

EASTER 2021

Easter is the celebration of Christ's Resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following His crucifixion, which would be Sunday. His resur-

rection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead.

Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar. In the Gospels, the precise details of the Easter narrative vary slightly, but none of these variances are critical to the main story. In fact, it is argued that the variances are simply matters of style and not substance. Despite the variances, the key aspects of the Easter story all match. Above all, they agree that the tomb of Christ was indeed empty, which is the most essential fact.

Based on direct evidence from the mid-second century, it is believed that Easter was regularly celebrated from the earliest days of the Church. The Easter date is movable and always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter in the Roman Catholic Church is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

Most Catholics attend Easter Vigil at midnight, although the services can be lengthy because many sacraments are performed, such as baptisms and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, during the Mass. Services during the daytime on Easter are shorter and well attended.

Sunrise services are common, but are distinctly Protestant. Sunrise services are gathered before dawn and reflect the arrival of the women at Jesus' tomb early in the morning. The services take place outdoors, often in church yards, cemeteries, or in parks, and are timed so the sun will rise during the course of worship.

Traditional family activities vary by region. In the United States, children often hunt for Easter eggs, which are often brightly-dyed hard boiled eggs, though they can be plastic eggs filled with candy or small denominations of money. Candy is a traditional gift for Easter as children often break their Lenten fasts with sweets. Adults tend to share bouquets of flowers, greeting cards, and may gather for a family meal. Such celebrations are often secularized and focused on children and family rather than the religious aspect of the holy day.

Following Easter Sunday, the season of Easter begins and lasts for seven weeks, ending with Pentecost.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Nun halts troops and saves protesters in Myanmar

Vandals strike at historic K of C church in Connecticut

UK government may push to legislate again on abortion in N Ireland

Cambridge Massachusetts to recognize polyamorous relationships

Polish windsurfing star: I convinced a woman not to have an abortion

Philippine president threatens to close Catholic churches that hold public Masses

Find Spiritual Nourishment With Catholic Chicken Soup for the Soul

Governor signs death penalty repeal at site of 101 executions since 1991

Homosexual couples 'will not be denied' blessings, Cardinal Schönborn says



FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR FR. TOM MORGAN



Fr. Tom Morgan

great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church.

Jesus promised St. Faustina that "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 699) He went on to say "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and re-

ceive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy." (Diary 1109) We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and the additional Plenary Indulgence on this great Feast of Mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday. We want you to benefit fully from these promises, and we also want you to notify all of your family and friends about them and urge them to return to the practice of their faith!

Dear Friends:

Faustina

gates

which

Jesus told St.

this Feast of

Mercy would be

a very special

day when all

the divine flood-

flow are opened (Diary 699). Our

Lord made a

through

graces

that

The Image of the Divine Mercy, which our Lord requested to be solemnly blessed and venerated on this day, will be on display in our church. Pope John Paul II said that the image portrays the Risen Jesus Christ bringing mercy to the whole



world. Our Lord said to St. Faustina, "I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish." (Diary 341, 48) Please take the time to visit with this Image of the Divine Mercy and venerate Jesus.

Jesus said to St. Faustina, "I am offer-ing people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You." (Diary 327) The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."

About the feast day, Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus said "Tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire

that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though the sins be as scarlet...Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." (Diary 699)

The Church allows for one to go to Confession for up to about 20 days, before or after Divine Mercy Sunday. Sincerely yours in Christ, Fr. Tom Morgan



APRIL BIRTHDAYS





Deacon Fred Kunder April 7



Fr. Tom Morgan April 16



John Francks April 27



I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every

careless word they speak. Matthew. 12:36.

These words from Matthew are sobering, for it is so easy to say something and then immediately be sorry for it or maybe not be sorry for it at all.

As many of you know, I'm a retired English teacher, and over the years I have enjoyed using humor to bond with my students and fellow teachers. However, I always needed to know the individual I was joking with before I moved forward, for I often misjudged how the person would react. Here are some examples of what I'm talking about.

One day I walked into the principal's office for a conference with a counselor who wanted to talk to the teachers of an in-coming ninth grader who had some emotional problems. The boy, Chris, was there, along with his par-

ents and the principal. I was very surprised to see that the counselor was a good friend of mine, so I instantly decided to unleash my humor on him and impress everyone, so I said, "Hey, Dave, when did you get out of prison?" It didn't go over as well as I had hoped with Chris' parents or my friend, so I had

to quickly explain myself, and the faux paus passed.

Anther time as I was leaving the building and walking down the hall, I saw a fellow teacher ahead of me, walking with his daughter, whom I had never met. So I quickly caught up with them and after Bob introduced his daughter to me, I said, "Wow, she's a lot cuter than what you said." The girl's face dropped, but upon seeing her dad laugh, she got the joke and joined in. That was a close call.

The main reason I'm writing this article, though, is something I said at least 30 years ago to another ninth-grade boy. To this day I can't remember what possessed me to say such a thing to Dana, but I remember how shocked the look on his face was. My brain instantly sounded an alarm I had set for stupid remarks. I'm still ashamed of what I said to him and too embarrassed to tell you what it was (sorry). We im-

mediately went our separate ways, and nothing was ever said about it, but look how it has remained with me. How that stupid statement poked my conscience.

Finally, when I was a young teenager I often told a joke in which I was able to make a sound as though I couldn't speak well. I was proud of my simulated handicap. Years later I discovered that they weren't laughing at my poor enunciation at all but that the joke was dirty and I didn't even know it! I began to wonder if I would ever learn. I'm not sure if I have or not.

Indeed, the tongue is a small muscle, but how powerful it is!

Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. — Psalm 112:3-5

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. — Colossians 3:12

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ — Galatians 6:2

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion

and the God of all comfort, who comforts us all in our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. — 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you. — Ephesians 4:32

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. — Romans 12:15

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. — 1 Peter 3:8



ALTAR TAKES ONE MORE STEP TO BECOMING A REALITY

From left to right: Joe Ghezzi, Charlie Scott, Danny McConnell, and Jim Patton measure the legs of the altar for the top. It has been determined that an outside altar cannot have a relic in the top of the altar for fear that some vandals might desecrate it some evening. You will also notice a chalice that comes from St. Pat's. It has some dings that Joe Ghezzi will repair, and after a mass, the chalice will be donated to St. Jerome for future use.

Once again, this altar will be available for those who have a use for it. Eventually, reserving it can be cleared through the parish office.





Danny McConnell and Jason Peterson enjoy working together on the altar.



Danny Elliott takes a close look at what to do next.



Edgar Lecuyer's dog takes a break from supervising him.



Nearly finished altar sits awaiting decoration around its top edges.



This view gives some perspective to the base for the Christopher Columbus statue which is coming from St. Petersburg. As you can see, the 16 ft. X 16 ft. square has much rebar. There is also a 4 ft. X 4 ft square in the center for additional strength. After all, the statue is around 18 feet tall and weighs thousands of pounds. When it is being moved, it will touch stoplights and thus create a problem. As of this writing, it is not yet determined how to deal with this problem. In addition, we are in no hurry to advertise where the statue is going to be, for there are people determined that Christopher Columbus is no hero and doesn't deserve any type of notoriety. Indeed, many people are bent on destroying it. We will do our best to see that that does not happen. We are hoping that the statue is erected by the middle of the month. The church is paying for all expenses for this project; it has nothing to do with the Knights of Columbus.

COUNCIL LOSES ANOTHER MEMBER

Anthony ("Tony") Joseph Cottone died January 13, 2021, in Largo from congestive heart failure and complications from diabe-

tes. He was 88. years old. Throughout his life, Tony valued friendliness and loved to share a meal, talk things over with a student,

play a game of poker or dominoes, or just tell stories. Many will remember Tony with a twinkle in his eye, a smile on his face, and an outstretched hand.

Tony was born amid the Great Depression in Mingo Junction, Ohio. At the age of 18, Tony swam across the Monongahela River with a friend, just to see if he could. After high school, Tony joined the US Navy and served four years, during the Korean War, as an airplane mechanic aboard the USS



Essex aircraft carriersurviving shipboard fires and a near-miss collision with another ship. Tony worked as a millwright at US Steel and then attended California State Teachers College-the first person in his family to earn a college degree.

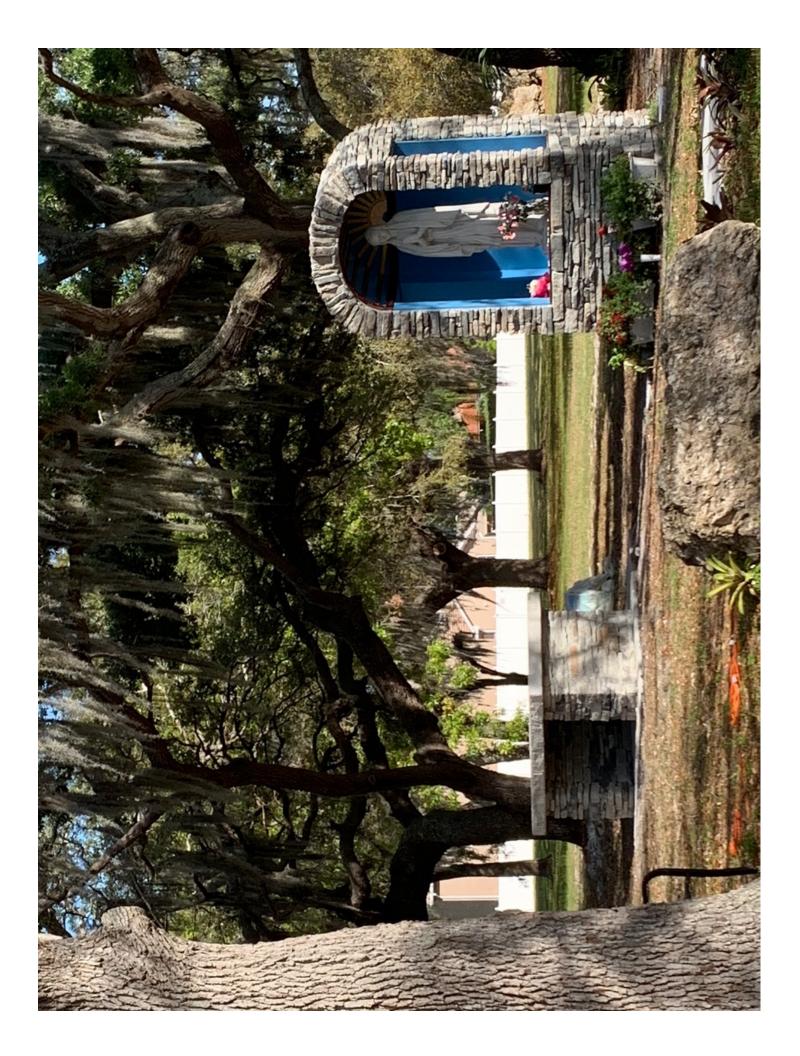
Tony met the love of his life, Janet Hornick, while working in a butcher shop in California, Pennsylvania. Inseparable for the rest of their lives, Tony and Janet raised four children in Delaware and traveled up and down the East coast with the family.

A lifelong educator, Tony started teaching at Newark High School in Delaware in 1959 and over the years taught technical drafting, architectural drafting, metalworking, and the popular

"shop math," which he introduced. Inspired by conversations with students over projects they were working on, Tony moved into Guidance at Newark in the 1970s and then to Hodgson Vo-Tech High School in the 1980s and early 90s, continuing to innovate educational programs and forge lifelong friendships along the way.

Student as well as teacher, Tony earned a Master's degree from the University of Delaware, a PhD from Temple University, and read anything he could get his hands on from youth to old age. Tony loved wine-making and the great outdoors, especially when hunting, fishing, shooting arrows, gardening, or playing golf.

A celebration of Tony's life will be held in Myrtle Beach, where Tony and Janet enjoyed so many years of their retirement, at a time to be determined.



KNIGHTS SHARE GROTTO MOMENT WITH BISHOP EMERITUS LYNCH



L-R: Ed Wirth, Jason Peterson, Chuck Lake, Danny McConnell, Pete Grasso, Charlie Scott, Bishop Emeritus Lynch, Gregg Appel, Fr. Tom Morgan, Mike Guarino, Fr. Rob, Edgar Lecuyer, Rick Hendrickson, Joe Ghezzi



Easter greetings to all my members and your families! As a time of preparation, Lent helped us focus on the sacrifice of Good Friday and the hope of the Resurrection. I hope this season brings you much joy and happiness!

That sense of rebirth that comes with our Easter celebrations also can be noticed in the change in weather. Some daffodils and tulips are poking through the soil, the temperature is creeping upward, and we hope April showers are in store and not that precipitation that has to be shoveled! As I looked around my yard, I see much that needs tending to after the winter weather. I've got a few plants to transplant, some clean-up needed around the outside of the house. I see a window that's been cracked; my "honey do" list is getting longer and longer

I've found that I'm much more efficient with a list of chores if I write down all that I need to

do. Then I go back through my list and rank order them for importance. Sometimes I get to choose the order; sometimes the order is chosen for me. In either event, the best part comes when I get to cross off the chore as being done. Maybe it's the visual of seeing one more item completed...it gives me a sense of accomplishment.

In addition to the outside chores, I have several others that always come at this time of year. I've got windows to

wash and other "spring cleaning" in the house. The vehicles could use a good cleaning inside and out, and I know there will be some major project to sift through: a pile of stuff or maybe even a room of things we don't need, don't want, or don't fit anymore.

In keeping with that list theme, put me on the list, even up at the top since it relates to your family's financial security. A virtual meeting over the computer is a way for us to meet safely and efficiently. We can discuss your needs, wants, and desires. What's changed? Let's make sure nothing stands in the way of reaching your goals. The Order has provided me with a new needs analysis program (either Profiles Professional or Navi Plan) to help you track where you are, where you want to go, and how well you're progressing on your financial journey.

Mine is an item you can cross off your list and really feel good about it. Wishing you Easter joy!

Vivat Jesus!

Why Do Catholics Abstain from Flesh Meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Fridays of Lent?



Abstinence is one of our oldest Christian traditions. "From the first century, the day of the crucifixion has been traditionally observed as a day of abstaining from flesh meat ("black fast") to honor Christ who sacrificed his flesh on a Friday.'

Up until 1966 Church law prohibited meat on all Fridays throughout the entire year. The new law was promulgated in 1983 in the revised Code of Canon Law which states, "Abstinence [is] to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ.? "All persons who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence." The U. S. Catholic Conference of Bishops extended this law to include all Fridays in Lent.

Since Jesus sacrificed his flesh for us on Good Friday, we refrain from eating flesh meat in his honor on Fridays. Flesh meat includes the meat of mammals and poultry, and the main foods that come under

this heading are beef and pork, chicken and turkey. While flesh is prohibited, the non-flesh products of these animals are not, things like milk, cheese, butter, and eggs.

Fish do not belong to the flesh meat category. The Latin word for meat, caro, from which we get English words like carnivore and carnivorous, applies strictly to flesh meat and has never been understood to include fish. Furthermore, in former times flesh meat was more expensive, eaten only occasionally, and associated with feasting and rejoicing; whereas fish was cheap, eaten more often, and not associated with celebrations.

Abstinence is a form of penance.

How to Deal with the Devil's Temptations...

... in the Desert of This Life

The devil does not tempt us primarily because we are weak sinners and are more than likely to fall. He is too evil just to be a bully. No, it's because he perceives that human beings-any human being, but especially those who are in God's grace and those who have the effects of Christ's sacraments in their souls-are superior to him, are due greater honor than him, and occupy higher places than his in the whole universe created by God. He cannot bear this humiliation, and so he does what he can to drag us down into sin.

The problem for the devil jis that he is always going to be defeated in tempting us, since even if we fall, we still can be given the grace of repentance and forgiveness. We still have an eternal advantage that he does not have. He is always foiled; he never wins in the end. We should recognize, even when we feel very weak and prone to give in, whether in small matters or great ones, that we are being tempted by the devil only because we are greater in dignity.

Being tempted by the devil means that we are more powerful than we realize, because of Christ, When we are tempted, we should call upon his power, his precious blood, his mother, and the holy angels to come to our aid. And if we fall, we should immediately do powerful things-that is, make an act of contrition out of love for God, and get to confession. Remember that the sacred liturgy tells us that God shows

h i s 🖌 almighty power most of all by his showing mercy. In tempting us, the devil

only shows his envy and frustration. In resisting him, or in seeking pardon when we don't, we show the great good we already possess. We also show the peace of knowing that we will be forgiven yet again and go on to struggle one day at a time until that happy hour when we pass from our wandering Lent in the desert of this life into the Promised Land of bliss.

And there, not only the angels, but Jesus himself will "minister to us." Glory to the Savior, victorious over temptation for our sake. by Fr. Hugh Barbour

Penance expresses sorrow and contrition for our wrongdoing, indicates our intention to turn away from sin and turn back to God, and makes reparation for our sins, it helps to cancel the debt and pay the penalties incurred by our transgressions.

Abstinence is a form of asceticism, the practice of self-denial to grow in holiness. Jesus asks his disciples to deny themselves and take up their Cross (Mt 16:24). Abstinence is a sober way to practice simplicity and austerity, to deny the cravings of our bodies to honor Jesus who practiced the ultimate form of self-denial when he gave his body for us on the Cross. Thus, to give up flesh meat on Fridays, only to feast on lobster tail or Alaskan king crab, is to defeat the ascetical purpose of abstinence. Less is more! There are countless options for simple Friday meatless dinners: pancakes, waffles, soup and rolls, chipped tuna on toast, macaroni and cheese, fried egg sandwiches, grilled cheese sandwiches, cheese pizza, and of course, fish. by Father Michael Van Sloun

WHERE DOES GOOD FRIDAY **GET ITS NAME?**

Christians believe Jesus was mocked publicly and crucified on a solemn Friday two thousand years ago. Today, the calamitous day is celebrated as Good Friday. But what's so good about that? One answer is that at the time of Jesus' crucifixion, "good" may have referred to "holy" in Old English, a linguistic theory supported by many language experts. According to Slate, the Oxford English Dictionary notes the Wednesday before Easter was once called "Good

Wednesday." Today, it's more common-ly known as Holy Wednesday. A University of Minnesota profes-sor who studies the origins of English words, told Slate if we consider the alternative names for Good Friday, such as "Sacred Friday" (romance languages) or "Passion Friday" (Russian), this theory makes a lot of sense.

Another possible reason for its moniker - a theory supported by both linguists and historical evidence — refers to the holiday's ties to Easter Sunday, which celebrates the resurrection of Christ.

Because Jesus couldn't have been resurrected without dying, the day of his death is, in a sense, "good."

That terrible Friday has been called Good Friday because it led to the Resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death and sin and the celebration of Easter, the very pinnacle of Christian celebrations.

SIX KNIGHTS ADVANCE TO PATRIOTIC DEGREE

It was my pleasure to Knight the fol-lowing Sir Knights during their exemplification into the Patriotic Degree of our Order of the Knights of Columbus recently. The gentlemen who received their degree were Sir Knight Willis (Bill) Bannon, Sir Knight James (Jim) Cullinan, Sir Knight Richard (Rick) Hendrickson, Sir Knight Charles (Chuck) Lake, Sir Knight Gregory (Greg) Mu-sick, and Sir Knight Fred Belzel. Also I was pleased to present Chuck

Lake his 50-year pin as a member of the 3rd Degree. After taking this 4th degree, I am sure that he wished he would have taken his 4th degree 49 years ago.'

Fraternally

Robert J. Anderson, PSD, FVSM Faithful Navigator of Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley Assembly, 1448



Robert J. Anderson



Bill Bannon

Chuck Lake



Jim Cullinan

Greg Musick



Rick Hendrickson



Fred Belzel



GUARDIAN ANGELS

That every individual soul has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church, and is, consequently, not an article of faith; but, as St. Jerome expressed it: "how great the dignity of the soul, since each one has from birth an angel commissioned to guard it."

This belief in guardian angels can be traced throughout all antiquity; even pagans held it. It was also the belief of the Babylonians and Assyrians, as their monuments testify, for a figure of a guardian angel now in the British Museum once decorated an Assyrian palace, and might well serve for a modern representation.

In the Bible this doctrine is clearly discernible and its development is well marked. In Genesis 28-29, angels not only act as the executors of God's wrath against the cities of the plain, but

they deliver Lot from danger; in Exodus 12-13, an angel is the appointed leader of the host of Israel, and in 32:34, God says to Moses: "my angel shall go before thee."

At a much later period we have the story of Tobias, which might serve for a commentary on the words of Psalm 90:11: "For he hath given his angels charge over thee; to keep thee in all thy ways.") Finally, in Daniel 10 angels are entrusted with the care of particular districts; one is called "prince of the kingdom of the Persians", and Michael is termed "one of the chief princes."

It is clear that the Old Testament conceived of God's angels as His ministers who carried out his behests, and who were at times given special commissions, regarding men and mundane affairs. There is no special teaching; the doctrine is rather taken for granted than expressly laid down.

But in the New Testament the doctrine is stated with greater precision. Angels are everywhere the intermediaries between God and man; and Christ set a seal upon the Old Testament teaching: "See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you, that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10). Even little children have guardi-

an angels, and these same angels lose not the vision of God by the fact that they have a mission to fulfil on earth. An angel succored Christ in the garden, and an angel delivered St. Peter from prison. Hebrews 1:14 puts the doctrine in its clearest light: "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent to minister for them, who shall receive the inheritance of salvation?" This is the function of the guardian angels; they are to lead us, if we wish it, to the Kingdom of Heaven.

St. Thomas teaches us that only the lowest orders of angels are sent to men, and consequently that they alone are our guardians, though other scholars would rather say that any of the members of the angelic host may be sent to execute the Divine commands. It is thought that not only the baptized, but every soul that comes into the world receives a guardian spirit. St. Basil, however, would hold that only Christians were so privileged.

Our guardian angels can act upon our senses and upon our imaginations, not, however, upon our wills, except by working on our intellect, and thus upon our will, through the senses and the imagination. Finally, they are not separated from us after death, but remain with us in heaven, not, however, to help us attain salvation.

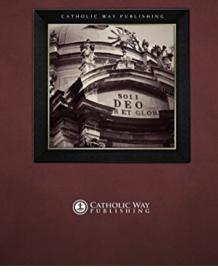
What Does the Catholic Encyclopedia Say about Stigmatas?

(Concluded from last issue)

None are known prior to the thirteenth century. The first mentioned is St. Francis of Assisi, in whom the stigmata were of a character never seen subsequently;

THE CATHOLIC Encyclopedia

AN INTERNATIONAL WORK OF REFERENCE ON THE CONSTITUTION, DOCTRINE, DISCIPLINE, AND HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



in the wounds of feet and hands were excrescences of flesh representing nails, those on one side having round back heads, those on the other having rather long points, which bent back and grasped the skin. The saint's humility could not prevent a great many of his brethren beholding with their own eyes the existence of these wonderful wounds during his lifetime as well as after his death. The fact is attested by a number of contemporary historians, and the feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis is kept on 17 September.

Some physiologists, both Catholics and Free-thinkers, have maintained that the wounds might be produced in a purely natural manner by the sole action of the imagination coupled with lively emotions. The person being keenly impressed by the sufferings of the Saviour and penetrated by a great love, this preoccupation acts on her or him physically, reproducing the wounds of Christ. This would in no way diminish his or her merit in accepting the trial, but the immediate cause of the phenomena would not be

supernatural. No one has ever claimed that imagination could produce wounds in a normal subject; it is true that this faculty can act slightly on the body, as

Benedict XIV said, it may accelerate or retard the nerve-currents, but there is no instance of its action on the tissues. But with regard to persons in an abnormal condition, such as ecstasy or hypnosis, the question is more difficult; and, despite numerous attempts, hypnotism has not produced very clear results. At most, and in exceedingly rare cases, it has induced exudations or a sweat more or less coloured, but this is a very imperfect imitation. Moreover, no explanation has been offered of three circumstances presented by the stigmata of the saints:

We shall not attempt to solve this question. Physiological science does not appear to be far enough advanced to admit a definite solution. Explanations are sometimes arbitrary hypotheses, being equivalent to mere assertions, sometimes arguments based exaggerated or misinterpreted facts. But if the progress of medical sciences and psvcho-physiology should present serious objections, it must be remembered that neither religion or mysticism is dependent on the solution of these questions, and that in processes of canonization stigmata do not count as incontestable miracles.