

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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



The Divine Mercy of Jesus

March 2020

Volume 1 Issue 12

Pope Francis talks with Tim Tebow at the Vatican's Paul VI Hall



He is a Heisman Trophy winner, a two-time college football champion, a sports broadcaster, and one of the most watched players ever to play professional football, even while his career was short-lived. At 32, he is also a minor-league baseball player, taking the field with almost no chance of a big-

league career, and against players ten years younger than him, solely for love of the game.

Tim Tebow is recognized, beloved, and respected by millions around the world, even years after his career sputtered.

Those things, though, are not the most important to Tim Tebow. Most important to him is faith in Jesus Christ, Tebow says. Tebow is well-known as an Evangelical Christian, the son of missionaries, and an outspoken witness to his convictions about living the Christian life.

When he met Pope Francis at the Vatican in early February, Tebow talked with the pope about his faith, and especially about the project, borne of that faith, that had brought him to Rome.

"Our visit to the Vatican was a great experience for our entire team, and it was a joy to meet with Pope Francis to share with him our heart for people with special needs and the joy that we experienced at Night to Shine - Rome," Tebow told CNA after the visit.

Night to Shine, the project Tebow talked about with Pope Francis, hosts dances for people with intellectual disabilities and other special needs around the world. Tebow began the project in 2014 and sponsors it through the Tim Tebow Foundation.

"Our hope is that Night to Shine could grow across Italy and the entire world, where we all celebrate and love people with special needs," the athlete told CNA. Tebow told EWTN News that part of Night to Shine's purpose is to let people with special needs know "they matter, that they have significance -- and more than just to us, but to the God of this universe, because we believe that everybody has

(Concluded on page 5)



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, religious liberty should be respected

Computer programming teen Carlo Acutis to be beatified

Parts of Notre-Dame plaza, crypt expected to reopen this spring

Fla. bishops laud parental consent for abortion bill as it goes to governor

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

Brothers. This is a great time of the year as we enter the Lenten Season. I know for me and my family this is a beautiful time to strengthen our walk with Jesus, and the first time we are together as a very strong group of men at St. Jerome Catholic Church dedicated to upholding what our faith allows us to be. I know as a child growing up, my mom and dad stressed that a sacrifice was to give up something we couldn't live without, such as candy. As I look back, I realize that it was a simple habit, but it taught me the significance of true sacrifice. Today I realize that instead of giving up a simple habit for a few weeks, we can add a new habit which

will strengthen our future. We have been an organized group for a little over six months. We have had an amazing start. I was impressed that as I submitted the Fraternal Activity (1728) Report, I saw that we had collectively donated 212 hours of service to God, our priests, and our church family. I realize that these are recorded hours and would not be reflective of the time and energy actually done that we just do because of who we are as Knights and Catholics. As we become more and more organized, we will continue to enhance those hours. Again, I ask our talented membership that if there is a specific project, something you have done in the past, or something you see which supports the church, please bring it to an officers' meeting so we can help you achieve your goal. We at St. Jerome have done well with our membership, and in that same spirit I would like to see us increase the Fourth Degree, our Patriotic Degree. I know there are some of our membership who transferred from another

council and bring with them the title of Sir Knight. Please consider transferring your membership to our assembly; we have the forms and can make them available to you.

God bless everyone and continue to pray for each other.

Vivat Jesus.

Pete

WORDS OF WISDOM

Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs .

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Friends: I want to encourage you to continue to be faithful to Jesus' invitation to make our annual retreat with Him in the desert of Lent. The Catechism #2752 reminds us that "The battle of prayer is inseparable from the necessary "spiritual battle" to act habitually according to the Spirit of Christ: we pray as we live, because we live as we pray." A blessing for me so far during Lent has been to recognize Jesus' invitation to join Him in prayer. I find this at times to be a challenge but I remember Jesus praying to the Heavenly Father in John 17:21, "...that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us..." We will continue to have opportunities during the season of Lent to respond to Jesus' words in Matthew 6:6, to "... go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret." In addition, to our opportunity to join the Heavenly Father in prayer at our home,

"the Domestic Church," I invite you to take advantage of the following:

- Participate in "Operation Rice Bowl"
 - Attend "Stations of the Cross" at our parish on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. in the church or at 7 p.m. in the chapel or pray the "Stations" at home
 - Attend our Parish Mission with Gus Lloyd national radio host, author, and speaker, Sunday, March 15, through Tuesday, March 17. The theme of the mission is "Loving, Learning, and Living Your Faith". Each evening begins at 7 p.m.
 - Participate in our "Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist" Thursday, March 26 through Saturday, March 28.
 - Attend our Lenten Penance Services with individual confessions on Monday, March 30, at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the church.
- Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom Morgan

Things to Give Up for Lent

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social networking 2. Alcohol 3. Chocolate 4. Twitter 5. Questionable movies 6. Meat 7. Swearing 8. Coffee 9. Soda 10. Sex 11. Worry 12. Sleeping in 13. Anger 14. Unforgiveness 15. Comparisons 16. Gossiping 17. Stress eating 18. Complaining 19. Your time 20. Your money 21. Sleeping in a bed 22. Taking a hot shower 23. Watching TV 24. Wearing makeup 25. Games on your phone 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. Looking in the mirror 27. Checking your bank account 28. Bottled water 29. Weighing yourself 30. Questionable books 31. Listening to the radio 32. Using Instagram filters 33. Texting while driving 34. Speeding 35. Overeating 36. Getting take-out 37. Talking about yourself 38. Letting housework pile up 39. Avoiding difficult topics 40. Working overtime 41. Nagging 42. Online shopping 43. Snacking 44. Checking your phone 45. Using the drive thru 46. A specific food group 47. Negative relationships 48. Clutter 49. Negative thoughts 50. Trying to get your way
--	---

UPCOMING EVENTS



This year's celebration of St. Patrick's day will be held Tuesday, March 17, from 12 noon till 2:30 p.m. Because there is a mission that will be concluding that day and because they will

need the parish center in the evening for a reception, we need to switch things around a bit. Also, there will be a change in the previous menus: we will be serving Shepherd's pie with a side order of carrots and peas, soda bread, buns, and desserts. Irish coffee will also be available. Why the switch? Because there isn't enough time to prepare corned beef and cabbage in the time slot available to use for the dinner. The Fellowship Committee, which plans all activities, decided it was time for a break from the corned beef and cabbage.

There will be a suggested donation of \$10 pp.



THE PATRIOTIC DEGREE

The next 4th Degree Exemplification will be held in Bradenton, FL, March 28, 2020. The cost is \$70 per member and another \$60 if a spouse also attends. A tux is no longer required. Instead, a dark suit, white shirt and tie, and dark shoes will do.

The 4th Degree is also referred to as the Patriotic Degree and is the highest degree in the Knights of Columbus. The leader is referred to as the Faithful Navigator and different meetings are held from our regular council meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a 4th Degree members, please contact our GK Pete Grasso at petegrassokofc@aol.com.

Members are not required to buy the regalia.

Saints of the Month



Perpetua and Felicity

Saints Perpetua and Felicity were Christian martyrs who lived during the early persecution of the Church in Africa by the Emperor Severus. We are fortunate to have the actual record of the courage of Perpetua and Felicity from the hand of Perpetua herself, her teacher Saturus, and others who knew them.

In the year 203, Perpetua, a well-educated noblewoman, made the decision to follow the path of her mother and become a Christian, although she knew it could mean her death during the

persecutions ordered by the Emperor Severus.

Her pagan father was frantic with worry and tried to talk her out of her decision. At 22 years old, the well-educated, high-spirited woman had every reason to want to live, including a baby son whom she was still nursing. Perpetua's answer was simple and clear. Pointing to a water jug, she asked her father, "See that pot lying there? Can you call it by any other name than what it is?" Her father answered, "Of course not." Perpetua responded, "Neither can I call myself by any other name than what I am: a Christian."

Perpetua was arrested with four other catechumens, including two slaves, Felicity and Revocatus, and Saturninus and Secundulus. Their instructor in the faith, Saturus, chose to share their punishment and was also imprisoned.

Perpetua was baptized before taken to prison. The prison was so crowded with people that the heat was suffocating. There was no light anywhere and Perpetua "had never known such darkness." During all this horror, her most excruciating pain came from being separated from her baby.

The young slave Felicity was even worse off, for Felicity suffered the stifling heat, overcrowding, and rough handling while being eight months pregnant. It was against the law for pregnant women to be executed. To kill a child in the womb was shedding innocent and sacred blood. Felicity was afraid that she would not give birth before the day set for their martyrdom and her companions would go on their journey without her. Both she and Perpetua were sentenced to be thrown to the wild beast in the arena.

Perpetua's mother and brother were able to visit Perpetua and bring her baby to her.

Two days before the execution, Felicity went into a painful labor. The guards made fun of her, insulting her by saying, "If you think you suffer now, how will you stand it when you face the wild beasts?" Felicity answered them calmly, "Now I'm the one who is suffering, but in the arena, another will be in me suffering for me because I will be suffering for him."

She gave birth to a healthy girl who was adopted and raised by one of the Christian women of Carthage.

The officers of the prison began to recognize the power of the Christians

(Concluded on page 5)



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE



Francesco Franzese
Field Agent
727-324-8200
francesco.franzese@kofc.org

throughout the house. That means washing down walls and moving furniture to clean behind pieces that haven't seen the light of day since last year's cleaning. It means taking down and washing drapes and curtains; windows are washed inside and out. (Thank goodness for modern tilt windows that mean no time outside in the

family's financial security.

As your Knights of Columbus Field Agent I've been trained to help you through that important exercise. Sit down with me for a free financial needs analysis using our Profiles+ Forecaster platform. I'll take the time to gather information from you, ask about your wants, needs and desires, and put together any recommendations to help you meet those needs.

March brings thoughts of spring. For some, it's time to begin Daylight Savings Time; a little more sunlight into the evenings as the days become longer. For those in the north, it means looking forward to the thaw after winter. For some it is welcome relief after months of frigid temperatures, howling winds and heavy snow. Some in the south, who enjoy the milder winters, now realize again that after spring, a hot summer ensues.

chillier weather.) This is a time when the whole family is expected to pitch in and my "Honey Do" list gets longer and longer. (Personally, I'm the window washing guy.) In days gone by when most everyone had a coal fired furnace, a winter of closed windows meant the walls needed a good washing. With gas, electric and hot water boilers there's less of a need to wash walls, but for some, it's still a tradition. Spring is a time of renewal and revival.

With a wide range of products; life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and retirement annuities, I can help you plan for your family's financial security now and for many years to come. All with the safety and security of dealing with a company that shares your faith and beliefs and invests in accordance with Church teaching. Be sure to ask about the new life insurance product, the Protector NLG Universal Life. It may be a fit for your particular needs.

Spring also brings thoughts of spring cleaning. After being cooped up all winter, it's traditional in many households to do that deep cleaning all

While you're getting rid of all the old cobwebs of winter and freshening the house, now is a great time to do some sprucing up with a fresh look at your

Get ready for spring, get your home freshened up and make sure your financial house is spruced up. It's an easy and friendly visit from me, a brother Knight.

Vivat Jesus!



The Knights of Columbus
Council 17942
The Divine Mercy of Jesus
St. Jerome Parish
Largo, FL



We recently learned that our Brother Fr. Lopez's K Council Council 5737 in Pinellas Park has taken up the challenge of raising \$15,000 to help buy an ultrasound machine for the **Bay Area Pregnancy Center**. The total cost of this device is \$30,000. This needed ultrasound will show pregnant women their fetus alive and well in the womb, hoping this knowledge and some prayers might change their mind about having an abortion. In our district we have neighboring KoC councils: Fr. Lopez, Holy Cross, and Blessed Sacrament, all of whom have agreed to raise half of the \$15,000 goal.

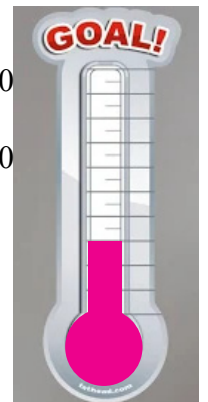
At this time our only source of generating profit is from the proceeds from our once-a-month breakfasts after the first three masses. All donations collected will be applied to this goal.

We are very proud of how our community Fellowship breakfasts have grown and are thankful for your attendance and support. Your KoC Council 17249 has scheduled 3 more breakfasts, including **March 1, 2020**. Our last breakfast, until we are back in the fall, will be **May 3, 2020**, in honor of Mother's Day. You can see from the thermometer, \$5,000 has been raised.

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000



Please remember: when you drop money in the donation basket, your sacrifice and contribution helps save precious lives.

MARIAN APPARITIONS OVER THE YEARS

Conclusion

The term "appearance" has been used in different apparitions within a wide range of contexts and experiences. And its use has been different with respect to Marian apparitions and visions of Jesus Christ.

In some apparitions such as Our Lady of Lourdes or Our Lady of Fatima an actual vision is reported, fully resembling that of a person being present. In some of these reports the viewers (at times children) do not initially report that they saw the Virgin Mary, but that they saw "a Lady" (often but not always dressed in white) and had a conversation with her.

In these cases the viewers report experiences that resemble the visual and verbal interaction with a person present at the site of the apparition. In most cases, there are no clear indications as to the auditory nature of the experience, i.e. whether the viewers heard the voices via airwaves or an "interior" or subjective sense of communication. Yet, the 1973 messages of Our Lady of Akita, which were approved at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1988 by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Ben-



Our Lady of Guadalupe

edict XVI) are due to Sister Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa who had been totally deaf before 1973 (and remained deaf until 1982 when she was cured during Sunday Mass as foretold in her messages), suggesting means of communication other than airwaves.

In some apparitions just an image is reported, often with no verbal interaction, and no conversation. An example is the reported apparitions at Our Lady of Assiut in which many people reported a bright image atop a building, accompanied by photographs of the image. The photo-

graphs at times suggest the silhouette of a statue of the Virgin Mary but the images are usually subject to varying interpretations, and critics suggest that they may just be due to various visual effects of unknown origin. However, such image-like appearances are hardly ever reported for visions of Jesus and Mary. In most cases these involve some form of reported communication. And apparitions should be distinguished from interior locutions in which no visual contact is claimed. In some cases of reported interior locutions

such as those of Father Stefano Gobbi a large amount of text is produced, but no visual contact is claimed. Interior locutions usually do not include an auditory component, but consist of inner voices. Interior locutions are generally not classified as apparitions. Physical contact is hardly ever reported as part of Marian apparitions, unlike in cases of interaction with Jesus Christ. In rare cases a physical artifact is reported in apparitions. A well known example is the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe which is reported to have been miraculously imprinted on the cloak of Saint Juan Diego.

According to the doctrine of the Catholic Church, the era of public revelation ended with the death of the last living Apostle. A Marian apparition, if deemed genuine by Church authority, is treated as private revelation that may emphasize some facet of the received public revelation for a specific purpose, but it can never add anything new to the deposit of faith. The Church will confirm an apparition as worthy of belief, but belief is never required by divine faith. The Holy See has officially confirmed the apparitions at Guadalupe, Saint-Etienne-le-Laus, Paris (Rue du Bac, Miraculous Medal), La Salette, Lourdes, Fatima, Portugal, Pontmain, Beauraing, and Banneux.

As a historical pattern, Vatican approval of apparitions seems to have followed general acceptance of a vision by well over a century in most cases. According to Father Salvatore M. Perrella of the Marianum Pontifical Institute in Rome, of the 295 reported apparitions studied by the Holy See through the centuries only 12 have been approved, the latest being the May 2008 approval of the 17th- and 18th-century apparitions of Our Lady of Laus.

TIM TEBOW, from page 1

value, everybody has meaning.

"God loves every single person. They were created in love, by love, and for love and God loves them just the way they are," Tebow added.

When he met with Pope Francis on Wednesday, Tebow reiterated those things. He and his wife, Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, spoke with Pope Francis after his Wednesday audience in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall.

After Tebow explained the project, he got some words of encouragement from Pope Francis.

"Thank you for the important work you're doing," Pope Francis told him. "Keep it up!"

Tebow has every intention of doing just that.

Perpetua and Felicity, concluded from page 3

and the strength and leadership of Perpetua. In some cases, this helped the Christians: the warden let them have visitors and later became a believer.

The four new Christians and their teacher went to the arena (the fifth, Secundulus, had died in prison) with joy and calm. Perpetua met the eyes of everyone along the way. We are told she walked with "shining steps as the true wife of Christ, the darling of God."

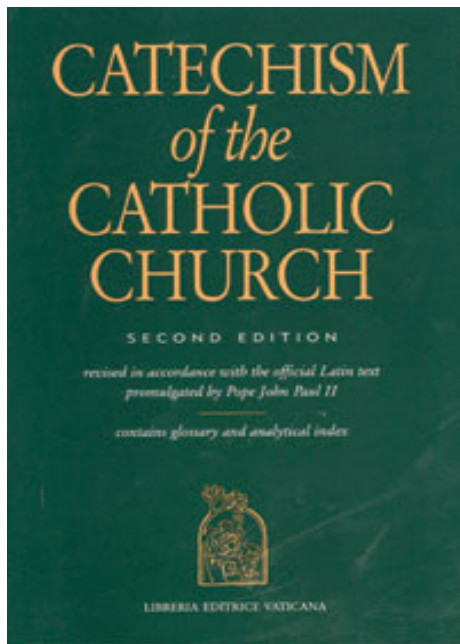
The men were attacked by bears, leopards, and wild boars. The women were stripped to face a rabid heifer. The two were thrown out and attacked, but the crowd cried out they had had enough.

The women were removed and clothed again. Perpetua and Felicity were thrown back into the arena to face the gladiators.

Perpetua called out to the other Christians, "Stand fast in the faith, and love one another. Do not let our sufferings be a stumbling block to you."

Perpetua and Felicity stood side by side and were killed by sword at Carthage in the Roman province of Africa.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity are the patron saints of mothers, expectant mothers, ranchers and butchers. Their feast day is celebrated on March 7.



What Does the Catechism Say about Anointing of the Sick?

1514 The Anointing of the Sick is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived.”

1515 If a sick person who received this anointing recovers his health, he can in the case of another grave illness receive this sacrament again. If during the same illness the person’s condition becomes more serious, the sacrament may be repeated. It is fitting to receive the Anointing of the Sick just prior to a serious operation. The same holds for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced.

1517 Like all the sacraments the Anointing of the Sick is a liturgical and communal celebration, whether it takes place in the family home, a hospital or church, for a single sick person or a whole group of sick persons. It is very fitting to celebrate it within the Eucharist, the memorial of the Lord’s Passover. If circumstances suggest it, the celebration of the sacrament can be preceded by the sacrament of Penance and followed by the sacrament of the Eucharist. As the sacrament of Christ’s Passover the Eucharist should always be the last sacrament of the earthly journey, the “viaticum” for “passing over” to eternal life.