

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

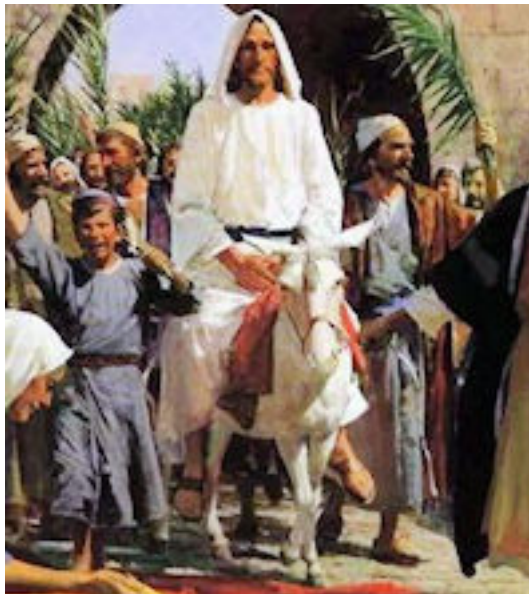
Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
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PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt (Jn 12:13-15)."



Sunday, March 24, we commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem for the completion of the Paschal Mystery. In the old calendar before Vatican II, the Church celebrated Passion Sunday two Sundays before Easter, and then Palm Sunday was the beginning of Holy Week. The Church has combined the two to reinforce the solemnity of Holy Week.

The Palm Sunday procession is formed of Christians who, in the "fullness of faith," make their own the gesture of the Jews and endow it with its full significance. Following the Jews' example we proclaim Christ as a Victor... Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. But by our faith we know, as they did not, all that His triumph stands for. He is the Messiah, the Son of David and the Son of God. He is the sign of contradiction, acclaimed by some and reviled by others. Sent into this world to free us from sin and the power of Satan, He underwent His Passion, the punishment for our sins, but issues forth triumphant from the tomb, the victor over death, making our peace with God and taking us with Him into the kingdom of His Father in heaven.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Pope Francis: To be 'scandalized' by gay couple blessings is 'hypocrisy'

Virginia bishops warn of 'deadly harm' in new assisted suicide bill

Pediatric pushback on 'trans kids' treatments

Medical journal retracts studies showing risks of abortion pill

Beer for Lent? The Diocese of Scranton's '40 Days' brew helps feed the homeless

Pope Francis: Lent is a time to 'encounter wild beasts and angels'

Large families association launches 'Save the planet, have more children' campaign

After Alabama Supreme Court's embryo personhood ruling, what comes next?

CPAC panelists sound alarm amid transgender-related parentrights battles

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete McCabe

Brothers:

Happy St. Patrick's Day! With a last name of McCabe, I hope to enjoy the day as well.

Recently, your Worthy Deputy Grand Knight, Bill "Baconator" Bannon, and I met with Fr. Blum. To help prepare for the meeting, I sent Fr. Blum a 2-page summary of our council's efforts since July 2023. When we finally met, I was glad to see Fr. Blum had the summary on the table and he had hand-written notes on it.

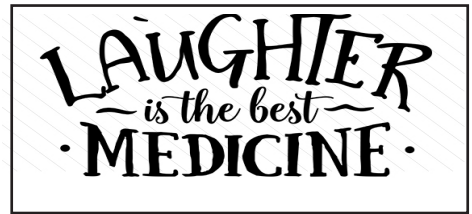
First off, Fr. Blum was extremely grateful to the council for everything we do for the parish and community.

We went over many of those efforts (money contributed and man-hours of work) and he highlighted our Faith and Life efforts and encouraged us to increase them. Specifically, he called out our help with Kimberly Home and Foundations of Life as well as our focus on Catholic education (tuition assistance at St. Patrick's School and St. Jerome ECC). He would like us to continue to help the ECC which we did at the last meeting by approving \$1,000 for playground mulch. Future efforts include assisting Blessed Sacrament School with tuition assistance money and more pro-life events with Foundations of Life.

Our other two program areas (Community and Family) will continue to thrive as well. Funding the Blessing Bags is a monthly contribution, and we might consider increasing that funding as the demand for those bags continues to increase.

While our four program directors do a great job, they need your help. Please reach out to them with your ideas. They are Life (Kevin Manning, Kevin.manning@myifpadvisor.com), Faith (Pete Nunes, pfnunes21@gmail.com), Family (Mike Keeser, cybernail@outlook.com), and Community (Pete Ganio, pganio@hotmail.com).

Thanks for all you do!



Friend: I ran into my ex-husband yesterday.

Other Friend: What did he say?

First friend: I don't know; I just kept driving.

Good dental hygiene is good for the whole family, but flossing the cat is probably a bad idea.

If you buy a watch from Amazon, be aware that that implies you can already swim without it.

It's so hot that hens are picking up worms with potholders.

When people tell me that I'm going to regret something next morning, I sleep until noon because I'm a problem solver.

If we're not meant to have a midnight snack, why is there a light in the refrigerator?

A day without sunshine is like, you know, night.

If you're not yelling at your kids, you're not spending enough time with them.

Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is like expecting a bull not to charge you because you are a vegetarian.

People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.

It wasn't love at first sight. It took a full five minutes.

Honesty is important in a relationship. If you can fake that, you're in.

Watching church on a livestream is like watching a fireplace on a screen. You see it but you don't feel the warmth Go to church.



Former Muslim Discusses His Conversion to Catholicism

Christmas is a time of reconciliation. God himself chose to become a man, coming into the world to save fallen humanity and reconcile it with himself. Christmas represents a dramatic break with conventional patterns and changes paradigms. Such is the case of Zubair Simonson, a former Muslim who has converted to Catholicism.

Explaining his conversion, Simonson said, "Hatred consumes. The loathing of a perceived enemy can be so consuming that one would rather see that enemy harmed than see a so-called 'friend' be saved," Simonson noted, recalling that he was brought up to hate Jews.

Simonson grew up in the United States. However, from a very young age he was introduced to a narrative of "oppressors" and "oppressed," of a people who were entirely to blame and a people who never did anything reprehensible. "I'd heard it reinforced time and again at a mosque and in the homes of family and friends," he recalled.

In his daily life, suspicion was normal and would be directed at the supposedly Jewish-dominated media as well as with anyone with whom a Muslim had a disagreement. "He's a Jew," they commented to one another in a mocking tone when disputes arose, even over totally superficial things.

These attitudes made it much easier for Muslims to repeat any belief,

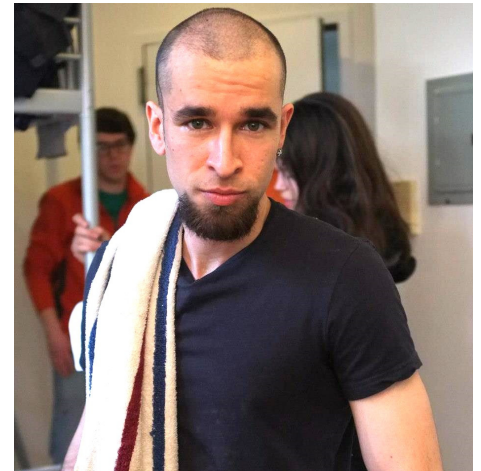
theory, or ideology they considered "correct" even though it had no logical basis, while innocent Israeli and Palestinian families suffered the very real consequences of war. "I'll even admit that having an enemy, even an abstract enemy, felt rather good," he said, adding that he and his peers began to consider themselves holy because this abstract enemy allowed them to express their compassion and concern for their fellow Muslims in Palestine.

The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001 were a turning point for him. During this time, he experienced firsthand the consequences of the ideas he had grown up with. He also noted that his studies at the University of Michigan led him to reject the victim mentality that characterized his community.

In 2006 he definitively distanced himself from Islam, and in 2007 he converted to Catholicism.

Simonson said he found a balance that led him to a much more humble view of life. He then began to recognize himself as a sinner, as a fallible man who needs God's mercy, like everyone else. "Who were we to consider ourselves so 'good,' and others so evil, with an authority due to God alone?" he observed.

He added that he realized that the "love" he felt for Palestine was nothing more than a visceral hatred for Israel.

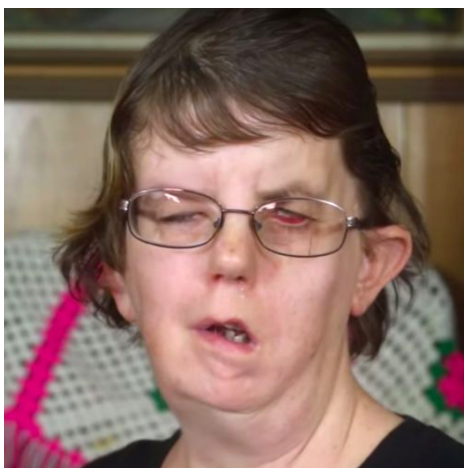


Zubair Simonson

The former Muslim believes that it's time for everyone to learn to distinguish between love and hate. "If the words of Jesus Christ are still valid today," he said, "His promise of the kingdom of God is also valid, which will come despite "wars and rumors of wars."

"That is the hope that was passed on to us from generations past, and to be carried on by future generations, until the day on which the King returns at the end of time. And so long as any of us still has breath," he added, "we still have time to learn what it is to forgive, to prepare a world more fitting for His return."

An Abortion Survivor's Empowering Story of Hope & Healing



Carrie Fisher

"Don't let the world steal your purpose."

This is what abortion survivor Carrie Fisher said in an interview with Special Books for Special Kids.

Her message is one every person should hear.

Fisher suffers from several bodily health complications due to her mother's failed abortion. Some of these issues include facial paralysis on one side, vision problems, and asymmetrical legs.

However, despite her mother's decision to abort her, she forgave her mother, and they are best friends.

"I accept the things that she did and she accepts the things that I do, and we just love each other," Fisher said. She then explains that she forgave her mother because she was empathetic towards her situation.

"I was trying to relate to what she was going through at the time. She was a single parent, and already had two children--two small children--and she didn't know how she was going to make it."

"But what really made it easier to

forgive her was she was very remorseful for it--very honest about it," she continued.

She added that her sisters and brothers were normal and could perform normal activities.

"When I was a child, I hated myself. I didn't like who I was or what I looked like. I was this ugly creature and I just wanted to hide. I was scared, even of my own self."

"The one thing I hope people learn when they hear my story is that you can overcome anything."

Her mother explains that she very much desires to love someone and to be loved by someone." Fisher never thought she would find love but did!

Fisher concluded by saying, "Don't let what the world thinks take away or steal your purpose. Hold on, believe, and have confidence in who you are. Don't give up. You have a purpose. You are worthy of love."

Council's Breakfast Continues to Be Popular

Brothers:

We all like to eat breakfast and the Knights' breakfasts (every 3rd Sunday of the month) are the best! Our recent breakfast on 18 Feb was a hit. Despite the rain, we served over 150 people and did not have any leftover food, a first for us.

Also another first occurred: our Deputy Grand Knight, Bill "Baconater" Bannon, not only cooked all 30 pounds

of bacon but also cooked all of the pancakes (20 pounds of pancake mix). Don't worry, we are not changing his nickname.

I encourage you to join us for the next Knights' breakfast in March and while it would be funny, the eggs will not be green.

We always need help in the kitchen making the food, serving the food and especially with cleaning up. Please come to eat and at the very least to say hello. We love greeting our fellow Knights. Don't worry: we won't sign you up for anything.
GK Pete McCabe



The Baconater (Bill Bannon) hard at work.



(L-R) Joe Zwissler, Pete Grasso, Dan Timmons, and Greg Musick

Knight of the Month

We got a bit behind awarding Knight of the Month so at the last general meeting on 14 Feb, we awarded two Knights for December and January.

December Knight of the Month is Dan "Cutter" Timmons. Dan got his nickname for all his outstanding work cutting down trees around the parish campus. His skillful use of the chain-saw allowed us to drop trees without damaging anything in the surrounding area (especially us). In addition to his help with church landscaping, Dan helps out at Bingo and Breakfast. In fact, Dan is one of those Knights who walks in the door and just starts working. No one has to tell Dan what is needed, he just knows. Please congratulate Dan the next time you see him.

January Knight of the Month is Tim Condron. Tim is a new Knight but has been a St. Jerome parishioner for a long time. We are fortunate to have him. He helps out at Bingo in the kitchen as well as a runner. He helps out at Breakfast in whatever capacity is needed. Tim recently spear-



DECEMBER: Dan Timmons

headed the recent sidewalk project that now connects the south parking lot to the parish center. Please swing by and check it out. We have two bricks installed to let everyone




JANUARY: Tim Condron

know that pathway is provided by the Knights of Columbus Council 17249.

Please congratulate Tim the next time you see him.

Always notice the people who are happy for your happiness, and sad for your sadness. They're the ones who deserve special places in your heart.



Our council is looking for a Newsletter Assistant that would work with the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight as well as the Newsletter Editor, Brother Jim Hand, on producing the council articles for the monthly newsletter. This will require short articles describing the council's many activities. The articles should be accompanied by photos taken by anyone at the event and placed on the council's google drive. Please let the Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, or Editor know if you are interested in this position.

Life Is Full of Making Choices



Do you remember Yogi Berra? If so, the following quote should come as no surprise to you: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

Choices: we all have to make them, several times during our lives, but how and when do we know when and if we have made good choices?

When I was growing up in Vincennes, IN, I chose to follow in the footsteps of Nile Barnes, to my mom's disappointment. He was very mischievous and luckily for me, I chose to say no one day when we were teenagers and he wanted to "borrow" a car to go for a joyride. How fortunate I made that choice. He was caught driving it and sent to a boys' school for a year or so. The dean of our high school tried to talk Nile out of returning to Lincoln High, but Nile chose to say no, and that forced me to make more decisions as our friendship continued. Luckily, I finally said no to his choices, and that ended our friendship. Little did I know then what a good choice that was.

Upon graduating from high school, I

chose to go to the two-year community college and study civil engineering. Why? Because I didn't know what else to do. Somehow I graduated with an associate degree in civil engineering and managed to get a draftsman's job at a local steel mill. I lasted there for about two years when, one day as I looked around at my fellow workers, I chose to terminate that job and go to Purdue University for more instruction in civil engineering. It was a bad choice, for I had insufficient preparation from Vincennes University, the community college I chose to go to. Headed toward flunking out of Purdue, I chose to switch to education, for I had always liked school, and much to my surprise, it was a good choice. Finally! I finished that curriculum on a Saturday and got a job teaching at a middle school on Monday. I had found my spot in life and stayed in the teaching profession for 36 years. I have thanked God many, many times for guiding me in that decision. I enjoyed teaching so much I remember thinking, "Wow, I'm actually getting paid for this job which I like so much." It was a God-given nudge.

I turn my attention now to religion. I was brought up as a fundamentalist. Our church's motto was: "We speak where the bible speaks, and we're silent where it's silent." I chose to stay with that church (The Church of Christ) until I became an adult and began to find it less fulfilling. In my mid-thirties, I chose to give up on religion and become an agnostic for about 20 years. I wasn't particularly happy as an agnostic, but I didn't know what to do. My choices were very limited. And then I met

the woman who would eventually become my wife. Jean Push is her name. To some degree she understood my predicament but chose not to try to convert me to Catholicism. Instead she chose to help me study that religion by helping me begin in a ministry called R.C.I.A. (The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.) It was exactly what I needed. The more I got into it, the more I realized it was the perfect choice for me at that stage of my life. I concluded that ministry at the Easter Vigil Mass in 1999 and became a full member of the Catholic Church. I couldn't have been happier.

Looking back, I can honestly say that it was one of the best choices I had ever made in my life. I felt like ET (Extra Terrestrial) when he realized he was finally going home. I was as happy as a clam (although I don't know what they're so happy about). I have been a lector, a participant in sharing my journey of faith to fellow Catholics, a member of St. Jerome's Knights of Columbus Council 17249, the council's monthly newsletter's editor, the council's former Recorder, and, along with my wife, a former volunteer at the council's weekly bingo get together.

Please don't think I'm bragging about my activities. I prefer to refer to it as sharing what a love for God, Christ, and Mary can do to and for a person. You have no idea how comforting it is to say "Hail, Mary prayer, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

by Jim Hand, Newsletter Editor

During Fundraiser, Priest Makes Longest Shot Ever by a Priest on a Playground

Parish priest Fr. Jarett Konrade, from Beloit, Kansas, might have set a world record for the longest ever basketball shot by a Catholic priest on a playground. It took him 85 tries, but determination won out in the end.

Two years ago, his parish suffered a fire in one of its church towers, and parishioners are still raising money to pay for the repairs. On Nov. 7, Konrade announced a creative way to raise funds ahead of the Giving Tuesday, a basketball challenge.

For several weeks ahead of Giving Tuesday, Konrade and Father Andrew Rockers, associate pastor of

the parish, took part in challenges to encourage donations while giving students at the school something to cheer for. It was a trick shot from Konrade that made this Catholic community's record book.

In a video shared on the school's Instagram, two high school students said that Konrade would be attempting to make "the longest [basketball] shot ever by a priest on a playground." After 85 attempts, standing from a fire escape 76.9 feet away, Konrade found the basket with his basketball and an eruption of cheers followed the impressive shot.



Father Jarett Konrade, pastor of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Beloit, Kansas, made an impressive basketball shot during a fundraiser

Irish Diocese to Rely on Laity to Preside over Funerals Amid Shortage of Priests

More than 40 laymen and laywomen in the Diocese of Clogher in the north of Ireland will soon begin presiding over funeral liturgies amid a shortage of priests.

A major vocation crisis could result in fewer than 10 active priests in the diocese in less than 20 years, according to Bishop Larry Duffy.

"Over the past few months, over 40 people from 12 parishes across the diocese have taken part in a formation course to enable them to accompany people and families at the time of bereavement," Duffy, announced.

Other parishes have indicated a "willingness" to nominate people for a similar course in the spring.

In the letter, he said that the lay ministers would lead the "liturgy of reception of the body at the church and the Rite of Committal at the graveside."

Duffy said the lay ministers will continue to be trained over the coming months and be commissioned to preside over funerals in their parishes. "We are very grateful to all those who have come forward for the formation and training and to the priests



of those parishes for their involvement," he said.

Duffy asked for prayers for the new ministers.

Two Articles from Past Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator Bill McClelland

Brothers,

As the current Faithful Navigator for our 4th degree assembly, I need your help. Some of you have not received your 3rd degree in our honored order, yet recent members have received all three degrees at once via a painless video. I ask that those of you who haven't taken that step to prayerfully consider doing so.

Once you have become a 3rd degree

member in our order, I need you to take an additional step.

The 4th degree (now call the Patriotic Degree) currently meets at St. Patrick on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The exemplification for this degree will be in Parrish, FL on March 9th. This is a great opportunity to receive that degree close to home.

There is the possibility of moving

the meetings to St. Jerome within a year, so I need your input regarding this potential change. I also need additional members to assist with our initiatives to help veterans and increase awareness of our country's governing documents.

Please reach out to me or any 4th degree member if you have questions.

Vivat Jesus,
Bill McClelland, PGK and FN

Brothers,

On Saturday, February 10th, I was honored at the King's Gate Club in Nokomis, FL for work related to hurricane relief last year. "Quilts of Val-

or" is a national organization that has provided quilts for about 350,000 U.S. combat veterans serving all over the world and continues to recognize community service after redeploy-

ment from active combat duty. Weeks after my second visit to the community to assist in patching roofs and securing tarps to prevent addition roof damage, I was told I would

be honored for my military service and community work. After a presentation date was secured, the women who constructed the fine quilt I received spent well over 100 hours of labor to make the moment possible.

While I have received many awards in the past, this one was especially humbling and unexpected. I was also surprised to see approximately 200 people at the award presentation.

Vivat Jesus,
Bill McClelland, PGK and FN



King's Gate Quilting Club

A Discussion of the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist by Bishop Robert Baron

Editor's Note: As a former Protestant, I have often had a problem understanding this important Catholic doctrine. This article explains the proposition in an excellent way. I thoroughly hope and pray that you will take the time to read it. You will not be disappointed.

All four Gospels have an account of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. St. John's version of this story can be found at the beginning of the sixth chapter of his gospel. In his telling, immediately after performing this miracle, Jesus fled to a mountain and then crossed the Sea of Galilee, pursued by a crowd eager to see more wonders. They finally tracked him down in a synagogue and there a remarkable dialogue ensued: the Catholic doctrine of the Real Presence.

Ordinary bread satisfies only physical longing: one eats and one must soon eat again. But the heavenly bread satisfies the deepest longing of the heart and does so by adapting the one who eats it to eternal life. The Church Fathers loved this theme of divinization through the Eucharist, the process by which the consumption of the bread of life readies one for life in the eternal dimension. In the Lord's prayer, we find the phrase *ton arton . . . ton epiousion*, usually interpreted as "daily bread." But the literal sense of the Greek is something like "supersubstantial bread," designating, not so much the bread of ordinary human consumption, but the bread suitable for a higher existence.

Jesus' followers said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness. (John 6:30-31). They were appealing, of course, to the miracle by which Yahweh fed the children of Israel during their forty years' wandering in the desert, but Jesus wants them to understand that he is offering a food that will nourish them in a better way. "Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, but even so, they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat it and not die" (John 6:49-50). "Heavenly bread" catches much of the paradox of the orthodox teaching concerning the Eucharist. Although it remains, as far as the eye can see, ordinary bread, the Eucharist in fact participates in a properly transcendent mode of existence and possesses, the power to produce eternal life.

In Jesus' next observation, we see

precisely why the heavenly bread has this virtue: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh" (John 6:51). Jesus unambiguously identifies himself with this bread that will nourish his people to eternal life.

What follows is one of the most beautifully understated lines in the gospel of John: "The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'" (John 6:52). They must have found this discourse not only intellectually and religiously problematic but—if I can put it this bluntly—nauseating. Throughout the Old Testament, we can find numerous explicit prohibitions against the eating of flesh and blood. For example, in the book of Genesis, in the context of the Noah story, we find this divine directive: "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, its blood" (Gen. 9:3-4). The idea here is that since blood is the vital principle that belongs to God alone, it ought not to be brought under the control of human beings. We find the same prohibition in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy: "It shall be a perpetual statute through your generations, in all your settlements: you must not eat any fat or any blood" (Lev. 3:17), and "Only be sure that you do not eat blood; for blood is the life, and you shall not eat life with meat" (Deut. 12:23). Moreover, the prophet Ezekiel speaks of the carrion birds who will swoop down on the enemies of Israel and eat their flesh and drink their blood: "You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth. . . . You shall eat fat until you are filled, and drink blood until you are drunk" (Ezek. 39:18-19). Finally, a popular Aramaic saying of Je-

sus' time identified the devil as the "eater of flesh." If the prohibitions we have rehearsed had to do with the consumption of the bloody flesh of animals, how much more offensive must Jesus' words have been, which encouraged the eating of his own human body. Hence the viscerally negative reaction of Jesus' audience.

If Jesus, therefore, wanted to soften his teaching, to insist upon the metaphorical or symbolic sense of the words he was using, this would have been the perfect opportunity. The skeptical questions of his interlocutors are often the occasion for Jesus to clarify the meaning of his pronouncements. A very good example is his symbolic explanation of the sense of "being born from above" when confronted with the question of Nicodemus, "Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" (John 3:3-5). But in this case, Jesus didn't spiritualize his rhetoric; just the contrary. He said, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53). Behind the English term "eat" in this sentence was



(This article is concluded on page 9.)

Priest Warns about Worshipping Satan



Close-up of a Santa Muerte statue

Father Andrés Esteban López Ruiz, a member of the College of Exorcists of the Primatial Archdiocese of Mexico, recently warned about the risks of the cult of "Santa Muerte" or "St.

Death," pointing out that those who practice it "...worship Satan, risking submitting themselves to him and experiencing his extraordinary action." The priest noted that the "...proliferation of this cult has led to a significant increase in the extraordinary action of the devil, which can include demonic possession."

López said that Mexican exorcists have confirmed "...numerous cases of oppression, obsession, and demonic possession linked to the practice and growing spread of the cult of 'Santa Muerte.'"

According to the priest, this cult dates back to the early 1960s and gained more notoriety in 1965. In that year it was promoted in the Tepito market in Mexico City, a place known for smuggling and illegal activities.

In addition, the priest said it had a significant development in Catemaco, a town in the state of Veracruz that has an ancient tradition of witchcraft, shamanism, and occultism.

The member of the College of Exorcists warned that this cult includes satanic practices that materially and formally constitute apostasy, blas-

phemy, and sacrilege as well as acts of violence against life and very serious violations of the penal code, such as murders, crimes, robberies, and drug trafficking.

"These very serious sins place those who commit them under the direct control of Satan and, with divine permission, can easily become occasions for his extraordinary action," the exorcist explained.

López warned that within the communities that idolize Santa Muerte, "...formal pacts with the devil" are made by people who seek gifts and wealth.

"More and more people suffer not only from witchcraft in general but also from curses associated with this cult," he added.

In addition to the pastoral response of the Catholic Church which seeks to preserve the people of God from these evils through the Gospel proclamation, catechesis, and education López stressed that in many cases "... it is necessary to perform major exorcisms to help those who have suffered the consequences of the cult of 'Santa Muerte.'"

Former Actress Chooses God over Hollywood



A young Dolores Hart

At the age of 18 Dolores Hart landed a part playing Elvis Presley's love interest in the 1957 movie *Loving You*. She had important parts in 9 more films over the next 5 years, playing opposite Stephen Boyd, Montgomery Clift, George Hamilton, and Robert Wagner. She got engaged to be married, and had her pick of roles.

Then, suddenly, at the age of 24, engaged to be married and a rising Hollywood star, she announced she was

Mother Dolores Hart

leaving it all to become a nun. She later explained that she had a turning point while filming Francis of Assisi, in which she played St. Clare of Assisi.

She met Pope St. John XX-III in Italy during the filming, and when she introduced herself, "I am Dolores Hart, the actress playing Clare," he responded, "No, you are St. Clare of Assisi!" Her fans and friends were in shock, angry even, when they heard the news.

"Even my best friend," Hart recalled years later, "who was a priest, Fr. Doody, said, 'You're crazy. This is ab-

solutely insane to do this.'"

One friend wrote her angry letters for years after she joined the convent, trying to talk her out of throwing her life away.

Hart's response? "If you heard what I hear," she told her friend, "you would come, too."

"I would like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly."

Pope John Paul II

A Discussion of the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist by Bishop Robert Baron (Concluded from page 7)

typically employed to communicate the manner in which animals consume their food; it might be rendered as "gnaw" or "munch" in English. Thus, if they were bothered by the gross animalistic overtones of what he had said, he purposely bothered them further. And in case they still missed his meaning, he added, "For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink" (John 6:55). He then draws the crucial conclusion from all of this bluntly realistic talk: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me" (John 6:56-57). For Christians, Jesus is not simply a wise teacher by whose words one abides (like Confucius) or an ethical exemplar whom one might strive to follow (like Gandhi or St. Francis) or even a bearer of definitive revelation to whom a person might feel beholden (like Muhammad); rather, Jesus is a power in whom we participate, a field of force in which we live and move and have our being. In his master metaphor, St. Paul speaks of the Body of Jesus of which baptized people are members. The rhetoric that we have just cited implies an intensely organic relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Church. We must eat the Flesh and drink the

Blood of the Lord because that is the way that we come to participate in him and thus, finally, in the life of the Father. We are much more than followers of Jesus; we are grafted onto him as branches are grafted onto a vine. The very earliest theology of the Eucharist is found in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Paul speaks of the intense identification that is effected between Jesus and his Church precisely through the Eucharist: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?" (1 Cor. 10:16).

Is this a hard doctrine? At the conclusion of the Eucharist Jesus practically lost his entire Church: "When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?'" (John 6:60). Again, if he were speaking only at the symbolic level, why would this theology be hard to accept? No one left him when he observed that he was the vine or the good shepherd or the light of the world, for those were clearly only metaphorical remarks and posed, accordingly, no great intellectual challenge. The very resistance of his disciples to the bread of life discourse implies that they understood Jesus only too well and grasped that he was making a qualitatively different kind

of assertion. Unable to take in the Eucharistic teaching, "many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him" (John 6:66). Jesus then turned to his inner circle, the Twelve, and asked, bluntly enough: "Do you also wish to go away?" (John 6:67). There is something terrible and telling in that question, as though Jesus were posing it not only to the little band gathered around him at Capernaum, but to all of his prospective disciples up and down the ages. One senses that we are poised here on a fulcrum, that a standing or falling point has been reached, that somehow being a disciple of Jesus is intimately tied up with how one stands in regard to the Eucharist.

In response to Jesus' question, Peter, as is often the case in the Gospels, spoke for the group: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69). This explicit confession of Jesus as the Holy One of God is bound up with the implicit confession of faith in the Eucharist as truly the Body and Blood of the Lord. In light of this scene, it is indeed fascinating to remark how often the Church has divided precisely over this question of the Real Presence.

JOURNEY OF Faith by Jim Hand, Editor

Some time ago I heard an expression that both confused me and intrigued me: "He was writing checks on eternity." I enjoy such challenges. It keeps my brain active, and, hopefully, strengthens my faith. What I have concluded it means does not mean that I'm right, but it is satisfying to me. Let me explain it this way. Now that I am 86 years old I find myself reflecting a lot on life. I know my days are limited and that's all right

with me. I feel like Paul when he said in 2 Timothy 4:6: "...the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

It's wonderful to feel that way, and saying the Hail Mary prayer is also very comforting:

"Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen."

Those final words didn't mean as much to me when I was writing checks on eternity, because I thought very

little about death. It was an eternity away. I was busy doing things of great importance: thinking of buying a new car, maybe getting a motorcycle instead, wondering where my next house painting job would be, trying to remember when the next school year would begin, etc. Now that those thoughts are behind me, I realize how unimportant those things were.

It's time to quote another scripture: Matthew 6:20: "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." I've known that passage for years when I was writing checks on eternity, but now that I'm 86 years old, it's time for me to stop doing that. If not now, when?

Family To Lay Lisa Lopez-Galvan to Rest in Jersey Donated by KS Chiefs' Harrison Butker



The family of Catholic mom Elizabeth "Lisa" Lopez-Galvan, who lost her life in a shooting at a Super Bowl Rally, is going to lay her to rest in a jersey donated by Kansas City Chiefs' kicker Harrison Butker, Lopez-Galvan's favorite player.

On February 14 a shooting occurred at a Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl rally in Kansas City, injuring nearly two dozen, and killing Lopez-Galvan. She was a parishioner at a local Catholic Church, Sacred Heart-Guadalupe Parish.

According to local news outlet KSHB 41, Lopez-Galvan "was wearing a white Butker jersey" on the day of the shooting. Kansas City Chiefs player Harrison Butker is a Catholic who often shares about his faith and pro-life views.

KSHB 41 reported, "A family member said it was her husband's request to bury Lopez-Galvan in the jersey, but they were having trouble finding one.

Butker learned of the request through social media and then donated a jersey to the family.

KSHB 41 quoted a heartfelt statement that Butker issued in light of the tragedy.

"My wife Isabelle and I are heartbroken by the murder of Lisa due to degenerate violence," Butker stated.

"Murder is a sin that cries out to God for vengeance and I pray the men involved in this tragedy will be brought to justice."

"Hearing that she was a fan of my outspokenness for our shared Catholic Faith makes this even more personal," Butker continued:

I am honored to provide a jersey to the family for her to wear. While the family is mourning their loss and grappling with their numerous injuries, I will continue to pray for their healing and the repose of Lisa's soul.

Lopez-Galvan's funeral took place on February 23, and her burial was on February 24.

Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, shared a statement with Catholic News Agency that his "prayers and deepest condolences go out to the family of Lisa Lopez-Galvan... We are surrounding her family with our love and support. She was a beloved member of our faith community."

"Our prayers and deepest sympathies are with her family during this sorrowful time," Naumann stated: We take comfort in knowing that the resurrection of Our Lord is our consolation and are grateful for his promise of eternal life. We pray for the repose of her soul and healing, peace, and strength for her loved ones and our community.

Movies Approved by the Vatican

Note: This is not a complete list by any means. Many of the movies are in a foreign language, so they were ignored.

- The Passion of Joan of Arc*
- Life and Passion of Christ*
- The Flowers of St. Francis*
- The Gospel According to Matthew*
- Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ*
- Babette's Feast*
- A Man for All Seasons*
- Ghandi*
- Goodbye, Children*
- Chariots of Fire*
- The Bicycle Thief*

- It's a Wonderful Life*
- Schindler's List*
- On the Waterfront*
- 2001: A Space Odyssey*
- La Strada*
- Citizen Kane*
- Metropolis*
- Modern Times*
- The Grand Illusion*
- Nosferatu*
- Stagecoach*
- The Leopard*
- Fantasia*
- The Wizard of Oz*
- The Lavender Hill Mob*
- Little Women*

Confession On-the-Go: How a Religious Community Uses an Ambulance as a Mobile Confessional

Evangelization may seem tricky, but the Community of Jesus Crucified in Saint Martinville, La. has created a unique way to follow in the footsteps of Saint Paul and meet people where they are.

Father Michael Champagne, the religious Superior of CJC, spoke regarding the incredible way they take to the streets and evangelize using their mobile confessional.

According to Father Champagne, the CJC was founded in 1986 by Father Jerome Frey and includes laity, religious brothers, sisters, and priests. This community is especially devoted to Eucharistic adoration and performs new evangelization endeavors like mobile confessionals.

"[When] Pope Francis called the Year of Mercy and emphasized making the Sacrament of Confession more available, I went on eBay and acquired an old ambulance and retrofitted it into a mobile confessional," the priest continued. Since it was first acquired in 2015, it has made over 500 stops. According to Father Champagne, they

drive the confessional to various sporting events, fishing tournaments, hospitals, shopping malls, breweries, construction sites, movie theaters, parish events, hunting camps, Mardi Gras, and more. He said that while some locations were one-time stops, they visit others regularly. Father said the response to this endeavor has been amazing from Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

"For the first few years, we used a clicker to track how many people entered the mobile confessional, but after a few years, we stopped."

"When we stopped counting, we already heard over 10,000 confessions. The majority of people coming are those who have been away from the Sacraments and ecclesial life for some time," Father Champagne said.

"They return to the Sacraments and



then we see them at Mass on weekends in the various parishes throughout the diocese.

"Since we began, we have added a ChurchHaul (retrofitted U-Haul trailer for use at nursing homes) and two more old ambulances donated by our local ambulance provider."

"Jesus did most of His preaching and ministry along the highways and byways and we must continue to have this as part of our ministry," Father Champagne concluded..



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