesus won, conquering the forces of darkness (sin, death, and the Evil One)! Alleluia!!!!

According to Fr. Donald Calloway's wonderful book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, "Saint Joseph died a holy and happy death. He died gazing upon Jesus and resting in the arms of Mary. What greater death could a person experience? ... God has designated St. Joseph as the Patron of the Dying because he wants us to experience a death similar to that of St. Joseph, a holy and happy death" (71). We often read of saints, when they were dying, would see Our Lord, the Blessed Mother, and/or saints come to bring them happily to eternity. I wish that when we are dying that we are graced with the beautiful gift of seeing Our Lord, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph! That is truly a happy death! Imagine how awesome that moment would be!?

Catholic Tradition told us that St. Joseph died sometime before Jesus began His public ministry. Jesus began His public ministry in the last 3 years of His blessed life, which means from the ages of 30 to 33 since Tradition says that Jesus was crucified and died at the age of 33. In Fr. Calloway's book, he said, "If St. Joseph were alive during the public ministry of Jesus, it would have been confusing for people to hear Jesus speak about his desire to take them to his Father. In order to avoid obscuring the primacy of the Heavenly Father, Joseph had to die



before the public ministry of Jesus began" (207). Isn't that an amazing act of love and humility? St. Joseph is so humble that he didn't want to confuse Jesus' teachings about God the Father that he died happily. Growing up, I had thought that St. Joseph felt very sad to have died before Jesus began His ministry, but learning of this made me realize that St. Joseph thought differently: St. Joseph died happily because he wanted to make Jesus shine and to do God's Will in the best way possible!

With St. Joseph as the patron saint of a happy death and this being the Easter season of rejoicing in Jesus' Resurrection, what is very interesting is Fr. Calloway's description of the resurrection of St. Joseph! That is something that we never really heard or learned about... I will be quoting a page about this topic in its entirety:

"In the Gospel of Matthew, we are told about an incredible event that happened to many people after the Resurrection of Jesus. It reads:

And behold, the veil in the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. (Matthew 27:51-53).

It's an intriguing passage, to say the least. Who are the saints that came forth from their tombs at the death of Jesus? Well, we don't know exactly who they were because no names were given, but the Church has often thought that they are the prophets of the Old Testament, as well as St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph. It certainly makes sense that St. Joseph would be among their number.

If people rose from the dead at the death of Jesus – a fact that is clearly stated in the passage from Matthew's Gospel – would not St. Joseph have been one of them? Why would our Lord raise others from the dead and leave his own beloved father in a tomb? Saint Joseph is greater than all the Old Testament prophets, including St. John the Baptist. Saint Joseph is even greater than the grandparents of Jesus, Sts. Joachim and Anne. It should come as no surprise, then, that St. Bernardine of Siena, St. Francis de Sales, St. Pope John XXIII, and St. George Preca believed that St. Joseph rose from the dead at the death of Christ and, after appearing to many in Jerusalem, was assumed into heaven, body and soul, after the Resurrection of Christ.

HOW I DECIDED TO BECOME A PRIEST

Begun in the previous Fall 2019 Newsletter, an article/feature is chosen from an older Hand in Hand Newsletter to revisit important people, events, and places of our rich history. I hope you will enjoy this selection from the October 2005 Newsletter by then Seminarian Christopher Klusman. This article was selected in celebration of the upcoming May 21, 2021, the 10th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. How the time flies...

By Christopher Klusman

I was born into a Roman Catholic family. My family was a profound influence to my faith ever since I was born. They never stopped going to church on a weekly basis and always maintained respect, devotion, and love for God, Mary, and the saints. From them, I saw what it was like to live faithfully.

My family took me to church and made sure I was baptized and received my First Communion. I took religious education classes (CCD) when I was an elementary school student. The religious education (CCD) classes were on

Celebrating
10 years



Christopher Klusman and Carmello Guiffre at "Theology on Tap."

Monday evenings at Sacred Heart of Jesus across the street from the St. John's Deaf Catholic Institute. After St. John's Deaf Catholic Institute closed, my parents took me to Mass there that was presided by Father Bill Key.

As I was growing up and attending Mass, I always had a lot of respect for priests. I was amazed of their willingness to make sacrifices for the priesthood. Growing up, I learned that the Deaf/hard of hearing can do anything, except for

► **BECOMING A PRIEST - Continued on Page 13.**

► **ST. JOSEPH - Continued from Page 11.**

If the Resurrection of Christ, as we read in the Gospel of Matthew, caused the bodies of certain saints to rise and appear to many, isn't it likely that St. Joseph shared in this privilege since he died before Christ? -St. George Preca

Taking it up one step further, if St. Joseph is one of the saints mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew who rose from the dead at the Resurrection of Jesus, entering the holy city of Jerusalem and appearing to many, who would St. Joseph most likely have gone to see? Why, his wife, of course! All this is speculation, but it does make for delightful meditation. Imagine the sweet reunion, the chaste, tear-filled embrace!" (210-1).

Isn't this an amazing explanation? It truly makes sense! St. Joseph is the father for Jesus on earth while being the husband of Our Lady! What a moment that is for St. Joseph to see his wife again! We hope that we can find out more in heaven as we can ask St. Joseph and Our Lady to share their experiences.

I will close here with a comment about St. Joseph's beautiful

last words. I hope they will comfort us to hold on to the Catholic faith that when we are dying, we may be able to be at peace, happy, and hopeful! St. Joseph, patron of a happy death, pray for us!



"Venerable Mary of Ágreda had a vision of being transported to the bedside of St. Joseph so as to witness his last breath and final words to his loving wife...

Blessed are thou among all women. Let angels and men praise thee; let all the generations know, praise, and exalt thy dignity; and may the Most High be eternally praised for having created thee so pleasing in his eyes and in the sight of all the blessed spirits. I hope to enjoy thy sight in the heavenly fatherland" (214-5).

► **BECOMING A PRIEST - Continued from Page 12.**

only one thing. I never heard or saw a Deaf priest, so I didn't think it would be a possibility. Instead of consciously striving to become a priest, I thought instead to learn more about the Catholic faith.

I attended public elementary and middle schools that had Deaf/hard of hearing programs. I was unhappy that I was not allowed to go to a Catholic school. My brothers and sister went to a Catholic school. I worked hard to get good grades, so that I could attend Thomas More Catholic High School. When I got accepted, I was so happy to finally take religion classes, which helped me learn more about Catholicism.

When I grew up and attended Mass, I was frustrated (except for Father Key) that there were no sign language interpreter services. I struggled to lip read the priests and the lectors, as well as trying to find any paperwork/books that would help give any understanding to what was going on during Mass. My family was so helpful in making sure I was able to follow along.

When I attended the University of Wisconsin – Madison, I met some wonderful people who became my close friends. They helped deepen my faith. I learned so many things about Christianity. My friends were from Christian churches and it taught me the importance of being friends with people from other faiths.

Since my faith deepened, I suddenly felt more and more curious about everything about religion. I watched videos, read many books, and asked many questions about Christianity. I realized that the more I learned about my faith, the more I wanted to learn. I would get angry at times when life gets so busy that I couldn't read, talk, or watch anything about religion!

I attended St. Dennis Parish in Madison, Wisconsin, and I loved and felt inspired by the wonderful Deaf people there. One of the people there was already one of my best friends who is an unbelievable Catholic and is a sign language interpreter. One time after Mass, she told me about Monsignor Nelson in Rockford, Illinois. I went to meet him at a Bible Study session with a group of close Deaf friends from St. Dennis Parish.

It wouldn't be a surprise to say that I was blown away by Monsignor Nelson! I really admired his style of teaching because he explains Catholicism so clearly through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Also, he teaches the Deaf/hard of hearing as equals, in which he does not downplay or teach the "simple concepts," as is the problem in the education for the d/Deaf/hard of hearing. The Deaf/hard of hearing community there learned the same things as any other person would learn elsewhere.

At the end of [one] Bible Study session, Monsignor Nelson and I had a conversation. He asked me if I ever thought about the priesthood? I mentioned to him that I did think about it at several times growing up, but I never really thought of it as a possibility! His question hit me hard afterwards, because I realized that it made a lot of sense. Looking back, it explained why I was so curious about the Catholic faith and why I loved to read, watch, and talk about the Catholic faith as much as possible.

I thought about it and prayed about it. I got a new job and moved back to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in which I joined St. Matthias Parish. Deacon Dave, Sue, and Pam Sommers, as well as the Deaf Ministry there, were so wonderful! I enjoyed being with them. I benefited from the workshops and retreat that St. Matthias offered to the Deaf Ministry. At the retreat, I had a conversation with Fr. Medas from

Boston, Massachusetts. He sensed that somehow, when he first saw me in the audience at the retreat that the Holy Spirit communicated to him that I was thinking about becoming a priest! And I didn't even tell him I was thinking about becoming a priest!

I also received a newsletter from the Deaf Ministry in Rockford, Illinois that they were offering RCIA/Confirmation classes. I contacted Monsignor Nelson about it because I wasn't confirmed yet. There were many reasons why: I finished my confirmation class with Father Key, but I was too young to be confirmed. Then high school came and nothing happened. I realized later that God was behind that plan. Monsignor Nelson stressed the importance of being confirmed, so he taught me in

**NOTE FOR UPCOMING SUMMER
2021 HAND IN HAND NEWSLETTER**

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

Reading the article that I wrote back in 2005 was an eye-opening experience for me and brought back many memories. I still can't believe that article was written 16 years ago?

In the upcoming Summer 2021 Hand in Hand Newsletter, I will write an article about looking back on my 10 years as a priest. Please keep me in your prayers, as I do for you.

► BECOMING A PRIEST - Continued from Page 13.

preparation for Confirmation. I finally became confirmed at St. Matthias Parish on the day of Pentecost, May 15, 2005. It was a great experience to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Monsignor Nelson also helped my discernment if I should apply to the Seminary or not? After praying and investigating, I realized that God was calling me to apply to the Seminary. I attended an Ordination Mass for the Diocese of Madison and realized that it was what I wanted to do! I realized there that it is a beautiful gift to submit one's life to God and to obey his will. Who would refuse to listen to our loving God? I went through the application process and found out that I got accepted to St. Francis Seminary! It was a great time of joy!

MY FUTURE HOPES AND DREAMS AS A PRIEST

My hopes and dreams as a priest is that the Deaf/hard of hearing have equal opportunities to learn about Catholicism as everyone else. I hope that Deaf/hard of hearing can attend Bible Study sessions, retreats, and other events with a clear understanding of what is being said in their language, sign language. I hope also to have Mass on Saturdays and Sundays, so that the Deaf/hard of hearing can have options, instead of being limited to only one time slot.

My hopes and dreams as a priest is to reach out to the

huge population of Deaf/hard of hearing that are without religion. In the past, many Deaf/hard of hearing left the Catholic Church because of their frustrations that there were no sign language interpreters, lack of qualified interpreting (which makes the message unclear and/or difficult to follow), and/or no priests that could sign (whether Deaf and/or hearing.)

I hope that people will come back to the Catholic Church so that they can feel the same as I feel: inspired, faithful, happy, aware, important, loved, strong, and smart. All those feelings come from being in a prayerful and spiritual relationship with God and His people who found God in their lives.

In addition to all that, I would love to travel and present and lead workshops for the Deaf/hard of hearing in the United States, so that they can learn more about their faith, as well as gaining an awareness of other Deaf/hard of hearing Catholics in the other parts of the country. I hope to be involved in the NCOD and ICDA Conferences.

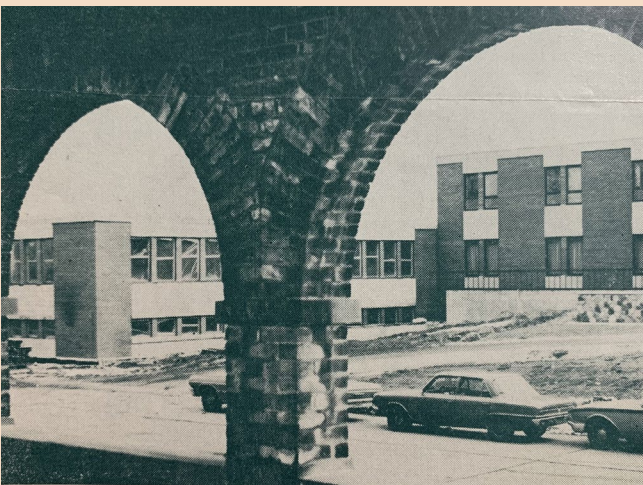
Another of my hopes and dreams is that we also have a Mass in which the church members who are hearing can worship together with the Deaf/hard of hearing because it is important that we accept all cultures into one "Body of Christ." It also teaches the hearing and other cultures that the Deaf community is rich in its culture, as well as being productive and active members in society. As a result, they can become aware of the Deaf/hard of hearing community and will be conscious of them to lead productive spiritual lives.

I also hope and dream that St. Matthias will continue to be a parish that serves all people, including the Deaf/hard of hearing. So many times have the Deaf/hard of hearing are forced to move just when they and everyone else began to feel comfortable with each other.

The Deaf Ministry deserve to have a Deaf priest! They deserve to have someone who can communicate with them clearly and minister the Sacraments with them. I also hope and dream that, when I become a priest, that the lay people are enthusiastic and eager to be involved in the Church. Also, I hope to work alongside a d/Deaf deacon, especially Deacon Dave Sommers.

Finally, my hope and dream now is to make it to ordination during the year 2011. I hope you will pray for me that, with your support and God's support, I will pass all my courses and complete my pastoral experiences, that I will be eligible to be ordained as a priest.

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



Old arches, now gone, frame this view of the new school. Wrecking of the old building began in mid-June following an "auction" on two successive Saturdays to dispose of the mementos of an era.

DEAFNESS DOES NOT STIFLE MIKE WALTER: HE'S CARPENTER, STUDENT, EMPLOYE [SIC]

In our Newsletters, we have interviews or articles about various individuals. In honor of Mike Walter, who had passed away last April 20, 2020, this article is reprinted here because of his skills with wood (carpentry) which is a nice fit within the Year of St. Joseph, who is also a carpenter himself. This article is from the LaCrosse Tribune, Sunday, March 18, 1973 edition.

By Grant Blum, Tribune Staff Writer



Michael Walter is 23 years old and totally deaf, but he apparently takes his mother's philosophy on life seriously.

As Mrs. Vernon Walter sums it up, "Keep that face wrinkled up, not down. I can't stand people who walk around as if they're the only ones in the world with a problem."

Although he has a handicap that prevents use of even a hearing

aid, Walter isn't spending time brooding over what might have been.

Instead, since his graduation from St. John's School for the Deaf in Milwaukee in 1969, he has done the following things:

He has a 41-hour-a-week job in the maintenance department of St. Francis Hospital.

He spends four nights a week in classes at Western Wisconsin Technical Institute taking courses he hopes will give him future skills.

He is developing an extensive antique and wood refinishing business along with an extensive shop to make wood and stone craft items for sale as additional income.

He serves as president of the 26-member Hiawatha Deaf Club.

He has passed a drivers licensing examination and enjoys driving his own car.

Although he understands what is being said through lip reading, Walter still uses relatively few words. Thus interviews

about him were done with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Walter, R. 1, La Crescent, Minn., his boss, Fred Theisen, head of St. Francis Hospital's maintenance department, and Ansel Heram, instructor in cabinet making and plastics at WWTI.



Vernon Walter says that Mike is not coddled or babied, but encouraged to develop his own skills including an ability to earn his own living.

"Many times the public is afraid of the deaf and won't let them use their abilities," he said.

Michael attended St. John's because a waiting list existed at the Minnesota School in Fairbuilt [sic], Mrs. Walter said. He remained at Milwaukee, except for vacation periods, from age 3 until 1969, when he graduated with a high school diploma.

Mike didn't want to attend college, but instead chose to come home. He got a job with the St. Francis housekeeping department, where he worked for one year, then transferred to maintenance – a department he's been with for the past three years.

In the meantime, with the encouragement of his father, he became interested in woodcraft and related skills.

In the kitchen of the family home is a cabinet above the stove that represents the first project Michael built at WWTI. A table used at meals was refinished by Michael, as was a clock that hangs above the table.

In a bedroom is an inlaid chess table, while the living room décor includes a grandfather clock made by Michael. An antique table with what appears to be the inlaid head of a Spanish conquistadore sits near the clock.

"That table was a piece of junk and painted over with white

► MIKE WALTER - Continued on Page 16.

▶ MIKE WALTER - Continued from Page 15.



enamel before Mike worked on it,” his father said proudly.

Mike then showed his “shop” as he calls it. The “shop” turned out to be a former chicken coop building – approximately 70 feet in length.

In the front part, various machines and a work bench occupy the space, while in the rear of the building was furniture scheduled for future work.

In the center of the building was a riding lawn mower.

“He bought that for \$5 and he’s going to make it run again as his project in small engine repair (WWTI class),” his father commented.

“Mike’s a pretty good scavenger,” his father added. As proof, he showed slabs of marble from a demolition project at St. Francis Hospital. They’ll be used for lamp bases and similar items.

Outside, in various piles, walnut logs and boards lay “for aging.” Walter said it would be two to five years before Mike would use them in projects.

“He enjoys working with his hands,” Mrs. Walter said. “We tell him that he has to rely on his 10 fingers and to make sure nothing happens to them.”

She added: “He is very careful working in the shop.” Mrs. Walter said that Michael hopes someday to be able to rely on his woodworking and related skills to bring in extra income.

To do this, he is currently taking four courses at WWTI, each of which meets one night a week for three hours. The courses include small engine repair, cabinet making, plastics and machine tools. He has taken one or two courses regularly at WWTI since 1969, but this is the first year he has taken four courses a week, Mrs. Walter added.

Mike’s instructor rates him as a top caliber craftsman. “He has the mechanical ability. He can grasp things. You can show him or make a sketch,” he said.

Heram added: “You have very little trouble explaining things to him.”

In the class, lip reading is used since Heram does not know sign language and Mike’s basic training was in lip reading instead of signs.

While the evening school courses don’t have letter grades, Heram said Mike would be an “A” student if grades were given.

Heram said he’s particularly impressed with Mike’s sense of humor and refusal to let a handicap interfere with his efforts to learn.

“He’s a barrel of fun. Everybody likes him. He’s cheerful and always cracking jokes or a funny saying (by writing or gestures).”

Theisen also doesn’t use sign language but relies [sic] on Michael’s lip reading abilities for his job at St. Francis.

At St. Francis, Mike is a santiarian [sic]. In the mornings he collects trash containers. In the afternoons, he does odd jobs.

“He hasn’t done much carpentry yet,” Thiesen explains,” but we already have two carpenters.”

Theisen said Mike is easily



▶ MIKE WALTER - Continued on Page 17.

► **MIKE WALTER - Continued from Page 16.**

able to communicate – even though he can't be reached by such traditional methods as a bell system or paging.

“He's devised a sign language of his own. He's quite adept at reading lips and if necessary we write notes.”

Theisen said Mike's job so far does not put him into much direct contact with patients who might be unaware that he is deaf.

But even here, Mike is improving communication ability.

“Since he's been here, he's starting to talk more. We're trying to encourage him in this,” Theisen explained. “He can say more words than he used to and his words are plainer.”

Because he is totally deaf, the words Mike does say come out in a monotone and often sound garbled.

Did he worry about having a deaf employe *[sic]* on his staff?

“Not at all,” says Thiesen.

“When Mike first came to the department, I considered it a challenge to accept him and work with him. He's worked out quite well.”

When he started working at St. Francis, Mike was given a list of job duties. Those duties are still scheduled in writing for him.

Mike is one of four children. An older brother, James, is a social worker in Philadelphia. A sister, Jeanne, 19, is a licensed practical nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, while another sister, 13-year-old Peggy, is totally deaf and is attending the same St. John's School in Milwaukee that Mike attended.

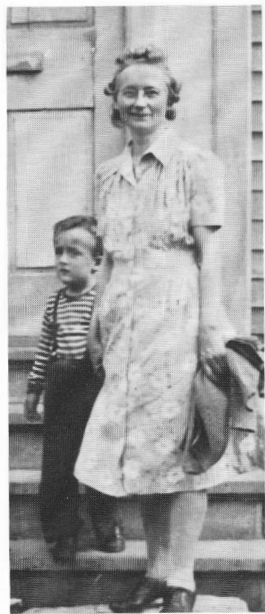
Mike got his drivers license in 1967 after learning to drive in Milwaukee. He recently drove with his mother to Philadelphia to visit his older brother and family.

HISTORICAL CORNER: MISS MARIA FROEHLICH

In honor of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9th, I will like to share with you about one person: Miss Maria Froehlich.

Why? Many students at St. John's School for the Deaf saw Miss Maria Froehlich like a “mother” to them. While St. John's School for the Deaf had early childhood students and classrooms, she was responsible for their dormitory needs, such as helping and caring for them (even if they have the flu). She did things a mother would do, since the children were in the dorms, away from home and their mothers (and fathers). Unlike today's Schools for the Deaf in which the students go home nearly every weekend, many of the students during her time would maybe have gone home rarely during Christmas and summer breaks.

Miss Maria Froehlich, a hearing person, arrived to St. John's School for the Deaf from Germany. She spoke German. She lived in St. John's School for the Deaf. Some of the Deaf members told me that her sign skills were appropriate for little kids (even having “home sign” with them), while not a



Maria Froehlich



MISS MARIA FROEHLICH
Domestic

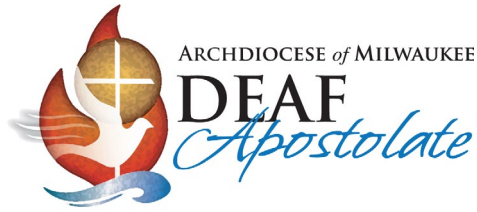
fluent signer. Still, Miss Maria Froehlich is remembered fondly as a humble, calm, helpful, and easy-going person. Older students who see her around St. John's School for the Deaf are greeted by her with a “Hello, how are you?” In the St. John's School for the Deaf's 100th anniversary booklet in 1976, Miss Maria is named

as one of the people who gave 25 to 37 years of service at St. John's School for the Deaf. Even Deacon David Sommers remembered her as far back in the 1940s. She never married and stayed single her whole life.

A Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, including Miss Maria Froehlich who kindly took care of our deaf students at St. John's School for the Deaf as their “mother.” And also, a Happy Mother's Day to the Mother of all Mothers, The Blessed Mother Mary!

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!





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