

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
May 2024 Volume 5 Issue 2



Mothers' Day May 12, 2024

Mother of Mercy

'Neath the foot of the Cross, She faithfully kept Her watch
Consoled by Saint John e'er so softly,
And from the Cross itself He bent down,
To give us a Mother of Mercy.

It was as if it was not enough to bear the Cross
That sinners wretched He might redeem,
More generous still, He bent down
To endow us with the fairest Queen.

Queen of Heaven, Queen of Angels, and Queen of all men,
Queen of Priests and Holy Souls awaiting,
Mistress to the pleading child in need,
Mother of Mercy: sweet succoring.

O Mother most merciful, Mother of compassion,
Ark of Salvation, Gate of Heaven,
Refuge of sinners and those in despair,
To Thee we fly, unto Thy leaven.

O Mother most sweet, most radiant, O Mother of mothers!
Mother most pure, Mother most dear,
Thee do we entreat sending up our sighs,
As Thou bendest to blot every tear.

O Mother most tender, most mild, O Mother of Mercy!
Masterpiece of God's holy design,
Fount of all graces, Thine to dispense,
To the humble, repentant, uncondign.

'Neath the foot of our crosses, Thou maintains Thy watch,
That Thy servants persevere e'er fast,
'Til from Cherubim'd Throne He bends down,
And with Thee, welcomes us home at last.

by Pauly Fongemie



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Vatican says transgender people can be baptized and become godparents — but with caveats

Former Deacon Excommunicated After His Son Is Sexually Abused by a Priest

Biden: "International Transgender Day of Visibility, honors the extraordinary courage and contributions of transgender Americans."

Spanish priest dies from burns suffered during lighting of Easter fire

Group of priests caught joking about the Pope dying on their YouTube channel

Report on sex abuse in Germany's Protestant Church documents at least 2,225 victims

Catholic charismatic renewal creates 'church on fire' with God's love

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete McCabe

Brothers, I encourage you all to attend the upcoming general meeting on Wednesday, May 8. The council will be holding its annual elections and it's important that you participate and choose your next set of officers. The council will be taking nominations for all positions right up to the election. I hope to see you there. May will be as busy as other months for our council. On Saturday, May 4, we'll gather at the grotto for our monthly cleanup. This involves a number of activities such as weeding the flower beds, cleaning off the brick area, spraying some weed killer, and cleaning the Mary statue and altar. Sometimes we are planting flowers or cutting overhanging tree branches. We'll also be laying down

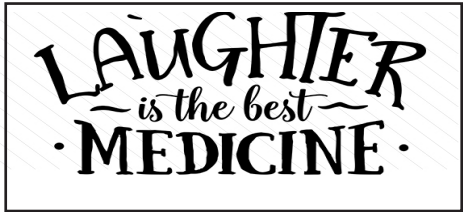
some mulch in the area. The more folks who show up the faster it goes so I hope you can make it. During the Mother's Day weekend (May 11, 12), we'll be looking for volunteers to help hand out baby bottles after each Mass in support of Foundations of Life pregnancy center. On May 18/19 weekend, we'll need volunteers to collect these bottles (hopefully filled with monetary donations) after each Mass. Please look for more information as it becomes available. Later in the month, the Deputy Grand Knight and I will be traveling to Orlando for the Florida State Knights of Columbus Convention. We look forward to representing the council at the convention and will report back what we learned at the June general meeting. Finally, we'll conduct our monthly bingo sessions each Thursday and conduct our monthly Knights Breakfast on the third Sunday (May 19). I encourage you to help out where and when you can. Thanks for all you do!
Pete

FROM THE DESK OF THE COLUMBIETTES

The Columbiettes sponsored their first signature fundraiser, "Fun Trivia Night" on April 20. "Fun" was the key word as participants competed for gift cards for the top three teams. Raffles included baskets and a 50/50. The Columbiettes hope to see you at the 2025 Fun Trivia Night!
~~Claudia McClelland



Friends, plus Kris DeBlasi and Jo-Ellen Abou Nader ponder their answers



Artist formerly known as Prince.

Council 17249 and Columbiettes Attend Corporal Communion Together

On April 7, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Knights and Columbiettes gathered for a Corporate Communion at the 10:45 Mass presided by Fr. Blum.

What is a Corporate Communion? It is simply our council getting together to attend Mass together. We are the Divine Mercy of Jesus Council, so it makes sense for us to gather together on this day. Many of us wore our blue shirts to Mass, and we sat together. During the homily, Fr. Blum had some kind things to say about our council and Columbiettes, specifically, about our good works within the parish. Thanks to all who attended. We will schedule future Corporate Communion. Hope to see you there.
--GK Pete McCabe



Knights Work on Cleaning Up Grotto

On Saturday morning, April 6, a few Knights gathered for the Grotto cleanup. This monthly activity is a great way to volunteer and help keep the grotto looking fantastic. The following Knights showed up: Bill Bannon, Bill McClelland, Bob Jodal, Tim Condron, Dan "Cutter" Timmons, and Pete McCabe.

Besides the normal activities such as putting in new bricks, weeding the flower beds, and cleaning off the brick area, the biggest chore was putting in a new set of plants in the Rosary garden as well as cutting down a dead branch that was overhanging the Rosary path.

Each month we'll tackle a new project as well as continue the maintenance of the area. A few more hands would be appreciated so please consider joining us at a future Saturday grotto cleanup.



L-R Tim Condron, Dan "Cutter" Timmons, Bob Jodal, Bill Bannon. Not pictured are Pete McCabe and Bill McClelland

Breakfast Crew Continues to Feed Parish Community

On Sunday, April 21,, the Knights conducted its monthly breakfast for the parish community.

We served 100 parishioners and continued to cover the council's costs of the event. This event is now a staple of our council and there are many parishioners who are regular "customers."

A huge thank you to the many Knights who showed up to help. In fact, so many showed up that it was hard to find jobs for everyone. Even if you felt under-utilized, please consider showing up in the future.

It was great to see so many blue shirts. Please volunteer or just come by to have a great breakfast and say hello.

We hold this event every third Sunday of the month.



Bowling with the Young Adult Group



On Friday night (19 April), the Council sponsored the Young Adults of St Jerome for some bowling. This new group within St Jerome is made up of Catholic young adults ages 18-30. They meet on the last Sunday of each month, participating in the 5:00 pm Mass with dinner to follow. The Council sees this as a great investment to get to know these fine young adults and encourage them to join the Knights of Columbus or the Columbiettes. This first event went very well. There were 18 young adults plus 6 Knights (plus spouses) who showed up to bowl. While the pins were in no danger of falling down, we all had a great time laughing at the different styles of bowling displayed. We hope this is just the first of many times we meet up with this group. Please keep an eye and ear out for future events so you can join in and have some fun!

Knight of the Month

Brother Art Corby is the Knight of the Month for February. Brother Corby has been volunteering with bingo since we started 2 years ago. Additionally, he is a stalwart at the Knight's Breakfast where he stays to "do the dishes" which is truly appreciated. Finally, he led the planning for the 2023 Christmas party. His dedication to our council is an example for others to follow.



Left:
GK Pete
McCabe
Right:
Art
Corby

Brother Joe Coyne is a recent transfer to our council. His active participation in so many events is really outstanding. Every time I turn around - there is Joe! He helps at bingo in the kitchen as well as a runner. He helps at the Knights' breakfast, Grotto cleanup, and so many other events whether setting up the parish center or directing traffic. Thanks for joining our council, Joe!



Left:
GK Pete
McCabe
Right:
Joel
Coyne

Students for Life Share How They Are Fighting Abortions



One Cemetery of the Innocents

Students for Life of America's Cemetery of the Innocents is waking people up to the reality of abortion. By displaying pro-life crosses at select locations throughout the country, this peaceful demonstration reminds the public about the numerous lives lost to abortion each day.

"We plan to spread the pro-life message to the following locations in May: SUNY Geneseo, Crossroads Church Camarillo, Whitworth University, and Rosary Academy," said Sophia Schuster, who has been advocating for the creation of a Students for Life group.

Last year, the University of Northern Iowa was at the center of a major victory for our organization.

In October, The Northern Iowa Student Government rejected the request for approval from a UNI Students for Life group, claiming that our pro-life students wanted to start a "hate group." The student body Supreme Court also joined the effort

to block pro-life views on campus. "I was shocked by how the student government allowed their emotions and personal opinions to influence their decision," she continued. "Students for Life met all requirements for being approved set forth by UNI, but they completely ignored that fact. I think they have overstepped their role and tried to use their power to silence us just because they disagree. This is a direct attack on free speech and of due process of law and an example of abandoning standards that they claim to hold," said Schuster.

Sarah Minnich, SFLA's Regional Coordinator who was assisting Schuster in starting the Students for Life group stated, "Student government and student organizations are meant to assist students in promoting change and ideas and to shape their character as leaders. It is difficult enough to go beyond classwork and be involved in civil dialogue on campus."

"The decision of the NISG and the Supreme Court demonstrates that they put their ideological affiliations above fellow students and at the cost of productive dialogue on campus. In addition, the SFL group was formed to promote the dignity of the preborn and aid pregnant and parenting students on campus which should qualify as a 'good faith' reason to start any club. Their decision is unacceptable and should be overturned by the university's president."

UNI President Mark Nook sided with Students for Life when he declared the pro-life group a "fully recognized student organization."

He also went on to say that denying the group registration on campus would have denied "them their right to free speech and assembly guaranteed to them by the First Amendment."

The incident at UNI was not the first time that Students for Life experienced discrimination on campus. In 2019, for example, SFL of Robert Morris University set up 911 pink crosses as part of a Cemetery for the Innocents Display. Within 12 hours, vandals destroyed several of the crosses.

A similar incident happened to a Students for Life chapter at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville that same year. The pro-life students had also set up a Cemetery of the Innocents display to signify the number of lives lost to abortion each year. At the conclusion of their outreach, before any of the students could pick up the display, someone stole the group's sign.

If anything, these attacks against pro-lifers prove why it's necessary to continue our outreach efforts. More people need to hear our message and understand why the fight for life is one of the most critical battles of our generation.

~~Autumn Doersching

World's Oldest Nun Is a 115-Year-Old Brazilian

"My secret, my great secret, is to pray," said Sister Inah, the oldest nun in the world at 115 years of age. "I pray the rosary every day for everyone around the world."

The nun currently lives in Santo Enrique de Ossó Home, the community she entered in 1927 at the age of 19. Another characteristic of Sister Inah is that she always wants to be active. She continues to participate in community prayers, and she likes to be in the garden and spend time with her sisters.

Even though the elderly nun's health has declined a little, when she is well she is very talkative and playful.

Until recently, she painted napkins, made cards, and did many other things. When she had nothing to do, she would pick up a deck of cards and start playing. If she didn't have any-

one to play with, she would play alone. When she was a child, one of her brothers told her mother that Inah could study at a convent in her town. Inah then asked: "What are nuns?" Her mother answered that they were women who dedicated themselves to praying to God, to which she replied: "I'm going to be a nun."

Inah was very skinny and thin since she was a child. Due to her frail appearance, everyone thought that she would not live long. The opposite has been the reality of her life.

The 115-year-old nun is someone who holds everyone in her heart. "There are no exceptions. She treats everyone well, with love, whether they are little ones, adults, or elderly. She's a person that loves, she really loves," another nun stated.



Sister Inah celebrating an earlier birthday.

House Members Highlight 'Horrific' Organ Harvesting of Aborted Babies



L- David Daleiden R- Terrisa Bukovinac

Several Republican House members have highlighted what they called the "horrific" organ harvesting and trafficking of aborted babies.

The presentation included testimony by David Daleiden, founder of the investigative group Center for Medical Progress, and Terrisa Bukovinac, founder of Progressive Anti-Abortion Uprising (PAUU).

They testified that Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics throughout the country are selling the organs and body parts of aborted babies in a lucrative black market.

Daleiden, who has released several undercover videos showing Planned Parenthood employees discussing the sale of body parts, called on the House to open a formal investigation into the abortion industry's participation in organ harvesting.

The abortion industry operates with virtually no federal or independent oversight, allowing it to conduct illegal activities. Daleiden claimed that his undercover research has found a network of biomaterial companies partnering with Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers to obtain baby body parts for experimentation and other purposes. "I've met with dozens of Planned Parenthood's top abortion providers at their lavish commercial abortion trade shows sponsored by companies buying baby parts," he said.

One of the experiments uncovered by Daleiden in 2020 revealed that the University of Pittsburgh was grafting aborted baby's scalps to lab rats, enabling the rodents to grow human hair. This experiment, Daleiden claimed, was funded by federal grants from the National Institutes For Health (NIH), which is taxpayer-

funded. The NIH reports spending an average of \$108 million per year on fetal experimentation.

Daleiden also alleged that Vice President Kamala Harris was involved in a cover-up of the abortion industry's organ harvesting scheme, pointing to her actions as attorney general of California. Following the release of the Center for Medical Progress' viral videos exposing Planned Parenthood executives, Harris ordered a raid on Daleiden's apartment to seize "hundreds of hours of unreleased undercover footage," Daleiden said.

Under Harris, Daleiden said that the California justice system prosecuted him, issued an injunction to keep him from releasing the rest of the footage, and ultimately fined his group \$25 million. A federal court in California found Daleiden's undercover work violated state and federal laws. "The abortion industry, led by Planned Parenthood, is a powerful special interest group in our country; they fight to silence reporting on their black market of aborted baby harvesting and the ongoing cover-up goes to the highest levels of our government," Daleiden said.

89-Year-Old Concentration Camp Survivor Faces 11 Years in Jail for Praying at Abortion Clinic



Eva Edl

An elderly concentration camp survivor faces 11 years in prison for allegedly ob-

structing access to an abortion clinic. A court convicted Eva Edl, 89, and three others — Eva Zastrow, 25, James Zastrow, 27, and Paul Place, 26 — for misdemeanor violations of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Law. FACE prohibits interfering with a woman seeking to get an abortion at a clinic.

Authorities charged the defendants

after they sang hymns and prayed at a health center in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, on March 5, 2021. The Biden Department of Justice described their actions as an illegal blockade.

However, the Biden regime hit Edl and Eva Zastrow with additional FACE charges. They are due to appear in a Michigan court in August. Each could get up to an additional 11 years in prison. A jury charged another six defendants who partook in the same protest under FACE and felony conspiracy laws in January.

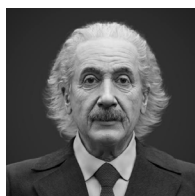
Edl fled communist Yugoslavia. As a child, her persecutors forced her onto a cattle car and sent her to a concentration camp.

"If it is right for the American government to legalize the killing of innocent human beings inside the womb, preborn babies, then why do

we condemn the Nazis who also legalized the extermination of born people—Jews, Gypsies, and others—all unwanted individuals?" Edl asked.

"Nobody's life is ultimately safe in a nation ruled by someone who does not respect all human life, from conception to natural death," Edl said. "It will just depend on who is in power and whose whim will dictate who is permitted to live and who is going to be exterminated."

The Biden regime is not alone in its anti-Christian pro-choice zeal. Governments across the West are displaying increasing hostility towards Christians and those who dare question the morality of legalized abortion. In December, England's High Court upheld a ban on praying near abortion clinics.



Albert Einstein once said, "The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits."

O my Mother,
it is to your heart
that I come to lay
down the anguish
of my heart.
It is there that I
draw strength
and courage.



Communion Wafers Found Discarded in Parking Lot of West Virginia Church after Easter Mass



Catholics who attended Easter Mass at a historic Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, church were met with a disturbing sight when they left the service to go back home — at least 100 Communion wafers were strewn across the parking lot.

"People were upset because they were concerned they could be consecrated hosts," Father Timothy Grassi said of the incident that took place at 190-year-old St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church.

It's unclear who placed the wafers on the ground or what message the perpetrator was trying to convey, but the church reported the action to the National Park Service law enforcement, which is investigating the matter. Grassi told CNA he has not received any updates since the incident was reported to the police.

Whoever spread the wafers on the ground did it while the Mass was being celebrated. The wafers were not present at the start of the Mass but were there when parishioners exited the church, according to the priest. Grassi said he is certain the wafers

"were not from our church because none were missing and they were a different size." He also said, "I don't know of any churches that have identified having hosts stolen to that degree," suggesting that they were probably not taken from a Catholic church and probably not consecrated. Grassi noted that unconsecrated Communion wafers can be purchased online or elsewhere, which is the most likely explanation for the large number of wafers. An unconsecrated wafer has not undergone transubstantiation — the process by which the substance of the wafer becomes the body and blood of Christ.

The priest said he suspects the action was "a way for someone to make a statement," although he was not certain what that statement was.

How the Divine Mercy Devotion Almost Didn't Exist and How Saint John Paul II Saved It



Saint Faustina Kowalska

The Divine Mercy devotion as we practice it today came from Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who lived in the early 20th century. She claimed that she had regular visions of Jesus and saints and that Jesus himself gave her the details of the devotion.

She wrote descriptions of what she saw and heard in her diary, which is now published in her book, *The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul*.

Warning her fellow nuns that a great war was coming and that they should pray for Poland, she died at the age of 33 on Oct. 5, 1938.

A year later, Germany invaded Poland. Impressed by the accuracy of her prophecy, Archbishop Jędrzejowski of Vilnius allowed for public use of the Divine Mercy devotion for the first time.

The devotion quickly spread throughout Poland and was a source of strength and inspiration during the terrible years of the war. By 1941, it spread around the world and, despite the war, had made it to the United States.

With the end of the war, the devotion spread even faster. By 1951, just 13 years after Saint Faustina's death, there were 150 religious centers in Poland dedicated to Divine Mercy.

In 1955, a Polish bishop, with the approval of Pope Pius XII, started a religious congregation dedicated to spreading the devotion. Pope Pius XII blessed a Divine Mercy image in 1956 and allowed many bishops throughout the world to give their blessing to writings about the devotion.

Not everyone in the hierarchy approved of the devotion, however. Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, the head of the Holy Office (predecessor to the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith - the Vatican's theological watchdog department), tried to persuade Pope Pius XII to sign a condemnation of Saint Faustina's works but was rebuffed.

When Pope John XXIII was elected Pope in 1958, Cardinal Ottaviani had another chance. The Cardinal included her works on a list of books to consider banning soon after the new pope was elected.

On March 6, 1959, the Holy Office finally issued a document forbidding the use of "images and writings that promote devotion to Divine Mercy in

the forms proposed by Sister Faustina."

It seemed like Saint Faustina's devotion to Divine Mercy might be over with.

The Polish people were crushed - including many of the clergy. One such person was Karol Wojtyła (now Saint John Paul II), a "rising star" in the church's hierarchy. He was influential in drafting several key documents of Vatican II and was appointed Archbishop of Kraków at the relatively young age of 43 in 1964.

Within a year of having his new position, and with approval from the Vatican, he started a fresh investigation into her works.

Wojtyła discovered that the condemnation of Saint Faustina's works had been mostly a result of those at the Vatican reading her works not in their original Polish but faulty French and Italian translations.

Then in April of 1978, after decades of work and prayer by the supporters of the Divine Mercy devotion, the Vatican reversed its previous ban on her works! Catholics around the world rejoiced!

Just a few months later, the now-Cardinal Wojtyła, who had led the effort, was made Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II personally beatified Faustina in 1993 and canonized her in 2000. He also designated the first Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. Saint Faustina and her devotions were completely vindicated and took the message of God's infinite mercy to the whole world.

Catholic Cemeteries Are on the Front Line Against Secular Fear of Death



"Cemeteries are the front line of defense against society's increasing secularism and fear of death and suffering. In every age, Christ shows us the way to our heavenly home," said Peter Nobes, director of Catholic Cemeteries in British Columbia, Canada. "In every age, Christ shows us the way to our heavenly home, but modern Western culture historically represses the experience of death and dialogue on its meaning."

As a culture's religious awareness decreases and secularization increases, humanity becomes more and more afraid of discussing death, he said. Great effort then needs to be made to encourage people to speak about death and plan for the inevitable. The emphasis on death as a medical event needs to be re-presented with the Christian truth that death is the passage to eternal life, he said.

"Fear of death is an existential issue," he said. "Jesus Christ is our model and the key to existential meaning. He transforms death for believers, making it not just tolerable but hopeful."

A Catholic cemetery becomes a central institution for Nobes. "The cemetery is not only a practical service that offers a respectful preservation of human remains in keeping with religious beliefs," he explained. "It also provides education and comfort for the distress felt over the death of loved ones and the inevitable approach of one's own death."

All of this is especially important in Canada where euthanasia, called medical assistance in dying (MAID), is increasingly a part of the landscape of death.

In Nobes' view, the cemetery can offer support and resources to Catholic health care workers and ministers who bring the Eucharist to the sick and dying. By working together, they can more effectively and with greater charity accompany the dying in their final hours.

Exposed: A New Way Ministry's Plan to Capture the Church for the LGBTQ+ Movement, Sometimes Called Rainbow Wolves



Faithful Catholic writers have been sounding the alarm about an LGBT push to undermine the Church's teachings from within. Catholic Vote's Catholic Accountability Project (CAP) decided to investigate those concerns.

The report is the result of CAP's thorough research into one culprit - an organization named "New Ways Ministry," synonymous with "Rainbow Wolves." What the investigation uncovered is nothing short of a far-reaching, decades-long plan to help a secular movement lay siege to Catholic teachings on sex, the family, and marriage.

In December 2023, the Vatican released *Fiducia Supplicans* (FS), a "Declaration on the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings." While FS reiterated the Church's teachings on sexuality and marriage, it also paved the way for priests to bless what it called "same-sex couples" - a secular term found nowhere else in the Church's official documents.

FS came as a shock to many Catholics, including numerous bishops. Less than three years earlier, the Vatican had stated unequivocally that it would "not [be] licit to impart a

blessing on relationships or even stable relationships that involve sexual activity outside of marriage, as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex."

That same March 2021 statement emphasized that God "does not and cannot bless sin."

Naturally, the seeming contradiction between FS and the Church's timeless discipline quickly led to widespread calls for clarification - and bishops from around the globe rejected the Vatican's new declaration. Pro-LGBT groups embedded in the Church, however, joined the secular media in applauding the document. Some even claimed it was a step toward the Church embracing same-sex "marriage."

Among those groups was New Ways Ministry (NWM).

(Editor's note: This is a developing story and will be periodically updated.)

From Porn Star to the Catholic Church



Bree Solstad, a former pornography actress and producer, officially entered the Roman Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Sat., March 30, 2024. "I am leaving behind my life of rampant sin, vice, pride,

debauchery, vanity and lies to—with God's grace—live a life of truth, beauty, obedience to God's divine will, virtue and humility," she said.

"I have been going through OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) since the autumn and will be officially joining the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil in late March. Thank you, Jesus, for not giving up on such a wretched sinner. Thank you, Blessed Mary, Mother of God, for your immense love and consolation."

Prior to her conversion, Solstad lived a life full of promiscuity and self-obsession, which spiked when a recruiter reached out to her. "I was drinking more heavily and started a blog about my hedonistic behavior. The blog caught the attention of a successful sex worker, who reached out to me and essentially recruited me. She showed me how to get set up and introduced me to some important people in the industry who could help me make as much money as possible. I had no moral compass and was all

about myself anyway."

After suffering a tragedy a few years ago, Solstad shared that while she prayed harder than ever, she felt that Jesus did nothing. "I felt like God had turned His back on me and so I did the same to Him."

Surprisingly, a trip to Italy in 2023 made all the difference. While preparing for her visit, she knew she wanted to visit churches to see the beautiful art they held. This is where things first began to change.

"Once inside, I began to appreciate the art and the churches themselves for the theology they expressed. I began to notice more than just the beauty of the art. His gift to us was always plain to see as soon as I entered a church. For reasons I still can't explain, I found myself getting down on one knee to cross myself when I entered and exited the churches."

"In Sorrento, I noticed the Virgin Mary on street corners all over the place. All of a sudden, I felt like Mary was calling me in the strangest way. Each time I entered a church, I felt compelled to seek her out.

"Mary is grace and mercy personified. She has shown me how to go through this life when you're faced with struggles and pain, and to get through them with dignity and with a faith that is even stronger than before."

"I was moved to tears by Saint Clare. I knelt by her tomb and asked for assistance. I felt like Saint Clare was actually present with me, and that she was going to take all the pain and anxiety from me and somehow

give it to God. "I felt deeply that she was telling me that I could count on her and trust her and Jesus with my heart. I cried, but also felt peace for the first time in a long time. From there, Florence and Rome became a whirlwind of kneeling, praying, and asking questions about the theology behind the best artwork in the world."

"When I came home, I quickly realized that I didn't like what my life was like. I hated my job. I felt disgusted and guilty for the work I had been doing for a decade. I couldn't stop thinking of all the things that I had done and all the lives I negatively affected through pornography. I felt grotesque."

During this time, she began attending a Catholic Church somewhat regularly, hoping to reconnect with the feelings she experienced in Italy. After making an appointment with the parish priest, everything began to click. "Among many other things, he told me that God loved me. He answered my desperate prayers all those years ago by leading me to His church, getting me to finally see the truth about the rampant sins I was committing through the lifestyle I was living, pushing me to grow in virtue and to turn away from sin so that I could be with Him and my lost loved one in Heaven. I am now so grateful and my heart is constantly full."

"When I received my first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, my entire life changed. I wept with abundant joy after I received the Body and the Blood of Jesus, and my life will never be the same."

Amarillo Catholic Priest Pepper Sprayed in Confessional

An individual "dealing with mental health issues" pepper sprayed a Catholic priest from St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Amarillo, TX while he was hearing confessions, according to local reports.

Fr. Tony Neusch announced the incident on social media later that evening, stating: "I am okay and do not require medical attention." The priest further noted that confessions would be suspended, except by appointment, until the Cathedral is able to install security cameras in the building.

"I'm sorry for any inconvenience this may cause," Fr Neusch wrote in the Facebook post, "but the safety of our confessors and those waiting to receive the Sacrament needs to be preserved."

Police are currently investigating the incident.



Knights of Columbus Pledge \$100,000 for Families of Baltimore Bridge Collapse Victims

The Knights of Columbus recently pledged a six-figure donation toward a Church-sponsored relief fund for families of workers killed in the collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge.

The fraternal organization said on its website that its board of directors voted during a recent meeting to contribute \$100,000 to a relief fund run by the Archdiocese of Baltimore for families who lost loved ones and livelihoods in the collapse of that bridge. The bridge, which first opened in 1977, was largely destroyed last month after a container ship struck it in the early morning hours of March 26. Six construction workers lost their lives in the collapse, while several other individuals were injured.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly noted in the announcement that the founder of the Knights, Blessed Michael Mc-



Givney, created the organization in 1882 to support widows and orphans. "So it was only natural that, upon learning of the death of six road workers — husbands and fathers from the Catholic Hispanic community — we were moved to join with the Church in Baltimore in providing aid to their widows and orphans," Kelly said.

The relief fund — which was established by the archdiocese and is being administered at the parish level

— has received about \$70,000 in addition to the Knights' donation. Another related fund has received \$25,000 in donations.

The deceased bridge workers, who hailed from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, had been filling potholes on the bridge at the time of the disaster.

Last week the Sacred Heart of Jesus-Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Parish in the city's Highlandtown neighborhood hosted a large prayer service in honor of the deceased workers.

Archbishop William Lori said that the local Church has demonstrated a "beautiful" display of both material and spiritual help to the families of the deceased workers. "It's the accompaniment because these wives and moms and children have lost their husbands and fathers in the most tragic way, and we just have to surround them with love," Lori said.

13-year-old Filipino Catholic Girl Being Considered for Sainthood

The official portrait of Servant of God Niña Ruíz-Abad was presented for canonization at St. William Cathedral in the town of Laoag located in the Ilocos Norte region of the Philippines.

If canonized, the young Filipino, who died in 1993 at age 13, could become one of the youngest saints in history. The proceedings, including the Mass celebrated by Renato Mayugba, the bishop of Laoag, were posted on Facebook. The ceremony began with a procession of members of the Diocese of Laoag followed by the reading of Ruíz-Abad's biography and the presentation of documents to the bishop, who approved them as legitimate.

Next, the documents were handed over to the officials of the diocesan tribunal, appointed by the local bishop, who will receive the testimonies of the people who knew her. This tribunal does not issue any ruling because it is reserved to the Vatican Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

The documents also included testimonies of alleged miracles that may have occurred through the intercession of Ruíz-Abad before the opening of the canonization process. In one case, a student at Holy Spirit Academy in the city of Laoag had been seriously sick and said she was miraculously cured after praying to the Filipino teenager.

During the ceremony, Ruíz-Abad's first relic was unveiled, which consisted of a reliquary with a small piece of cloth.

Ruíz-Abad, who died in August 1993, had a great impact through her devotion to God and her acts of charity despite suffering from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, an incurable heart disease that was diagnosed with when she was 10 years old.

Thirty years after her death, the formal request to open an investigation into the life of the Filipina teenager was approved by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

The CBCP previously noted that Ruíz-Abad could serve as a "good model of piety and fortitude" for today's youth.



Niña Ruíz-Abad

Follow the saints, because those who follow them will become saints.

There is no saint without a past, and no sinner without a future.

Saints have to be tough as well as tender because saints are like Christ, and Christ was the toughest and the tenderest man who ever lived.

A Miracle through the Intercession of St. Anthony



Through the intercession of St. Anthony of Padua, a miracle took place in Spain involving the delivery of an urgent letter.

According to Letters from the Saints, a Spanish merchant named Antonio Dante left his home in 1729 to travel to Lima, Peru for business. His wife, who had remained in Spain, wrote letters to him over the course of many months without receiving any reply.

Filled with worry and in dire financial straits, she wrote once again to her husband and brought the letter to

the Church of St. Francis at Oviedo. There she placed the letter in the palm of a statue of St. Anthony of Padua and prayed fervently that he would deliver the letter to her husband. "St. Anthony, I pray to thee," she said. "Let this letter reach him and obtain for me a speedy reply."

The following day, she returned to the church to find her letter still in the hand of St. Anthony. As she began to weep, a Franciscan brother saw her and approached to tell her that he had tried to remove the letter from the hand of the statue but was unable to do so. When she took hold of the letter to remove it, she discovered that the letter was not the same one she left the day before but was a new letter from her husband!

The letter read:

My dearest wife. For some time I have been expecting a letter from you, and I have been greatly troubled and concerned at not hearing from you. But at last your letter has come and given me joy. It was a Fa-

ther of the Order of St. Francis who brought it to me.

You complain that I have left your letters unanswered. I assure you that when I did not receive any from you I believed you must be dead, and so you may imagine my happiness at the arrival of your letter. I answer you now by the same religious Father and send you three hundred golden crowns, which should suffice for your support until my approaching return. In the hope of soon being with you, I pray God for you, and I commend myself to my dear patron St. Anthony and ardently desire that you may continue to send me tidings of yourself.

Your most affectionate,
Antonio Dante

Antonio's wife was overcome with joy and gratitude to St. Anthony for the miraculous delivery of both her letter and her husband's.

The original letter from Antonio has been preserved to this day by the friars of the Church of St. Francis at Oviedo.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



Council 17249 Divine Mercy of Jesus Officers for 2023-2024

Worthy Chaplain
Worthy Grand Knight
Worthy Deputy Grand Knight
and Program Director
Worthy Chancellor
Worthy Recorder
Worthy Financial Secretary
Worthy Treasurer
Worthy Advocate
and Membership Director
Worthy Warden
Worthy Inside Guard 1
Worthy Inside Guard 2
Worthy Outside Guard
1-year Trustee
2-year Trustee
3-year Trustee
Worthy District Deputy
Field Agent
Newsletter Editor

Deacon Fred Kunder
Sir Knight Pete McCabe
Sir Knight Bill Bannon

Sir Knight Greg Musick
Sir Knight Rocco Totino
Sir Knight Fred Belzel
SKnight Richard Pettit
Sir Knight Gregg Appel Pgk

Knight Gene Sanders
Knight Dave Unkrich
Knight Ed Wirth
Sir Knight Joe Moore
Sir Knight Rick Hendrickson
Sir Knight Jim Patton
Sir Knight Bill McClelland
Sir Knight Pete Grasso Pgk
Knight Tony Crevello
Knight Jim Hand