

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249
St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
April 2020 Volume 2 Issue 1



Medjugorje 'visionary' says monthly apparitions have come to an end



A woman who claims to be a visionary of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Bosnian town of Medjugorje has said that Mary will no longer appear to her on the second of every month, as she has reportedly done monthly since 1987.

Alleged Marian apparitions in Medjugorje have long been a subject of controversy in the Church, which have been investigated by the Church but not yet authenticated or rejected.

The alleged apparitions began June 24, 1981, when six children in Medjugorje, a town in what is now Bosnia and Herzegovina, began to experience phenomena which they have claimed to be apparitions of

the Blessed Virgin Mary.

According to these six "seers," the apparitions contained a message of peace for the world, a call to conversion, prayer, and fasting, as well as certain secrets surrounding events to be fulfilled in the future.

Since their beginning, the alleged apparitions have been a source of both controversy and conversion, with many flocking to the city for pilgrimage and prayer, and some claiming to have experienced miracles at the site, while many others claim the visions are non-credible.

Among the alleged visionaries is Mirjana Dragičević Soldo, 55, who still lives in Medjugorje.

In 1987, she apparently began seeing the Blessed Virgin Mary on the second day of every month. During those alleged apparitions, Soldo prays with the Blessed Virgin Mary for non-believers, and conveys a message to the throngs of Catholic pilgrims who throng to Medjugorje for the event.

On March 18, Soldo announced that the Blessed Mother would no longer appear to her at that time, according to the Caritas community, which identifies itself as "the largest Medjugorje center in the world."

In January 2014, a Vatican commission concluded a nearly four-year-long investigation on the doctrinal and disciplinary aspects of the Medjugorje apparitions, and submitted a document to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

When the congregation has analyzed the commission's findings, it will finalize a document on the site, which will be submitted to the pope, who will make a final decision.

(Concluded on page 6)



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Pro-life bills advance in several US states

NY doctors 'refuse to abandon patients' at rally against assisted suicide

Vatican donates face masks to China amid coronavirus outbreak

Filmmakers point to Knock Shrine as a place of hope for Ireland

In major change, Knights of Columbus drop secret initiation ceremony

Connecticut bishops say vaccines are moral and that religious liberty should be respected

Coronavirus threat empties usually-busy Rome, Vatican

Canada widens euthanasia use to those not near death

Twenty-four countries consecrated to Jesus and Mary at Fatima

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

Brothers:
Lent--what a beautiful time of the year. God has given us a unique opportunity to reflect on our lives and to spend more time with our families. Unfortunately,

we can't do all the things we normally do, and we don't know when we will be able to resume normalcy in our lives. The hardest thing to do in a crisis is to do nothing. As a human being and especially as a Knight, our motivation is to run out and do whatever is needed for our people, our priests, and our church families. To that end, we will take the position of just "sit and wait." We had tremendous momentum going into the spring with our council, and then it came to a halt. I have maintained contact with Fr. Tom, and our Knights have helped with communion (that has now stopped), and with confessions on two occa-

sions. I have purposefully not sent out a request for help with this to minimize the mandate for no contact.

In speaking with Fr. Tom this weekend, he said there would be no communion because of the direct contact with the person receiving, and he, as well as we, will be taking direction from the Diocesan office and from the civilian authorities.

There was some discussion about Easter activities, but I will refrain from discussing them with you until those ideas become reality (cuts down on rumors and misunderstandings).

In closing, NOTHING will be happening with the Knights at our church in the coming months unless you hear it directly from me through this normal information system. The main thing is to keep praying for each other, knowing that we will be back together as strong as ever and more important, safe from this disease.

God bless our priests, God bless our Knights, and God bless our church family.

Vivat Jesus. Pete



A number of anti-Catholics claim that the calling of Roman Catholic priests "Father" shows that the whole Catholic religion is a fraud. Their argument relies on a literal reading of Matthew 23:9, that we should never call anyone "father." But Jesus Himself used father in Matthew 19:19 when he confirms the commandment to "honor thy father and mother," and in Luke 14:26 He mentions the word father again.

The sensible response to this is that Jesus was using hyperbole. He was deliberately exaggerating in order to make a point. Jesus isn't saying that we shouldn't call men who are fathers father; He is saying that we should not attribute the wrong kind or degree of fatherhood to them. In Matthew 23:6-7 we read that Jesus is condemning those who are proud and grasp after honor and praise. Jesus the used hyperbole to show that the scribes and Pharisees are not looking to God as the source of all authority, but rather trying to place themselves above Him.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Brother Knights:

I want to thank you for all that you are doing, in this difficult time, to serve our Lord Jesus and His Holy People in our parish and our community. It is not an exaggeration to say that we will never have another Lent and Easter like the one we are experiencing now. Please remember in the midst of our spiritual and physical challenges we will celebrate in April the God who tells us with a clear voice, "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." John 16:33. The circumstances are different this Lent/Easter but the truth is the same, "Jesus, has risen!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Tom Morgan

Miraculous crucifix moved to St. Peter's Square for Pope Francis' 'Urbi et Orbi' blessing



The miraculous crucifix at which Pope Francis prayed Sunday for an end to the coronavirus has been taken down from its altar

and transported to St. Peter's Square, so it can be present on Friday, March 27 during the pontiff's benediction "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world.)

The crucifix was removed from the Church of San Marcello al Corso by Vatican personnel Wednesday, March 25, and is expected to be installed temporarily at St. Peter's Square on Thursday, March 26.

The crucifix was venerated as miraculous by Romans after it was the only religious image to survive unscathed from a fire that completely gutted the church on May 23, 1519. Less than three years later, Rome was devastated by the "black plague."

Upon the request of Rome's Catholics, the crucifix was taken in procession from the convent of the Servants of Mary in Via del Corso to St. Peter's Square, stopping in each quarter of Rome.

The procession continued 16 days, from August 4th to the 20th, 1522. When the crucifix was returned to St. Marcellus, the plague had disappeared from Rome.

The crucifix has since processed to St. Peter's Square every Roman Holy Year - around every 50 years- and the crucifix has engraved on its back the names of each pope to have witnessed those processions. The last name engraved is that of Pope St. John Paul II, who embraced the crucifix during the "Day of Forgiveness," during the Jubilee Year 2000.

St. Jerome's Serves Parishioners by Having Eucharist in Parking Lot



Sr. Lucia was only 1 of 4 inside the church for live-streaming of the 9 a.m. mass on Friday, March 20, 2020.



Fr. Tom proceeded normally through the mass as it was being live-streamed. He had earlier told as many parishioners as possible that the Holy Eucharist would be distributed after mass in the church parking lot.



After mass concluded, Fr. Tom and Joanne Biamonte went to the parking lot to distribute Holy Eucharist to parishioners in the 50+ cars sitting in the church parking lot. It was a very impressive service. It is yet to be determined when or if this will be duplicated.



The next day, Fr. Tom was able to hear confession in the north entrance to the church. Privacy was insured by the screen. Approximately 10 people took advantage of this sacrament. Fr. Tom is going to try to do this again Saturday, March 28. Check the church's web site or Facebook site for the latest information.

HOLY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion. It also commemorates His institution of the priesthood. The holy day falls on the Thursday before Easter and is part of Holy Week. Jesus celebrated the dinner as a Passover feast. Christ would fulfill His role as the Christian victim of the Passover for all to be saved by His final sacrifice.

The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus shared with his Disciples in Jerusalem. During the meal, Jesus predicts his betrayal.

The central observance of Holy Thursday is the ritual reenactment of the Last Supper at Mass. This event is celebrated



at every Mass, as part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but it is specially commemorated on Holy Thursday. He also

establishes the special priesthood for his disciples, which is distinct from the "priesthood of all believers." Christ washed the feet of his Disciples, who would become the first priests. This establishment of the priesthood reenacted at Mass with the priest washing the feet of several parishioners.

During the Mass, Catholics believe that the unleavened bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The Last Supper is celebrated daily in the Catholic Church as part of every Mass for it is through Christ's sacrifice that we have been saved.

On the night of Holy Thursday, Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place where the faithful remain in the presence of the Eucharist just as the Disciples kept a vigil with Christ.



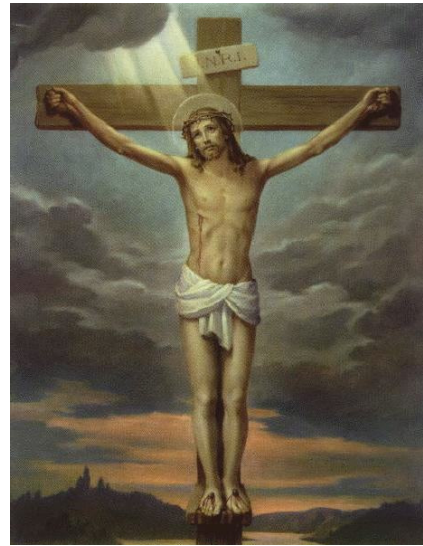
PLEASE NOTE

Even though I have included these Easter articles, services have been cancelled because of the coronavirus. ~editor

Good Friday is the day on which Catholics commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Catholics are joined by almost all other Christians in solemn commemoration on this day. It is also a legal holiday around much of the world.

According to the gospels, Jesus was betrayed by Judas on the night of the Last Supper, commemorated on Holy Thursday. The morning following Christ's arrest, he was brought before Annas, a powerful Jewish cleric. Annas condemned Jesus for blasphemy for refusing to repudiate Annas' words that He was the Son of God. From there, Jesus was sent to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the province.

Pontius Pilate questioned Jesus but found no reason to condemn Him.



Pilate appealed to King Herod, who found no guilt in Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate once again. Pilate declared Jesus to be innocent, and washed his hands to show that he wanted nothing to do with Jesus, but the crowds were enraged. To prevent a riot and to protect his station, Pilate reluctantly agreed to execute Jesus and sentenced him to crucifixion. Jesus was convicted of proclaiming himself to be the King of the Jews.

Before his execution, Jesus was flogged, which was a customary practice intended to weaken a victim before crucifixion. During his flogging, the soldiers tormented Jesus, crowning Him with thorns and ridicule. Following his flogging, Jesus was compelled to carry his cross to the place of His execution, at Calvary.

After arrival at Calvary, Jesus was nailed to the cross and crucified between two thieves. During Christ's last few hours on the cross, darkness fell over the whole land. Jesus was given a sponge with sour wine mixed with gall, a weak, bitter painkiller often given to crucified victims.

Prior to death, Jesus spoke His last words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

At the moment of Christ's death, an earthquake occurred, powerful enough to open tombs. The long, thick curtain at the Temple was said to have torn from top to bottom.

Following the incredible events of the day, the body of Christ was removed from the cross and laid in a donated tomb, buried according to custom.

The events of Good Friday are commemorated in the Stations of the Cross, a 14-step devotion often performed by Catholics during Lent and especially on Good Friday. The Stations of the Cross are commonly recited on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent. Another devotional, the Acts of Reparation, may also be prayed.

Good Friday is a day of fasting within the Church. Traditionally, there is no Mass and no celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday. A liturgy may still be performed and communion, if taken, comes from hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday. Baptism, penance, and anointing of the sick may be performed, but only in unusual circumstances. Church bells are silent. Altars are left bare.

The solemn, muted atmosphere is preserved until the Easter Vigil.



TEN FAVORITE SCRIPTURES OF CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

1. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe in this?" John 11:25-26

2. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Co 1:18

3. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

4. "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count your-

selves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Romans 6:8-11

5. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

6. "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Co 15:55-57

7. "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isa 53:4-5

8. "Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died---more than that, who

was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." Romans 8:34

9. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

10. "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death --- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Php 2: 5-11

French Bishop: Fear the 'Epidemic of Fear' More Than the Coronavirus

"People should be more concerned about the epidemic of fear than the coronavirus outbreak," Bishop Pascal Roland of Belley-Ars has said.

"More than the epidemic of coronavirus, we should fear the epidemic of fear! For my part, I refuse to yield to the collective panic and to subject myself to the principle of precaution that seems to be moving the civil institutions," Bishop Roland said. "So I don't intend to issue any specific instructions for my diocese. Are Christians going to stop gathering together for prayer? Will they give up going to see and help their fellow man? Apart from measures of elementary prudence that everyone takes spontaneously to not contaminate others when you're sick, it's not advisable to add on more," he said.

Many Churches around the world have issued precautionary guidelines for Masses, or cancelled public Masses entirely, because of the coronavirus outbreak which originated in China late last year.

Bishop Roland pointed out that during the great plagues of the past, Christians joined together in common prayer, ministered to the sick, attended the dying, and buried the dead. They did not turn away from God or their neighbor.

"Doesn't the collective panic we are witnessing today reveal our distorted relationship to the reality of death? Does it not manifest the anxiety-inducing effects of losing God?"

"We want to hide from ourselves the fact that we're mortal, and having closed off the spiritual dimension of our life, we're losing ground. Because we have more and more sophisticated and efficient techniques available, we claim to master everything and we obscure the fact that we're not the masters of life!"

Coronavirus is an occasion to "remind ourselves of our human fragility," the French bishop noted, saying that "this global crisis at least has the advantage of reminding ourselves that we live in a common home and that we're all vulnerable and interdependent and that it's more urgent to cooperate than to close our borders!"



The bishop observed that "it seems we've all lost our minds! And in any case, we're living in a lie. Why suddenly focus our attention on just the coronavirus?"

Continuing, the bishop said that he has no intention of ordering "churches to be closed, Masses to be canceled, eliminating the sign of peace at the Eucharist, or imposing such and such a way of receiving Communion reputed to be more hygienic (that said, everyone can do as they want!) because the church is not a place at risk, but a place of health. It's a place where we welcome the one who is Life, Jesus Christ, and where through him, with him and in him we together learn to be the living. A church has to remain what it is: a place of hope! A Christian doesn't fear death. He's not unaware that he's mortal, but he knows in whom he has placed his trust."

"And a Christian doesn't belong to himself. His life is given, because he follows Jesus Christ who teaches 'For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.'"

"So let's not give in to the epidemic of fear! Let's not be the living dead!" Bishop Roland concluded.



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE



Francesco Franzese

Field Agent

727-324-8200

Francesco.Franzese@kofc.org

Brothers,

I felt it prudent to make it known what we are doing at the Knights of Columbus to continue operations for our 13,000+ members here in Central Florida during the COVID-19 outbreak. First, let me start by saying that this is something that we are taking very seriously both here locally in my office and globally at Supreme. We are working diligently to continue operations in a manner that you would expect, and frankly, in areas that we would like to exceed your expectations. We are still continuing in-person meetings when prudent but are also offering a virtual option with Skype/FaceTime/Zoom to avoid any unnecessary risks for our Brother Knights and their families. Our main office in Sarasota is open, and the

office staff is available to help with your every need.

We are still working hard to protect your family's lives, retirement savings, disability paychecks, and dignity in long-term care. We have many tools that we are utilizing to continue to help you and your families virtually when necessary, like video conferencing, internet-based applications, retirement planning software, and let's not forget the good old-fashioned telephone. We are still able to provide a consultative, personal, data-encrypted meeting from a distance to keep not only your family safe but your information as well. I'd like to personally invite you to utilize these capabilities if you need our assistance with new or existing policies. We are happy and ready to help!!

Our agent advisors are working on completing policies that many of you have already requested. We are also working diligently on all service requests. Our agent advisors have been reaching out to many older brothers, families, and widows to see if they need assistance as a wellness check-up. Don't be caught off guard if we call on you to help those of us that need it most. Now is the time to pull together.

Now is the time for us to act as one – and we in Central Florida are ready for the challenge!

At our Agency, we are all working hard to ensure your families continue to have access to our best-in-class Advisors, Life Insurance, Long-Term Care, Disability, Annuities, and Financial Planning Software. Many of you are well aware of the amazing benefits you receive as policyholders with the Knights of Columbus, not the least of which is the GUARANTEE that you will never lose money in your IRAs, 401k rollovers, Roth IRA's, and non-qualified accounts. As you can imagine, much of our time has been spent reassuring people that their life insurance is in force and further reassuring them that they haven't lost a dime with the Knights of Columbus. This is a tradition that we are proud to proclaim in uncertain and tumultuous times like these. Please know that we are here for you, ready and willing to help in any way possible. Our office staff and agents are always available to answer your call. May the Lord bless and protect you and your families now and forever!!
Your Brother in Christ,
Francesco Franzese

JOURNEY OF Faith

by Jim Hand

The expression "It's all good" originated in 1994 through the release

of the song *It's All Good* by a couple of rappers. Today it has evolved into a simple expression that is usually taken literally, stating how things are going. Personally, I have never used it, but I soon will.

A friend I first remember using it was Bill Grosse. You might remember him and his wife Alice. She died in September of 2016 and Bill died a year later. It was Bill who first used that expression in my little world. It was his typical response when I would ask him how he was doing (as he was dying of cancer.) "It's all good," he would say, and for him it was. He refused to let Alice's death depress him, nor did he become depressed when he soon learned after her death that he now had cancer. I remember one time when he, my wife Jean, and I ate out at Bone Fish Grill a few months before he died. As soon as he walked up to the table, we could easily tell that he had lost weight and that his color wasn't right. Even so, there was a smile on his



face and he quickly said, "It's all good" when we asked him how things were going, even though he later would tell us that his doctor's biggest hope was to keep him alive for Christmas. I remember thinking at that time that I, too, must have the courage and faith when my time comes to leave this world as Bill and so many others before him have had. Even now at St. Jerome, there are many who are not doing well physically who inspire me by their faith and fortitude. I would love to name a few, but I know I would forget someone and that's not an option for me, so just let me say a group "Thanks" to them for letting me stand on their shoulders as I consider what might be ahead for me.

I am prompted to write this article because of what recently happened to me. On Thursday, March 12, I had carotid surgery, my second. When I saw my surgeon the next day, he said that he had performed over 5,000 carotid surgeries and that I was 1 of only 5 or so that was as bad as he had ever seen. "You were one step from a stroke and sudden death," he said. Now when you hear something like that, you will certainly ponder it more than once. My eventual conclusion, thanks to Bill Grosse and all the rest of you faith-filled friends, is

"It's all good." By that I mean the following:

- I was raised by Christian parents.
 - I was given good friends as I grew up.
 - When I was trying to find a vocation, a secret voice (God?) told me to go into field of education where I enjoyed 36 years of teaching young people how to think. I couldn't have been happier.
 - When I needed summer income (we were paid for only 180 days), a secret voice (God?) told me to give house painting a try. It turned out that I like it, was good at it, and gave me that income I needed. I had no idea things would turn out so well when my first painting jobs were at \$2.50 an hour.
 - When I attended a Cursillo in Peoria, Illinois, in 1971 as a protestant, I was blessed.
 - When my first wife died and Jean Push stepped into my life, I was deeply blessed because she led me to the Catholic religion.
 - When I went through the RCIA ministry, I was blessed.
 - When I became a reader, I was blessed.
 - When Jean and I became a part of the funeral ministry, I was blessed.
 - When I became a part of St. Jerome's Knights of Columbus Council 17942, I was blessed.
 - And when my surgeon told me I was just a step away from a stroke and sudden death, I was blessed.
- Now it's time for me to ponder how I use my time in a life where All Is Good.

Medjugorje 'visionary' says monthly apparitions have come to an end

(Concluded from page 1)

Pope Francis approved Catholic pilgrimages to Medjugorje in May 2019, but he has not made a deliberation on the authenticity of the apparitions. Pope Francis visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 2015 but declined to stop in Medjugorje during his trip. During his return flight to Rome, he indicated that the process of investigation in the apparitions was nearly complete. "The first apparitions, which were to children, the report more or less says

that these need to continue being studied," he said, but as for "presumed current apparitions, the report has its doubts," the pope said. Pilgrimages to Medjugorje have declined in numbers in recent weeks. Radio Free Europe reported March 16 that the coronavirus pandemic has diminished significantly the number of visitors to the city, especially visitors from Italy, who would ordinarily be in Medjugorje during March.

3 things you may not have known about

purgatory

1 2 3

It isn't merely a punishment. Rather, it's a gift from God to make us perfect images of Christ.	The process can be long and painful, so we need to pray for our loved ones-- always.	Though they can't pray for themselves, the souls in Purgatory can pray for us.
---	--	--

Our Prayer

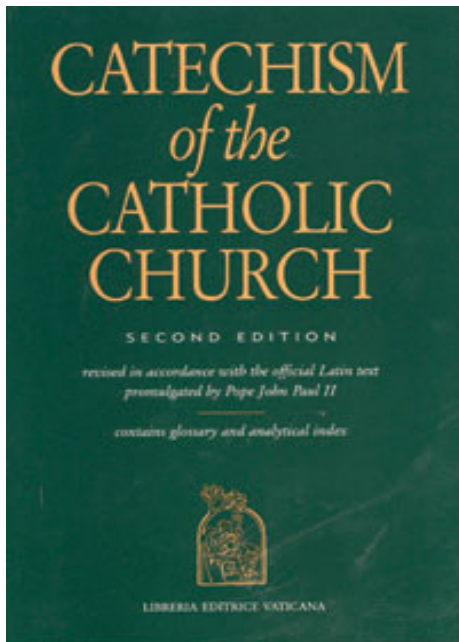
"Eternal rest grant unto them, o Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."



Partially **CANCELED**

Join Us for Breakfast

Friends:
As you probably know our first-Sunday-of-the-month breakfasts are canceled because of the coronavirus. However, if the church is open by Mother's Day, the Knights will serve breakfast to honor them.



What Does the Catechism Say about Suicide?

Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for his honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of. (CCC, 2280).

Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide. (CCC, 2282).

We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives. (CCC, 2283).