

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL  
September 2021 Volume 3 Issue 6



## NEW OFFICERS ARE (FINALLY) INSTALLED



Front row, L-R: Knight Paul Lee, Public Relations; Sir Knight Bill Bannon, Webmaster; Knight Wayne Nuñez; Knight Bob Daughtery; Knight Jim Blackwell PFS, Trustee; Sir Knight Greg Musick; Sir Knight Pete McCabe DGK; Sir Knight Bill McClelland GK; Sir Knight Gregg Appel, Advocate, Membership Chairman PGK; Sir Knight Boone Bowen III, Treasurer; Knight Gene Sanders, Warden; Sir Knight Pete Grasso, DDPGK; Sir Knight Joe Moore, Outside Guard; Knight Ralph Frizzle; Sir Knight Edgar Lecuyer, Trustee.

Back row, L-R: Knight Fred Melachiorri; Faithful Navigator Sir Knight Bob Anderson, PDD; Knight Ed Paulus; Sir Knight Jim Patton; Sir Knight Joe Ghezzi, Grotto Director; Pastor Sir Knight Fr. Tom Morgan, Chaplain; Knight Richard Tomiano; Knight Jim Hand, Recorder and newsletter editor; Knight Victor Caro; Knight Ed Wirth, Inside Guard; Sir Knight Chuck Lake, Chancellor, Family Director; Sir Knight Jim Cullinan; Sir Knight Fred Belzel, Financial Secretary; Knight Jim Allen; Knight Rocco Totino; Knight Manny Barros

PGK Pete Grasso hands Advocate and Membership Director Gregg Appel a plaque with the Star Award on it. This award represents excellence in membership growth the past year.



Edgar Lecuyer, 1- year Trustee, receives his council jewel from his wife, Anne.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers, This is an exciting time to be a member of our council! First, let me offer my deepest appreciation for everyone who was able to attend the installation of officers on

August 14th. You really made an impressive showing of nearly 40 "brothers in blue" in attendance on the anniversary of Blessed Father McGivney's death.

Secondly, we will have a new meeting space starting October 6. Over the next two or three weeks, we will be moving to the Parish Center. While our September meetings will still be in the Kilroy building, we will start meeting in the east portion of the Parish Center (nearest the kitchen) after the rededication. This move will offer us the much-needed

space to encourage more brothers to attend our meetings.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to be more involved. We are currently in need of a Life Program Director, committee members for a variety of projects, and volunteers to help other ministries. I ask that you thoughtfully pray about this and find a way to increase your participation. Please do not hesitate to fill a need. I will participate in as many events as possible to ensure your success!

Vivat Jesus,  
Bill

YOU ARE BORN  
A MAN.  
YOU BECOME  
A KNIGHT.



Join today. Visit [KofC.org/join](http://KofC.org/join) us

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Brother Knights:

Thank you once again for your leadership during these COVID-19 times and your assistance in directing people to Sunday Mass in

the Parish Center as we wait for the air-conditioning to be repaired in the church. The estimate for the repair of the AC is mid-October. The part needed has to be manufactured.

I am happy that much in our parish life will resume during the month of September. I am happy to announce the following events:

Sept. 3 Priest visitation of the nursing homes located within the boundaries of our parish will resume & priest visits to homebound continue.

Sept. 4 Ride to Mass ministry resumes for the Saturday 4:00pm Vigil Mass. (Van drivers needed).

Sept. 4/5 Sunday Mass schedule resumes: Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm & 5:30pm; Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am 9Family Liturgy), 10:45am, 12:30pm, and 5:00pm (Life Teen).

Sept. 6 Parish ministries return to meeting: Bethlehem Center, ALPHA, Stephen Ministry, Vocation Ministry, Small Christian Community Advent and Lent Groups, St. Joseph Covenant Keepers and That Man is You Men's Groups, St. Jerome Health Ministry, Adult Faith Formation Ministry, Adult Bible Studies, RCIA weekly in person meetings, Altar Society, Returning Catholics, Hospitality Table returns to Sunday Masses, Greeters at all of our Sunday Masses, Funeral Ministry and Funeral Family receptions resume, Martha Mary Guild, Respite Ministry, Social Committee, and in person Knights of Columbus meetings.

Sept. 12 Parish Center Rededication following the 12:30 pm Mass Tuesday,

September 14 The Bethlehem Center reopens for all activities Thursday,

Sept. 16 Bingo resumes weekly in the Parish Center.



### FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Vatican increasing 'liquid' assets as it faces financial impact of pandemic, economic officials say

Archbishop: No devout Catholic can condone abortion, 'let alone have the government pay for it'

Survey Shows Wide Growth of Interest in Latin Mass

Notre Dame students' opposition to campus Chick-fil-A draws nationwide attention, harassment

Find Spiritual Nourishment With Catholic *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

Pope Francis meets actor who plays Jesus in *The Chosen*

80 years ago St. Maximilian Kolbe gave his life in Auschwitz to save a father of a family

Texas death row inmate sues to have pastor's touch in execution chamber

EWTN: Flourishing at Forty

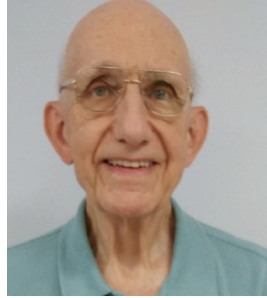
Campaign for legal euthanasia, assisted suicide takes step forward in Italy

Sept. 19 Coffee and doughnuts resumes in Education Center following Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 10:45 am Masses. (Coffee and Doughnuts will resume in the Parish Center once our Sunday Masses return to the church.

Sept. 26 St. Jerome Feast Day Celebration time and place to be announced.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Morgan



Melvin Wrubel  
September 19

## Bay Area News Channel 9 Interviews Brother Jim Blackwell



Jim Blackwell and his friends lift spirits – one song at a time.

This everyday hero, Blackwell is the founder of the non-profit group Silly Sinatras, which croon 'ol Blue Eyes' songs

across the Bay area to help others.

Jim Blackwell co-founded non-profit The Silly Sinatras, which performs and which is doing a lot of good for a lot of people. "We sing at nursing homes, senior centers, and retirement homes," Blackwell said.

Blackwell retired after years in the business community and formed the group to give back and buy food for the needy in the area. "The Silly Sinatras are all about chickens," Blackwell said. "We want a chicken in every pot."

Along with his successful career in finance, Blackwell spent plenty of time

on the road doing a second career. "I drove a Yellow cab at night," he said, "and was my own boss. Had a great time.

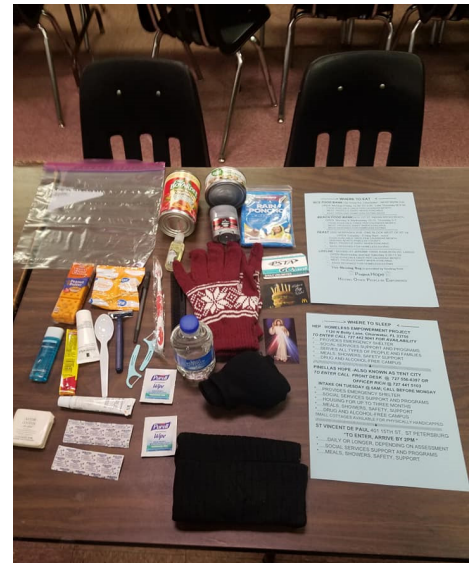
Then I met my lovely wife who hailed me down on Queens Blvd."

They've been married for 28 years. The Silly Sinatras also distribute what they call blessing bags to the homeless and others containing food, toiletries and clothing. In 2020, the group distributed over \$27,000 in food and other items including 3,687 chickens.

As the post-pandemic period nears, Blackwell said he hopes to hear again from the many nursing homes and retirement communities for the Silly Sinatra's comeback tour.

In the meantime, the Knights of Columbus at St. Jerome's Parish keeps him plenty busy.

Presently, here are the Silly Sinatras: Myself, Tom Kurt, Mark Godcharles, Chuck Lake, Gregg Appel, Jack Fitzgerald, and our newest member Kevin Manning.



The items that go into a Blessing Bag:

- 2 pr Socks
- Rain Poncho
- Hat
- Gloves
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Chicken
- Peanuts
- Crackers
- \$5 McDonalds Coupon
- Water
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Lotion
- Razor
- Comb
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Band Aid
- Pen
- Saniwipes
- Jesus Picture
- Shelter Information

-----More from Jim Blackwell that Bay News 9 was unable to report-----

When we sing far away, we drive together.

We assembled our carpool at the appointed time and two fellows climbed into my car. Shirley pulled into the parking lot and dropped off Jack, and as she did she saw Shannon, a homeless guy, amble past within a few feet of us. She said "stop that guy" and quickly took a Blessing Bag from the floor board of her car. We all talked with Shannon & offered him good wishes and blessings. We explained why we were dressed alike, and he said "very cool", thanked us for the bag, and continued on his way. Let's send up a quick prayer for Shannon.

As a singing group, the four of us are fulfilled to see the results of our efforts to sponsor the Blessing Bag project, so vividly and directly.

Please take a moment and tell us your story, and how God touched your life.

If it has been a while since you've handled a bag, I am making up new Blessing Bags now, and you can pick one up from the parish office, or the chapel..

This fall, we will have an appeal at church for toiletries and other Blessing Bag contents, and then we hope to make 100 bags with the parish Youth Group in late October.~~Jim Blackwell

**"NO ONE HAS EVER BECOME POOR BY GIVING"~~ANN FRANK**

**MONEY CANNOT BUY HAPPINES AND NEITHER CAN POVERTY.**

# Homeless Woman Touches Local Man Because of Blessing Bag

*Editor's Note: This letter was given to Jim Blackwell and he shared it with me.*

I found a homeless lady at the corner of Sawyer and Hillsborough Ave. in Tampa on the afternoon of Thursday, July 15. The lady's name was Sarah McClintock, a middle-aged beautiful smiling face who was panning the cars that were waiting for the light in an effort to receive some money to help her buy groceries. At least that is what the sign said in bold, yet tattered print. I looked in my pocket where I usually keep several \$1.00 bills. I only found two twenties and one ten dollar bill. I looked back at her begging others in the cars behind me, to which she found no response!

Then a "God Thing" occurred to me. The Holy Spirit came to me in such strong waves within my mind and said, "Give her that blessing bag."

My response to that was, "I don't have that bag with me; it's back home." So I separated the ten dollar bill from the twenties and called her up to my car to give it to her. Then another "God Thing" occurred to me.

The Holy Spirit put on my heart this feeling of being cheap and to give her a twenty dollar bill instead. So I did. She thanked me and said, "God will bless you in a special way this very day". I thanked her for her words and told her I would pray for her.

As the light changed and I started to move through the light heading west toward my intended goal of the Coun-

tryside area, my mind was hit with this powerful thought that said directly to me, "I told you to give her the Blessing Bag...now go back and do it." WOW! TALK ABOUT DIVINE DIRECTIVES!

I made the first U turn and went back to her location and parked near where she was begging. I knew I didn't have that Blessing Bag to take to her and pray with her; I quickly thought maybe I could give her the equivalent in more money.

As I gave her the rest of what I had and saw her smiling through her beautifully clear but weathered face; she just looked at me and asked why I would do this. I explained in great detail about the Pinellas County Blessings Bag Project. Her response was that it wouldn't be fair to take away something that was needed in Pinellas County more than Hillsborough County. Then I remembered that on the bag, the services were all in Pinellas - HELP, Pinellas Hope, etc. This bag truly was more for a Pinellas County "God Thing", rather than where



I was at that time.(Hillsborough County).

It was then and there I decided that I would go back and try and find her with a bag I made up of Hillsborough County Services. Talk about a God Thing.

I turn toward you of the Project Hope Blessing Bag organization and ask you to pray for this wonderful lady, Sarah McClintock. May Our Lord Bless her as she blessed me yesterday in Hillsborough County.

Blessings come in all shapes and forms. I ask you to pray that I find her again with another Bag of Blessings that I would provide specifically toward her needs.

~~Anonymous

## How the Power of Love Can Affect Lives

I volunteer twice a week at a golf club. One chilly January night, when I went to lock up the bathrooms, I noticed a vagrant in the area. I didn't have anything to give him and could see he'd have a tough time in the cold night air. As I got in my car, the Holy Spirit directed me to drive to a nearby church where evening service had ended and some folks were singing hymns in the parking lot. I stopped and explained that there was a homeless man in the adjacent woods and asked them if perhaps they knew of some way he could be helped.

They were so welcoming that several of the men went to bring him back to their building and give him food. I later learned his name was Frank, and that the church had adopted him, provided him with a job and housing and that he had joined that church. He is now an enthusiastic and contributing member of that church and our community. It is a show of the power of God at work in such a practical way, just by being avail-

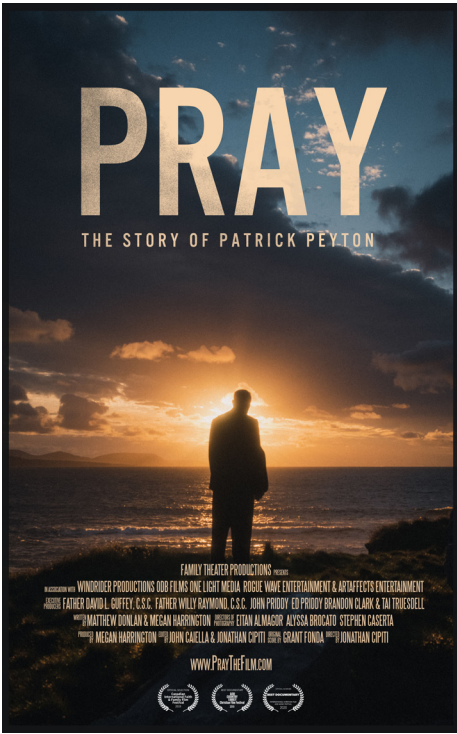
able to help in making a connection between the need and the resource, by relying, listening and trusting in the true Source of goodness and power.

~~Anonymous Bill



Statue of Jesus on park bench.

## PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON



This is an inspiring documentary released in 2020 about a poor, uneducated Irish immigrant who sets sail for America in 1928 with nothing but his faith and dreams of becoming a millionaire.

Arriving in Pennsylvania and unable to find work, he accepts the position as a janitor at a cathedral, which rekindles his long lost desire to become a priest and changes the course of his life. Nearing ordination, his life takes a radical turn when he is stricken with tuberculosis. Facing certain death, he sinks into despair. A visit from his mentor, who delivers a simple message to pray, lifts the darkness.

Taking his advice to heart, Patrick prays fervently to Mary, the Mother of

Christ, for her intercession and he experiences a miraculous recovery.

Feeling deep gratitude, he dedicates his life to telling all the world about the power of prayer and encourages families everywhere to bring prayer into their homes. Never taking "No" for an answer, he convinces Hollywood's biggest stars to help him spread the message, "The family that prays together stays together", through the power of mass media including radio, television, and film.

Father Peyton's fame spreads around the world and audiences in the millions flock to his public prayer rallies.

This is the story of a tireless missionary, an unlikely hero, and one of history's greatest advocates for family prayer.

*Watch  
and  
Be  
Inspired*

*"I watched this film with a group of college students, and we left the screening blown away that we have never heard of Father Peyton. We were all inspired to truly dive into the rosary and trust that our Blessed Mother is looking out for us!"*

## Can Parishioners Receive Communion Twice in the Same Day?



The Church's Code of Canon Law allows the faithful to receive communion twice in the same day, provided they attend the Mass at which they receive the Eucharist. Thus an individual

may receive Communion at a daily Mass and again at a wedding, funeral, or other ritual.

Insisting an individual attend the Mass at which she or he receives Communion stresses the communal aspect of the Eucharist. At Mass, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy." We also unite ourselves with other members of Christ's Body. The rule also discourages overzealous or su-

perstitious souls from wandering from church to church and taking part in no more of the Mass than the Communion rite.

Deacons who assist at more than two Masses must excuse themselves from receiving Communion after the second, but the law does not apply to the dying, and states, "The Christian faithful who are in danger of death, arising from any cause, are to be nourished by holy Communion in the form of viaticum. Even if they have received Communion in the same day [they] are strongly urged to receive again."

## BITS AND PIECES

1. At the induction of officers meeting Saturday, August 14, PGK Pete Grasso identified Jim Blackwell and Danny McConnell as Knights of the Year for the past two years.
2. Joe Ghezzi will soon have an outline of the Grotto Project Phase II.

3. Deputy Grand Knight Pete McCabe stressed the need for members to step up and be a Program Director such as Faith, Family, Community, Life, Retention, Tootsie Roll Drive, Chicken Drive, Clothes for Kids, etc.

4. Bob Anderson stated that 4th Degree is sponsoring a Christmas dinner Thursday, December 16, at 6 p.m. in the Msgr. McCall Hall. Tickets are \$25 a couple. Liquor will be \$2.00 each. The menu will be crab legs, shrimp, wings, ham. The proceeds will go to VAVS. Tickets will go on sale soon.

5. Advocate Gregg Appel was

greatly disappointed when his blue sports coat arrived. It didn't fit well, looked as though it had been slept in, and required a \$12 shipping fee and a 20% restocking fee when returned. He will continue looking.

6. There is going to be a Raise-the-Roof Campaign in October. More news will be forthcoming in the October newsletter.

7. Alpha will be starting in September. A representative of Alpha, Madonna, spoke at the last general meeting, hoping to get three volunteers to make the meals for the 8 weekly meeting. Only one Knight volunteered. The motion tabled.

~~Jim Hand, editor

# September 2021 - Overview for the Month

September falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.



# Highlights of the Month

Triumph of the Cross  
September 14

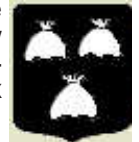
This feast commemorates the rescue of the true Cross of Christ by Emperor Heraclius in a victory over the Persians. Our Mother the Church sings of the triumph of the Holy Cross, the instrument of our salvation.

## Symbols

The Monogram of the **Blessed Virgin**. The letters of the name "Maria" are evident in this ancient symbol. A crown was sometimes placed over the monogram by Medieval artists.



The moneybags refer to the occupation of **St. Matthew** before he was called to follow Christ. He was a tax gatherer known as Levi.



The great work of the **Archbishop of Constantinople** to overcome crime, heresy, and corruption was interrupted by avaricious enemies who effected his exile, which lasted four years, and ended with his death.



**Jerome** was one of the Four Western Fathers, along with Sts. Augustine of Hippo, Ambrose of Milan and Gregory the Great. He contributed courage and wisdom in his defense of the truth. His translation of the Bible into Latin, known as the Vulgate, is in general, the version authorized in the Roman Catholic Church.



O afflicted Virgin, O soul great in virtues, as in sorrows, both the one and the other spring from that great fire burning in thy heart for God, the only love of thy heart!  
—St. Alphonsus Ligouri



The Gospels for the Sundays in September 2021 are taken from St. Mark and are from Year B, Cycle 1.

**September 5th - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

This Gospel relates the cure of a deaf man by Jesus.

**September 12th - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Peter says "You are the Christ." Jesus talks about His coming passion."

**September 19th - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

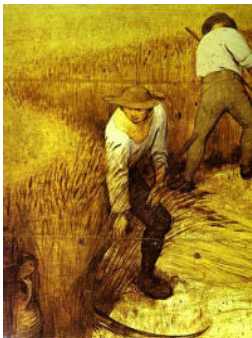
In this Gospel Jesus says whoever receives one child in His name receives Him.

**September 26th - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jesus speaks against causing scandal and avoiding occasions of sin.

# Month of the Harvest

Since man is both a spiritual and physical being, the Church provides for the needs of man in his everyday life. The Church's liturgy and feasts in many areas reflect the four seasons of the year (spring, summer, fall and winter). The months of August, September, October and November are part of the harvest season, and as Christians we recall God's constant protection over His people and give thanksgiving for the year's harvest.



The September Ember Days were particularly focused on the end of the harvest season and thanksgiving to God for the season. Ember Days were three days (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) set aside by the Church for prayer, fasting and almsgiving at the beginning of each of the four seasons of the year. The ember days fell after December 13, the feast of St. Lucy (winter), after the First Sunday of Lent (spring), after Pentecost Sunday (summer), and after September 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (fall). These weeks were known as the quattor tempora, the "four seasons."

Since the late 5th century, the Ember Days were also the preferred dates for ordination of priests. So during these times the Church had a threefold focus: (1) sanctifying each new season by turning to God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving; (2) giving thanks to God for the various harvests of each season; and (3) praying for the newly ordained and for future vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Since the reorganization of the Roman calendar in 1969 after the Second Vatican Council, Ember Days are still retained in principle, but how and when they are to be observed is at the discretion of each country's Episcopal Conference. There is no longer set Mass readings for the Ember Days in the current Roman Missal.

# LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK

In its fundamental role of judging good or evil, conscience is perhaps one of the most misunderstood of all the moral teachings of the Church.

A properly formed conscience is essential to ordering one's life toward the service of God, whose will has been clearly revealed in the scriptures, the



authoritative teachings of His Church, and the objective moral truths knowable to human reason from natural law. Man is a being with a physical body and a spiritual soul. In his body, man finds himself incorporated into the physical universe. Consequently, he is subject to its inherent order and laws. In his spiritual nature, man reflects the image of God himself. Man mirrors the divine personality in his ability to think and to choose. By virtue of his human reason and free will, man can truly be said to have been "...made in the likeness of God."

Conscience exists as a faculty of the human soul. Conscience is fed and nourished, ordered and directed by what is presented to it in the rational ability of man to know objective moral truth. Informed by divinely revealed moral truths, one's conscience renders a judgment about the goodness or evil of a particular act or choice in the

specific circumstances of the moment. Conscience then evaluates the choice one has made to determine whether or not the will of God has been observed. For conscience to function properly, it must be well-formed. Conscience must be educated and disciplined in its effort to know the objective moral principles

that are available to it either from divinely revealed sources or creation itself.

Every person has the moral obligation to see to it that his or her conscience is properly formed. This duty is fulfilled according to the particular circumstances of a person's life. The Christian conscience is formed in the lifelong process of prayerfully and diligently studying the moral lessons contained in the sacred Scriptures and the authoritative teachings of the Church. Because

the Christian conscience is formed by the knowledge of such objective truths, its moral judgments are both accurate and binding. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Christian person to read and study the Word of God, to engage diligently in the reading of spiritual books and articles, to listen attentively to the sermons of the Church's sacred pastors and to embrace humbly the moral teachings of the pope and the bishops. Because all men and women suffer the effects of sin, the human intellect is fallible. As a result, it is possible for the judgment of conscience to be in error. Out of ignorance or even faulty reasoning, conscience may not be able to render a judgment that conforms to objective moral truth.

Sometimes this ignorance can be willful or vincible. In such a situation, a person would have had the means available to overcome a lack of knowledge or misunderstanding of a particular moral

precept, yet would have rather freely chosen to remain in ignorance. A person acting on the basis of ignorance is morally responsible for the choices that are made.

On the other hand, there are times when a person's lack of awareness or misunderstanding of a particular moral obligation is not voluntary and, therefore, beyond the ability of the person to overcome it. This is termed invincible ignorance. A person acting on the basis of such invincible ignorance is not morally responsible for his actions or choices. Yet, even though he may not be morally responsible for the evil he committed, he and others may be affected by it. Sadly, such situations often have a serious and negative impact upon one's spiritual life, disrupting union with God and others.

Simply put, the most basic principle of Christian moral teaching is the strict obligation a person has to follow the judgment of a well-formed conscience. A properly formed conscience is binding because it accurately reflects the mind and will of God himself. The Catechism states, "When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking."

Not only must a person follow the judgment of a well-formed conscience, but his freedom to do so must always be assured and protected. "Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. 'He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters.'"

Perhaps the nobility and dignity of man's conscience has been most beautifully described in the poetic words of Cardinal John Henry Newman: "Conscience is a messenger of Him who, both in nature and in grace, speaks to us behind a veil, and teaches and rules us by His representatives. Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ."

By Father Joseph Parisi (edited)

## Romans 15

15 ...the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.

## Hebrews 10:22

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

## 1 Timothy 1:5

5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

## Peter 3:16

16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ

may be put to shame.

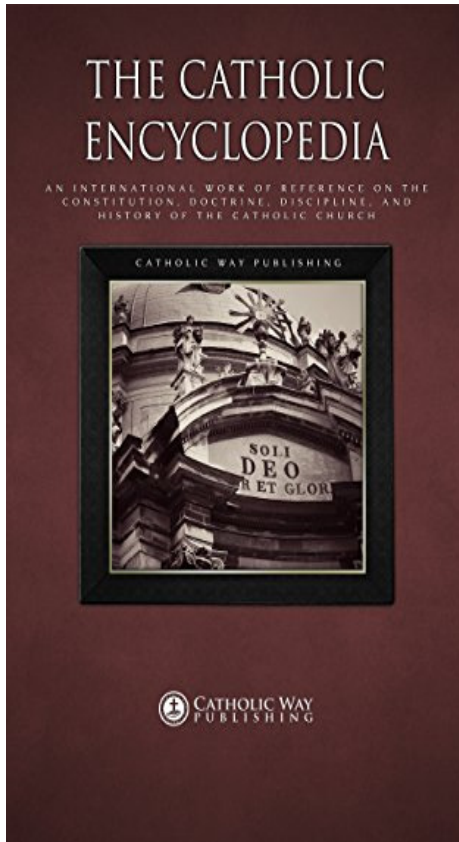
## Romans 13:5

5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

## 1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared.

# What Does the Catholic Encyclopedia Say about Mary's Assumption?



The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, has a double object: the happy departure of Mary from this life; the assumption of her body into heaven. It is the principal feast of the Blessed Virgin.

Regarding the day, year, and manner of Our Lady's death, however, nothing certain is known. The dates assigned for it vary between three and fifteen years after Christ's Ascension. Two cities claim to be the place of her departure: Jerusalem and Ephesus. Common consent favors Jerusalem, where her tomb is shown; but some argue in favor of Ephesus. The first six centuries did not know of the tomb of Mary at Jerusalem.

The belief in the corporeal assumption of Mary is founded on the apocryphal treatise bearing the name of St. John, which belongs to the fourth or fifth century. It is also found in a book falsely ascribed to St. Milito of Sardis, and in a spurious letter attributed to St. Denis the Areopagite. It is also mentioned in the sermons of St. Andrew of Crete, St. John Damascene, St. Modestus of Jerusalem and others. In the West, St. Gregory of Tours mentions it first. The sermons of St. Jerome and St. Augustine for this feast, however, are spurious. St. John of Damascus thus formulates the tradition of the Church of Jerusalem.

Regarding the origin of the feast we are also uncertain. It is more probably the anniversary of the dedication of some church than the actual anniversary of Our Lady's death. That it originated at the time of the Council of Ephesus, or that St. Damascus introduced it in Rome is only a hypothesis.

Today, the belief in the corporeal assumption of Mary is universal in the East and in the West; according to Benedict XIV (*De Festis B.V.M.*, I, viii, 18) it is a probable opinion, which to deny were impious and blasphemous. (*abbreviated*)