

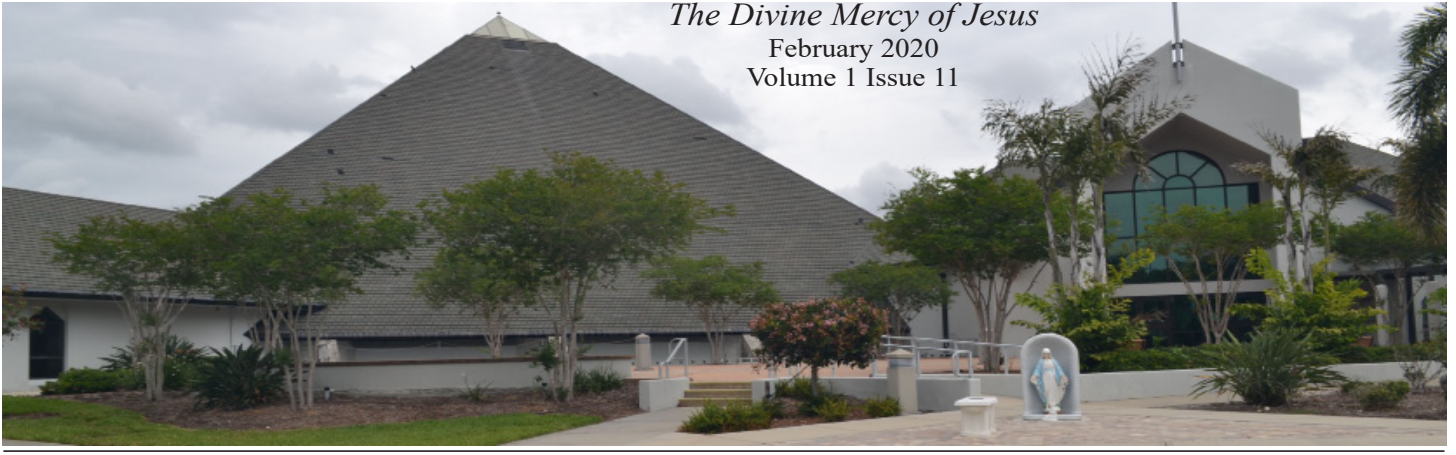
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd, Largo, FL Council 17249

The Divine Mercy of Jesus

February 2020

Volume 1 Issue 11



NEW ONLINE PROGRAM AIMED AT HELPING MEN KICK THE PORN HABIT



Watching online videos leads many men to pornography addiction. But now one set of online videos aims to lead them out.

STRIVE is video series developed by Matt Fradd in collaboration with Cardinal Studios, a Catholic media apostolate. The series, along with online discussion and accountability groups, aims to help men address pornography addictions through an intensive three-week experience.

"There are very specific things that you have to do in order to be mildly successful in overcoming porn and there are things that if you do you are bound to fail," Fradd said. "We want thousands of men doing it together. This isn't an isolated experience where you just go on a bunch of videos. It's actually a journey with literally thousands of men, who you communicate with on a daily basis."

The 21-day program allows men to participate anonymously, and will be offered four times a year. During the three weeks, participants will watch videos, discuss them online, and take up penitential and sacrificial challenges to help combat pornography addiction. The men will also engage in daily challenges. Fradd said. Among them is a "sobriety plan," a diagram of three concentric circles. He said the inner circle will include undesirable behaviors, like masturbation or pornography; the middle circle will contain near occasions of sin, like browsing the internet or moments of rejection; and the third circle will note healthy actions, like exercise or good sleep.

Having spoken to thousands of men struggling with pornography, Fradd said his experience teaches him that community is an essential part of rehabilitation. Besides the group discussions, Fradd will personally communicate with men and respond to their questions during the program.

After the 21 days are over, men will be invited to join small groups of three to continue in accountability relationships. "This is not something that you can do in isolation, hence the community aspect of the course. You must be accountable to somebody. There has to be somebody in your life that knows when you fall, that knows when you succeed."

The program costs participants \$49. Fradd said he aims to work with men who cannot afford the program in order to ensure they can enroll.

You can find out more about the program by logging on to <https://www.cardinalstudios.org/strive>.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Retired pope, Vatican cardinal write book defending priestly celibacy

Mom of twins says 'miracle' events led her to reject abortion, choose life

As Dutch parishes close, some Catholics just quit going to church

Poor Clares' contemplative monastery in Tennessee quietly closes

Pro-life group announces \$52 million war chest for 2020 election

Opposition to death penalty growing among Republicans, activists say

Don't call a pro-life midwife, UK university said

Planned Parenthood announces highest election spending in its history

Assisted suicide foes ask Manx parliament not to legalize 'despair'

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

Brothers:
It is a particularly difficult when we lose one of our own. On Monday I was called to the home of Brother Alfonso Ramos where he had passed an hour earlier. Dawn and I had stopped this past Friday to visit him at the Hospice facility in Palm Harbor. I am so happy that we all were able to get to know Alfonso in the really brief time since the beginning of our Council. He was our Worthy Warden and will truly be missed. Sitting with Alfonso one day and then sitting with him after he passed a couple of days later reminds me of how short

a time we are on this earth. Our God is important, our families are important, and our church families are important. What is especially important is to make every day count. Thank you to all of our brothers for the participation in our Sunday morning breakfasts. Our parishioners are grateful and excited that we have added this to Sunday morning after church. We will be doing this again this Sunday, February 2, and expect another good turnout. We tried something new at our January meeting by holding an Exemplification under the new rules of Supreme; I believe this was a great success. Our goal was to try to bring as many first and second degree members up to full third-degree status and then provide an opportunity to allow the members to consider becoming Fourth Degree, all while seeing how the new Exemplification worked. Our own Brother Bob

Anderson led the program along with our Worthy DD George Mercado and several of our members. Our Brother Knights of the Divine Mercy of Jesus Council continue to be involved with many activities at our church and in the community. Brother Danny McConnell and his wife Suzanne took a ride up to St. Augustine to participate in the Walk of Life which was greatly attended by Catholics throughout the State of Florida. Brother Manny Barros and his wife Lisa prepared and served an incredible meal to Sr. Lucia and her guests. This past weekend Dawn and I attended, on behalf of our Council, the 100th anniversary of Council 2105 in St. Petersburg. Brother Bob Anderson sang "God Bless America" in his booming voice and showed his membership card signed in 1960. Msgr. Muldoon also was in attendance along with a host of Knights from 2105 and the sur-

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Friends:
We begin our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday. We make this journey with Jesus as He accompanies us into the desert. We focus on three areas: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.

Pope Francis once said of Lent that "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." I invite you to enter wholeheartedly into the spirit of this season. The parish theme for Lent is, "Create in me a clean heart." Psalm 51:10. Let us make this verse our special Lenten prayer. Please remember to:
1. Observe the fast and abstinence days prescribed by the church. Please refer to the Lenten Bulletin for the regulations of Fasting and Abstinence.
2. Attend the Stations of the Cross during Lent on Fridays at 9:30 am in the

Church or 7:00 pm in the Chapel.
3. Participate in almsgiving and sacrificial giving with the Rice Bowl program. Rice Bowls are available in all church entrances.
4. Pick up a Lenten nail to carry with you throughout the 40 days of Lent as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us.
5. Attend our Lenten Penance Services with individual confessions on Monday, March 30th at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the church.
May God bless you on your Lenten journey.
~~Fr. Tom Morgan

Regulations on Fasting and Abstinence

The dual disciplines of fasting and abstinence have a long history in the Catholic Church. Going back to the early Church, the purpose behind the custom of self-denial is not punishment but to simplify our lifestyles so that we create a certain emptiness. In this way, freed from all distractions, we are able to hear and respond to God's continued call to conversion and holiness.

▪ Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 to 59 years (inclusive). On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to

one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

▪ Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. "Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance."

The Catholic Church requires her members to fast on Good Friday and encourages her members to continue

this Paschal Fast until the Easter Vigil, but she does not require this prolongation by law. Catholics are also required to keep the Eucharistic Fast every time they receive Holy Communion, including during the Paschal Triduum. "Let the Paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, as a way of coming to the joys of Sunday with uplifted and welcoming hearts."

(Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.)



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



ROARING 20s EVENT PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



THE JAZZ PHOOLS with the opening of the winning raffle ticket to see who has won the 1929 Mercedes Gazelle. This will take place Friday, February 21, 2020, 6:30 - 11 p.m. with a Roaring 20s theme. A Gala Event, then, would add to the enjoyment for everyone. It is thought that the Roaring 20s would be a perfect name for the event since the car is

Phyllis Steele (Early Childhood Center) has announced a Gala Event to coincide with the opening of the winning raffle ticket to see who has won the 1929 Mercedes Gazelle. This will take place Friday, February 21, 2020, 6:30 - 11 p.m. with a Roaring 20s theme. A Gala Event, then, would add to the enjoyment for everyone. It is thought that the Roaring 20s would be a perfect name for the event since the car is

a 1929 replica. The money from this event would go toward Raising the Roof expenses. The dinner is a catered buffet that will include a carving station (roast beef, turkey, and ham). There will also be Hors d'oevres (antipasta skeweres, spanakopita, etc.), tossed salad, mashed potatoes, green beans, and desserts. A donation of \$35 per ticket is suggested. That includes one beverage from the bar. Additional drinks will be available for a small fee. Cocktail Attire – Roaring Twenties costumes encouraged – with prizes to be awarded. Tickets are available at the parish and school offices. Call 596-9491.

For several reasons, it has been determined to hold this year's St. Patrick's Day celebration on Tuesday, March 17, from 12 to 2 p.m. We have turned it into a luncheon because there will be a mission in its final session that day, and we must avoid a parish center conflict with the mission evening reception. Instead of corned beef and cabbage, this year we will have Shepherd's Pie with sides of carrots and peas. We will also have soda bread and regular buns. Irish coffee will be available. More information will be forthcoming in the March newsletter.



This plaque was received from Supreme for the distribution of chickens at Thanksgiving

*Rest
in
Peace*

Alfonso Ramos

Brother Alfonso's funeral mass will be Saturday, Feb. 1, at St. Jerome's Parish at 1:30 p.m. A reception will follow in the Ed Kilroy building.



**Join Us For
Breakfast**

Once again the Knights of Columbus will provide a free breakfast after the first three Sunday Masses in February. The meal will consist of eggs, bacon and sausage, biscuits and gravy, and condiments. The breakfasts are well received. Join us and see why. Donations will be appreciated.



MARIAN APPARITIONS OVER THE YEARS

Part 2 of 3



Marian apparition in Lipa

The Catechism of the Catholic Church sets the standard by which the faithful should approach any claimed Apparition, private revelation or message associated with them: "The Christian economy, therefore, since it is the new and definitive Covenant, will never pass away; and no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ." Yet even if revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries. "Throughout the ages, there have been so-called "private" revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the Magisterium of the Church, the *sensus fidelium* knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church. "Christian faith cannot accept "revelations" that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfillment, as is the case in certain non-Christian religions and also in certain recent sects which base themselves on such "revelations." (CCC #65-67)

The following material is from the University of Dayton in Ohio which houses the International Marian Institute and the largest Marian library in the world. They have done a thorough job in offering assistance to the faithful on whether Apparitions are reliable and how we can approach them with the mind of the Church: "During the past several years,

the number of reported apparitions has been greatly increasing. While concentrating on Marian apparitions, our purpose here is to view all popular piety in the context of the total picture of Catholic faith, devotion, and discipleship. Our approach is to strike a happy medium between vain credulity and sterile skepticism. Perhaps we could label our position as one of critical or

moderate realism. Visionaries or seers behold an object not naturally visible to other persons. An authentic supernatural vision or apparition is different from illusions or hallucinations that result from pathological conditions or even diabolical intervention. An authentic vision is a charism given to an individual or group for the spiritual good of others and/or for the Church as a whole."

When an allegedly supernatural event has occurred, it is the responsibility of the local bishop to conduct an investigation, usually through a committee of experts.

Theologically and canonically, the bishop is entrusted with the role of "oversight" of the diocese. This role of "oversight" is based on the bishop's responsibility both for public worship and for the religious teaching which occurs in the diocese.

Norms for Discernment

1) The first norm for evaluating miraculous events is that there be moral certainty, or at least great probability, that something miraculous has occurred. The commission may interview the visionaries, call other witnesses, visit the site of the events.

2) The second norm deals with the personal qualities of the subjects who claim to have had the apparition; they must be mentally sound, honest, sincere, of upright conduct, obedient to ecclesiastical authorities, able to return to the normal practices of the faith (such as participation in communal worship, reception of the sacraments).

3) A third category deals with the content of the revelation or message: it must be theologically acceptable and morally sound and free of error.

4) The fourth positive criterion is that the apparition must result in positive spiritual assets which endure (prayer, conversion, increase of charity).

These four criteria may also be restated in a negative way. There must be no doubt that what is occurring is truly exceptional and beyond human explanation. There must be no doctrinal error attributed to God or to the Blessed Virgin Mary or some other saint. The third negative criterion is that there must be no hint of financial advantage to anyone connected with the apparitions, nor must any of the visionaries be accused of serious moral improprieties at the time when the visions were being received, nor may there be evidence of mental illness or psychopathic tendencies.

Verdicts

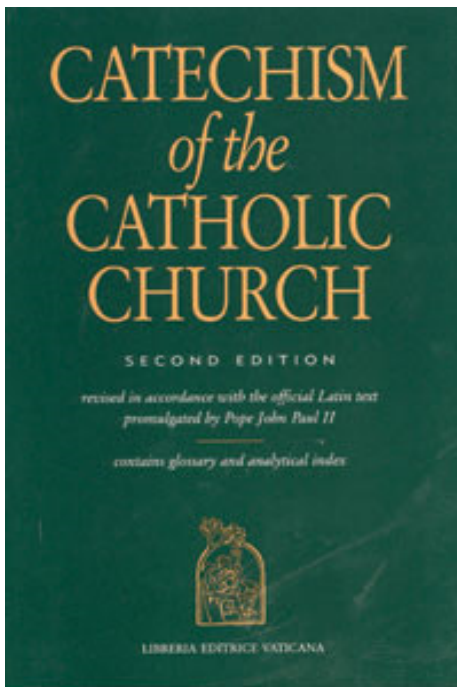
At the end of the investigative process, the committee may submit to the bishop(s) one of the following verdicts or conjectural judgements: *constat de supernaturalitate* (the event shows all the signs of being an authentic or a truly miraculous intervention from heaven); *constat de non supernaturalitate* (the alleged apparition is clearly not miraculous or there are not sufficient signs manifesting it to be so); *non constat de supernaturalitate* (it is not evident whether or not the alleged apparition is authentic).

The Bishop's decision regarding alleged apparitions usually does not attempt to interpret or give the spiritual significance of the events, nor to interpret the messages or identify the heavenly persons who may have appeared. (concluded in the March newsletter)

Grand Knight's Column

(concluded from page 2)

rounding communities. Attending this had special meaning to me. My dad was a member of this council a long time ago. This council supported the little league football team I was a part of in the mid-60's. As I was watching the pictures of Past Worthy Grand Knights I saw many faces and names of many families I grew up with in St. Pete and how I am still friends with many of them. I believe what really astounded me was that I realized what an important presence the Knights had, and continue to have, in our community and the importance of how we all fit in. Vivat Jesus. Pete



What Does the Catechism Say about The End of Time?

677 The Church will enter the glory of the kingdom only through this final Passover, when she will follow her Lord in his death and Resurrection. The kingdom will be fulfilled, then, not by a historic triumph of the Church through a progressive ascendancy, but only by God's victory over the final unleashing of evil, which will cause his Bride to come down from heaven. God's triumph over the revolt of evil will take the form of the Last Judgment after the final cosmic upheaval of this passing world.

680 Christ the Lord already reigns through the Church, but all the things of this world are not yet subjected to him. The triumph of Christ's kingdom will not come about without one last assault by the powers of evil.

681 On Judgment Day at the end of the world, Christ will come in glory to achieve the definitive triumph of good over evil which, like the wheat and the tares, have grown up together in the course of history.

682 When he comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of hearts and will render to each man according to his works, and according to his acceptance or refusal of grace.