

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

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

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For Catholics, Interest in Exorcism Is Revived



The rite of exorcism has largely fallen out of favor in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. There are only a handful of priests in the country trained as exorcists, and they say they are overwhelmed with requests from people who fear they are possessed by the Devil. Now, American bishops are holding conferences to prepare more priests and bishops to respond to the demand. The purpose is not necessarily to revive the practice, but to help Catholic clergy learn how to distinguish who really needs an exorcism from who might need a psychiatrist. "Not everyone who thinks they need an exorcism actually does need one," said Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Ill., who organized a conference. "It's only used in those cases where the Devil is involved in an extraordinary sort of way. Some Catholic commentators said they were puzzled why bishops would bother with exorcisms at a time when they are facing a full plate of crises from parish and school closings, to polls showing the loss of one of every three white

baptized members,

to the sexual abuse scandal flaring up again. Exorcism is as old as Christianity itself. The New Testament has accounts of Jesus casting out demons, and it is cited in the Catholic Church's catechism. But it is now far more popular in Europe, Africa and Latin America than in the United States.

Most exorcisms are not as dramatic as the bloody scenes in films. The ritual is based on a prayer in which the priest invokes the name of Jesus. The priest also uses holy water and a cross, and can alter the prayer depending on the reaction he gets from the possessed. "The prayer comes from the power of Jesus' name and the church. It doesn't come from the power of the exorcist." With so few priests who perform exorcisms, and the stigma around it, exorcists are not eager to be identified.

Some of the classic signs of possession by a demon, Bishop Paprocki said, include speaking in a language the person has never learned; extraordinary shows of strength; a sudden aversion to spiritual things like holy water or

the name of God; and severe sleeplessness, lack of appetite and cutting, scratching and biting the skin.

A person who claims to be possessed must be evaluated by doctors to rule out a mental or physical illness, according to Vatican guidelines. The Rev. Richard Vega, president of the National Federation of Priests' Councils, said that when he first heard about conferences on exorcism, "My immediate reaction was to say, why?" He said that he had not heard of any requests for exorcisms and that the topic had not come up in the notes of meetings from councils of priests in various dioceses. Conferences on exorcism come at a time, he said, when the church is bringing back traditional practices. The Vatican has authorized the revival of the Latin Mass to some degree, and now a revised English translation of the liturgy, said to be closer to a direct translation from the Latin, has been put in use in American parishes.

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"People are talking about, are we taking two steps back?" Father Vega said. "My first reaction when I heard about the exorcism conference was, this is another of those trappings we've pulled out of the past."

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL

Sign up!

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St.Jerome.online.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers,

As we often said in the Army, "Semper Gumby", which to us meant "Always Flexible" and to be ready to respond to unforeseen circumstances.

We have certainly seen the need for that recently!

First, A/C issues in the church required Father Tom to divert masses to the Parish Center. Father Tom asked for support at each mass from our Knights to ensure parishioners made their way to the PC. A golf cart was charged and ready for Knights to drive the handicapped, if necessary.

Second, we decided to reschedule the installation of officers to Saturday, August 14. We will still meet for 4:00 mass with our families, and the ceremony and reception will follow. The

14th was selected as the closest day and month to Father McGivney's birth (August 12, 1852), his feast day (August 13th) and his death on August 14, 1890. I ask that you give special consideration to many blessings we have and pray for the canonization of Father McGivney, especially during the month of August.

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, You called Your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian Family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of His life and virtue, may we follow Your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling His commandment of charity and building up His Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of Your servant prompt us to greater confidence in Your love so that we may continue His work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that You glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of Your holy will.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Be careful what you think: thoughts live and travel far.

I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret the things I haven't done.

Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice.

We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

Set your course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship.

If you set out to be liked, you must be prepared to compromise on everything, and you will accomplish nothing.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Friends:

I would like to update you with our COVID Transition Plan by adding a timeline. The updated plan is presented below. Please know that we will continue

to update that plan, as necessary, to assure the utmost safety for all our parishioners.

Saturday, July 24

Last weekend for drive-through Confessions and drive-through distribution of Holy Communion. As in Pre-COVID times, those unable to participate at a public Mass will be asked to contact Sr. Lucia Brady to arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to bring the Eucharist to the home. In addition, a priest visits our homebound parishioners once a month

Saturday, July 31

Confessions return to the chapel from

The Knights of Columbus Council 17249.....

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

The practice of the faithful coming forward for the reception of Holy Communion as in pre-COVID times resumes.

Sunday, August 1

The 12:30 pm Mass returns to the schedule

Saturday, August 28

Last 4:00 pm Parish Center Mass celebrated

Saturday, September 4

The 4:00 pm Parish Center Mass no longer available

All pews are available for seating St. Jerome Van Ministry (ride to church) returns for the Saturday 4:00 pm Vigil Mass. Livestreaming of all Masses in the church and chapel continues

Sunday, September 5

The new gift shop located in the Gathering Space in the church is opened

Monday, September 6

Daily Mass will return to the chapel

All Parish ministries return to their normal meeting schedules.

Friday, September 10

Priest visitation of the nursing homes located within the boundaries of our parish will resume

Sunday, September 12

Parish Center Rededication following the 12:30 pm Mass

Tuesday, September 14

The Bethlehem Center reopens for all activities

Thursday, September 16

Bingo resumes weekly in the Parish Center

Sunday, September 19

Coffee and doughnuts resumes in Parish Center following Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 10:45 am Masses

Sunday, September 26

St. Jerome Feast Day Celebration in Parish Center, time to be announced.

Council Helps Fellowship Committee Administer July 3rd Block Party

Now that the pandemic seems to be on its way out, our parish is trying hard to plan a year-long calendar of various activities. Among the first was a July 4th celebration of our nation's founding.

Fr. Tom had wanted to wait until September 12 to officially dedicate the parish center, so the celebration was planned to be held outside on

the church grounds but the inclement weather forced the meal inside the parish center, which worked out quite well. Hamburgers and hotdogs were offered, along with a cookie, potato chips, and a drink, all for just \$5.00. The Silly Sinatras also sang for the entertainment.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and there was certainly enough food for everyone.



Grand Knight Bill McClelland, District Deputy and PGK Pete Grasso, and Knight Bill Bannon apply their grilling skills to make delicious hamburgers and hotdogs.



A cute little girl hungrily eyes the feast set before her.



Donna Siler serves another parishioner while admiring the work the Fellowship Committee, the Knights of Columbus, and volunteers did in putting the meal together.



Three parishioners among many enjoy the fellowship, music, and good food. (More pictures on the next page.)



George Jirotko helped place the desserts and also took tickets. Five dollars bought a lot of good food and a good time.

MORE PICTURES OF JULY 4TH CELEBRATION



Kim Klieber and Msgr. Muldoon appear to be enjoying themselves.



Sir Knight Gregg Appel keeps a close eye on how the Silly Sinatras are performing.



L-R: Ed Garnier and his wife Chris, Jean Push, Marcie Connors, and Liz Madray help keep the line moving.



Joe Moore and Henry Rodriguez prepare delicious popcorn, everybody's favorite snack.



Mark Godcharles and Jim Blackwell, members of the Silly Sinatras, enjoy themselves playing baseball in tune with the song *Take Me out to the Ballgame*.



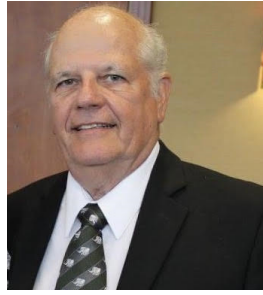
Jason Peterson and Jackie Kiesch thoroughly enjoy themselves as they watch parishioners get their food.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Billy Baldwin
August 6



Fred Belzel
August 7



Fr. Joseph Waters
August 10



Jim Blackwell
August 12



David Wilson
August 12



Peter Valasquez
August 13



Ricard Tomiano
August 19



Ron Bozzoto
August 22




FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Catholic Charities opens cooling centers amid Pacific Northwest heat wave

At least 11 Catholic churches vandalized in Calgary

UK: Bill amendment would allow abortion up to birth

Abortion activists create children's abortion book

Support grows for 'born-alive' abortion bill in Australia

Tokyo archbishop asks Olympic athletes not to visit Catholic churches during games

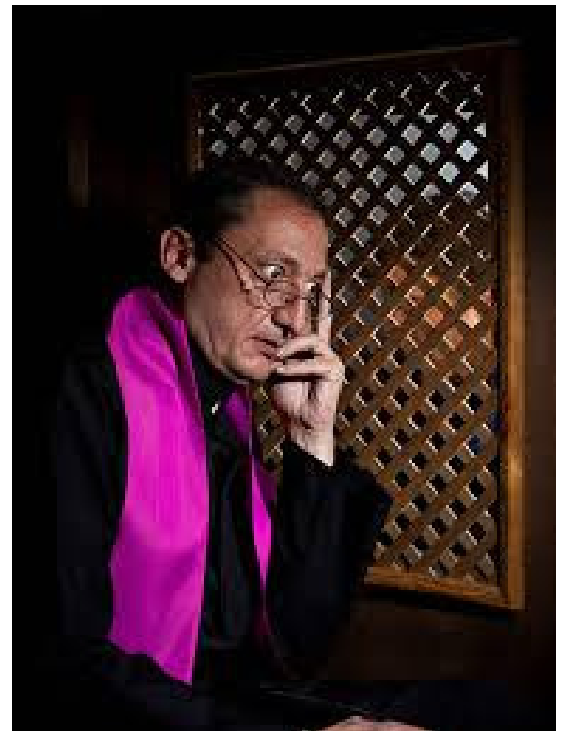
Pope Francis Restricts Use of Old Latin Mass, in a Blow to Conservatives

IS FREQUENT CONFESSION NECESSARY?

Church law requires us to confess serious sins at least once a year. Many Catholics find this difficult, so we should investigate the reasons for this precept. The Catechism of the Catholic Church observes that "setting things right" with God establishes the foundation on which we properly build or rebuild relations with one another. Admitting guilt is a way of looking at ourselves the way God does. This is not an invitation to self-punishment, but is a way of recognizing God's mercy to us, and of encouraging us to show the same mercy to others.

Such reconciliation insures our readiness for the Eucharist and also equips us to proclaim the Gospel. "In order that the message of salvation can show the power of its truth and radiance before men, it must be authenticated by the witness of the life of Christians"

Why hesitate to avail ourselves of sacramental confession? Fear? If so, we might approach the priest outside the confessional and explain our reluctance. He will surely be compassionate. We must remember the loving Christ who longs to welcome us. St. Augustine wrote: "Whoever confesses ... sins ... is already working with God.... Destroy what you have made, so that God may save what he has made."



BITS AND PIECES

Brothers:
Here are some bits and pieces of information that has come my way that I think you'll be interested in.

1. The bricks for the grotto have been selling quite well. Plans have been made with the company that will inscribe the bricks and place them into the ground. This will be an on-going project, placing the bricks into the ground when an ample amount has been sold. It could be a year before sales wrap up, if ever. In the meantime, Joe Ghezzi continues to sell the bricks at Sunday masses. Periodically, he might need help. If that happens, I will send out an alert, asking if you can help at a mass or two.



2. Sunday breakfasts prepared by our council will be coming back soon. We were just beginning to pick up steam when the pandemic arrived. If you recall, any money made was being saved to apply for an ultrasound machine to help protect the unborn. These breakfasts are prepared the first Sunday of each month and are supported by donations only.

3. Brother Gregg Appel lost his mother this month. Deaths are hard to deal with, naturally. However, our faith gives us

strength, so that's we can say, "Death, where is thy victory, death where is thy sting?" Be sure to let Fred Belzel know what a loved one or a brother dies, so he can take care of the consolation ministry.

4. When I read *God Bless Abortions* about a banner placed on Christ of the Ozarks, a statute in Arkansas, I knew I had to share it with you. You will find it in a page or two. If you are interested in articles about the Catholic faith, you can receive *The Loop* free, a daily list of articles that will interest and inform you.

5. It's looking more and more like the statue of Christopher Columbus will not be placed on church property. Some of the reasons for this are political, others are financial, and still yet we have social reasons. Many citizens simple feel uncomfortable with the idea of Christopher Columbus, thus leading to the potential of violence as an attempt could be made to deface it. Nothing final has yet been determined, but things are moving in that direction. It has yet to be determined what to do with the concrete slab that was poured for the statue.

6. During our first meeting of August, I have been asked to share some thoughts I've had concerning my faith during what we call Holy Hour. I'm excited and honored to do that. I hope others of you will also be moved to share various kinds of episodes you have experienced in your journey of faith. You will be glad you did, and so will we.~~Jim Hand, Editor

7. We have heard from brother Art Corby that not enough key volunteers turned out to help with the golf tournament, so it looks as though this year, at least, it will not happen. We know several of you are golfers and we hate to disappoint you. All we can offer you now, however, is that maybe next year it will come to pass.

JOURNEY OF Faith

The transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly takes place in the chrysalis or pupa. Butterflies goes through a life cycle of five stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Inside the chrysalis, several things are happening and it is not a "resting" stage. The caterpillar's old body dies inside the chrysalis and a new body with beautiful wings appears after a couple of weeks.



The change inside the chrysalis is slow and gradual. The caterpillar's body digests itself from the inside out. The caterpillar is attacked by the same

sort of juices that it used in its earlier life to digest food. Many of the organs are hidden in the caterpillar and they take a new form within the chrysalis. The old body is broken down into imaginal cells but not all the tissues are destroyed. Some old tissues pass onto the insect's new body. One imaginal disk will become a wing and there are imaginal disks that form the legs, antennae and the other organs of the butterfly.

During the first three to four days, the chrysalis is a little bag filled with fluid. The cells use the fluid to grow a new body. Cells are undifferentiated and they can become any

type of cell. Some parts of the caterpillars' body are more or less unchanged, including the legs. Underneath a caterpillar's skin the beginnings of wings form before it sheds its skin for the last time. Inside the chrysalis, the butterflies' wings are fully formed. A butterfly's sucking mouth parts are formed from the caterpillar's chewing mouth parts.

The chrysalis loses nearly half of its weight because the metamorphosis consumes energy. During the transformation, the chrysalis cannot defecate. The waste products accumulate and can be seen as a reddish-colored liquid under the butterfly after it emerges. Complete transformation takes about two weeks. Some species survive the winter in the chrysalis and the transformations take a couple of months. Moths goes through the same transformation but they form a cocoon instead of a chrysalis. A butterfly cocoon is a silk covering of a chrysalis.

A couple of days before the butterfly emerges, the chrysalis changes color, The butterfly's patterns and color can be seen though the chrysalis. The butterfly breaks out of the protective chrysalis and pumps blood into its newly formed wings. Then it flies away, mainly to look for a mate.

There is nothing else in nature that is so dramatic. How do we explain this? Ultimately, though, a reason has to be given and eventually science has to fall back on the Big Bang Theory. Yes, it's a theory, and as far as I'm concerned, such a theory demands more faith than I can muster. I would never make a good atheist, for I don't have enough faith to be one. Just as Joshua said many years ago, "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

August 2021 - Overview for the Month

The month of August is dedicated to The Immaculate Heart of Mary. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of 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.



The Gospel readings for the Sundays in August 2021 are taken from St. John, St. Luke and St. Mark and are from Year B, Cycle 1.

August 1st - 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time	"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."
August 8th - 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time	"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."
August 15th - The Assumption	The Gospel relates the encounter of Mary with St. Elizabeth and Mary's Magnificat.
August 22nd - 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time	"You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."
August 29th - 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Jesus admonishes the pharisees.

A Time to Persevere

The days of summer have provided a welcome change of pace. However, while vacations afford us the time to relax and refresh, the change of habits and routines can also have a negative impact on our spiritual lives. As if to re-ignite us, the Church offers us in the plethora of August feasts vivid examples of the virtue of perseverance: six martyrs — two who are named in Canon I of the Mass and two who were martyred during World War II; seven founders of religious congregations, as well as three popes and two kings; the apostle, St. Bartholomew; the great Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine and St. Monica, his mother; the humble patron saint of parish priests, St. John Vianney, and the patron of deacons, St. Lawrence, who joked with his executioners while being roasted alive.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the most perfect example of Christian perseverance, but she is also our advocate in heaven where she is crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. Mary is the "Mother of Perpetual Help", the patroness of the Congregation founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori. "No one who has fled to her protection is left unaided" is the claim of the Memorare of St. Bernard. Heretics have returned to the faith by the prayers of her Rosary, first preached by St. Dominic in the twelfth Century, and hearts have been converted by the graces received while wearing her Miraculous Medal, promoted by St. Maximilian Kolbe (and adopted as the "badge" for the Pious Union he founded).
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!

Highlights of the Month

August 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption. He solemnly proclaimed that the belief whereby the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the end of her life on earth, was taken up body and soul, into the glory of heaven, definitively forms part of the deposit of faith, received from the apostles.

Symbols

St. Bartholomew

Armenia and India are believed to have been the areas of his missionary work. He is said to have been flayed alive and crucified. A native of North Africa, converted by St. Ambrose and educated at Carthage, the Bishop of Hippo was the writer of his "Confessions" and the "City of God." This symbol refers to his intense zeal and devotion to Christ.



St. Clare

The foundress of the Order of the Poor Clares, whose emblem refers to her dispersion of Saracen invaders by facing them, bearing the Blessed Sacrament, in defense of the convent.

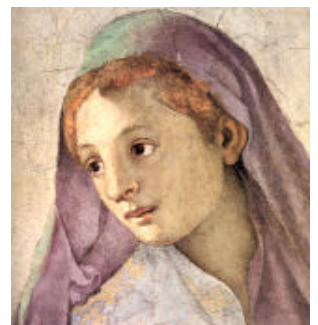


St. Lawrence

The archdeacon of Rome who, when ordered to deliver the treasures of the Church to pagan authorities, produced the poor and sick of the Christian community as the richest treasures of the Church. He was condemned and burned to death over a gridiron, retaining his cheerful attitude to the end.



With Mary Immaculate, let us adore, thank, implore and console the Most Beloved and Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



Abortion Foes Continue to Gain Ground

A recent Politico column profiled a number of abortionists and pro-abortion activists who openly admitted that they believe the pro-life movement may soon succeed in making abortion illegal throughout much of America.

Pro-abortion groups have formed a network focused on what to do when abortion is driven underground. In other words, a “community” of abortionists and activists is conspiring to continue aborting children criminally when abortion is banned by states. Their motivation comes from the recent announcement by the Supreme Court that they will review a Mississippi law that would ban abortions after fifteen weeks of gestation. “If Mississippi wins the case at the Supreme Court ... the ruling could provide the legal basis for other state bans to prohibit abortions after an unborn child’s heartbeat can be detected. Pre-born babies’ heartbeats can be heard as early as six weeks, which is nine weeks sooner than the 15-week limit in the Mississippi law,” the Supreme Court said.

The consensus among many of the abortion activists is that the Supreme Court is quite likely to grant Mississippi, and by extension all states, the right to effectively ban nearly all abortions.

“Even though our work is legal and we’re not doing anything wrong, we operate under the assumption what we do could become illegal at any time,” a member of one abortion group said.

Pro-abortion activists “have so much fatigue when it comes to, ‘This is the worst. No, now this is even worse. Oh wait, this is even worse than that,’” reporter Darius Tahir said. “Even without a sweeping court ruling, current trends are likely to continue as GOP-controlled states erect ever-more-stringent abortion restrictions, even to the extent of providing ‘private rights of action’ for ordinary citizens to enforce such restrictions against friends and neighbors, as Texas has done,”

Tahir went on to describe how abortion activists are already learning to use “underground” online forums and other surreptitious, sometimes criminal means to get women abortion pills which they can self-administer at home. These underground activities are a “nightmare” to pro-life advocates. Some of the lengths abortionists and activists are going to in order to keep the abortion industry active are especially disturbing.

“Teleabortion,” in which “a doctor instructs the patient over a video link,” remains legal in some states. Even if it were not, it would still represent one of many ways for abortionists to continue their work in a manner that would be



difficult to enforce against. Tahir mentioned pro-life advocate’s “fears that more abortions will be conducted at home.”

One anonymous activist said her online group, which exists to guide expectant mothers toward getting abortions, takes “privacy very, very, very seriously, and uses technology to that end.” They also give “very carefully worded advice ... on self-managed abortion,” she said.

As abortion providers shift much of their work online, President Biden has signaled he may soon help them by directing the FDA to lift sanctions against the online sale and shipment of abortion-inducing drugs.

“If the abortion lobby’s ultimate dream succeeds ...brick-and-mortar facilities will become obsolete,” wrote Marjorie Dannenfelser, the president of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List.

'GOD BLESS ABORTIONS' banner hung on Christ of the Ozarks statue in Arkansas by activist art group

Indecline, a two-decade-old activist art group, hung a 44-foot banner that reads “GOD BLESS ABORTIONS” on a massive monument of Jesus in northwestern Arkansas.

“The project, entitled ‘God Bless Abortions,’ is in direct response to the dramatic attempts being made in Arkansas and throughout the South to ban abortion services to women in need,” the art collective said Friday.

The banner was draped between the outstretched arms of the 67-foot Christ of the Ozarks statue in Eureka Springs on Thursday night. Members of Indecline disguised themselves as a construction crew to sneak onto the property, then used pulleys and other climbing gear to hang the banner.

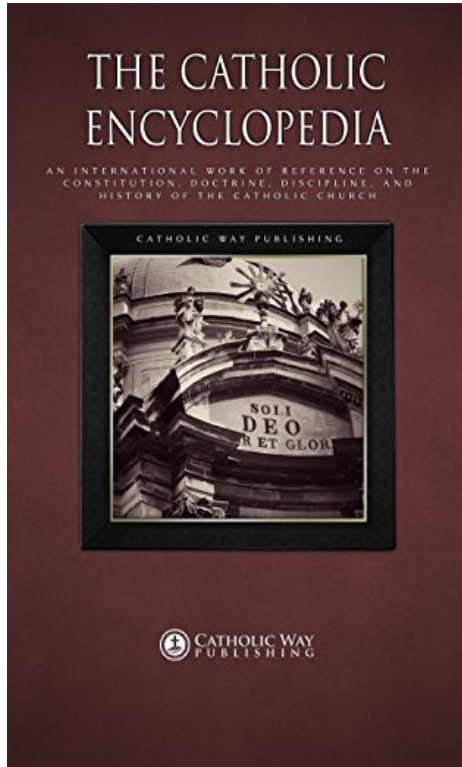
“In Arkansas, there is only one 65-foot statue of Jesus. There is also only one abortion clinic,” Indecline wrote in an Instagram caption explaining the project. “We just think abortion is a miracle worth celebrating. It saves lives, but those lives are usually female.”

Originally built in 1966, the Christ of the Ozarks statue weighs 2 million pounds and is made of 24 layers of white mortar, according to The Great Passion Play, which is performed nearby.

This is not the group’s first project surrounding abortion. In March, they vandalized a Christian billboard in Mississippi to read, “Worried? Planned Parenthood offers abortions,” instead of, “Worried? Jesus offers security.”



What Does the Catholic Encyclopedia Say about Damien the Leper?



A missionary priest, Fr. Damien was born in Belgium in 1840 and died at Molokai, Hawaii, in 1889. As a result of attending a mission given by the Redemptorists in 1858, Damien decided to become a religious. He entered the novitiate of the Fathers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. He was admitted to the religious profession in 1860. Three years later he was sent to the mission of the Hawaiian Islands, where he arrived in 1864. He was ordained a priest the same year. Animated with a burning zeal, his robust constitution allowed him to give full play to the impulses of his heart. He was not only the missionary of the natives, but also constructed several chapels with his own hands, both in Hawaii and in Molokai.

On Molokai there had grown up a leper settlement where the government kept all persons afflicted with the loathsome disease segregated. The board of health supplied the unfortunates with food and clothing, but was unable to provide them with either resident physicians or nurses. In 1873, Father Damien, at his own request and with the sanction of his bishop, arrived at the settlement as its resident priest. There were then 600 lepers. "As long as the lepers can care for themselves", wrote the superintendent of the board of health, "they are comparatively comfortable, but as soon as the dreadful disease renders them helpless, it would seem that even demons themselves would pity their condition and hasten their death."

For a long time, however, Father Damien was the only one to bring them the succor they so greatly needed. He not only administered the consolations of religion, but also rendered them such little medical service and bodily comforts as were within his power. He dressed their ulcers, helped them erect their cottages, and went so far as to dig their graves and make their coffins. After twelve years of this heroic service, he discovered in himself the first symptoms of the disease. This was in 1885. He nevertheless continued his charitable ministrations, being assisted at this period by two other priests and two lay brothers. On 28 March, 1889, Father Damien became helpless and passed away shortly after, closing his fifteenth year in the service of the lepers.