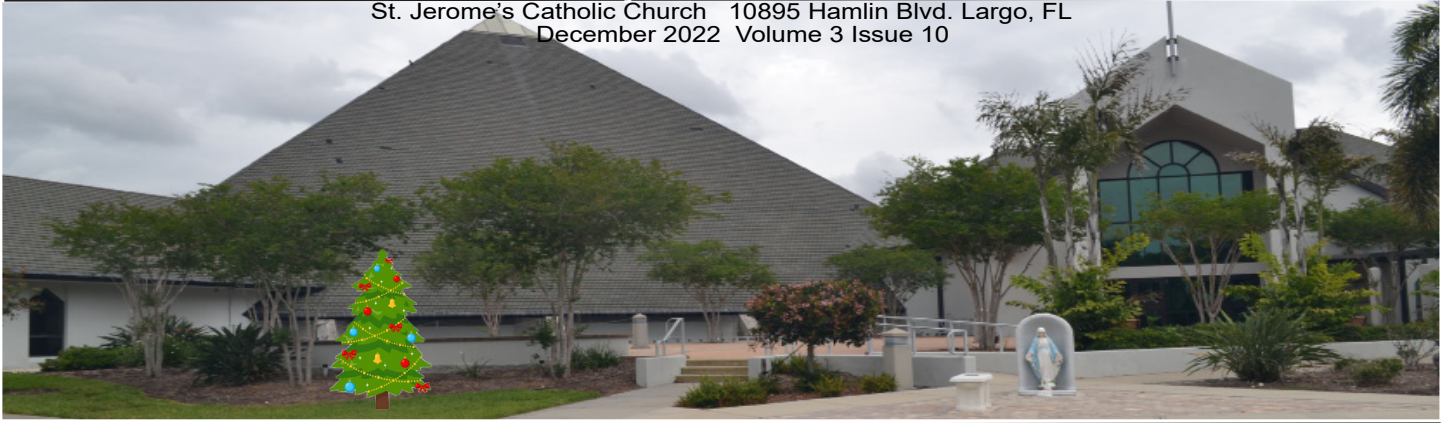


# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL  
December 2022 Volume 3 Issue 10



## CHRISTMAS 2022



## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers, I hope your Thanksgiving celebration was all that you wanted it to be. Claudia and I had neighbors come for dinner and it was a

very nice evening. Hopefully you will all be able to attend our breakfast celebration of KofC family support on Saturday, November 26. We will be cooking breakfast starting at 7:00 a.m. to serve to our Knights and families at 9:00 a.m. in the parish center. I will have a few comments, as will our District Deputy, followed by much fellowship. I also hope all of

you have contacted Brother Art Corby, letting him know how many we can expect for our Christmas dinner on Wednesday, December 14. Finally, since our Christmas celebration will be on the second Wednesday of the month, our general membership meeting will be the first Wednesday, December 7. Please make an effort to attend this meeting because we have some important issues on the agenda for a vote. Vivat Jesus, Bill



## LAUGHTER is the best MEDICINE

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do, it's because I missed my exit.

I asked my wife if I was the only one she had been with. She said yes, all the others had been nines and tens.

I used to be able to do cartwheels. Now I tip over putting on my underwear.

I hate it when I see an old person and then realize we went to high school together.

My wife says I only have 2 faults. I don't listen and something else...

At my funeral, take the bouquet off my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who is next.

I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps, got lost on the way back, now I have no idea what's going on.

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Brother Knights: May we always make room for the newborn King, Jesus Christ our Savior. Merry Christmas!

- Christmas Masses
- Christmas Eve Vigil Mass**  
December 24, 4:00 pm Church
- Children's Nativity** 4:00 PM
- Christmas Vigil Mass** Parish Center  
6:00 PM
- Christmas Vigil Mass** Church  
6:00 PM

### Confession Schedule

Monday, December 5, 2022  
Advent Penance Service with individual Confession Schedule  
Church  
9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 10, 2022  
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM  
Church

Saturday, December 17, 2022  
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM  
Church

Saturday, December 24, 2022  
NO CONFESSIONS

Please know that you will be remembered at our Christmas Midnight Mass.

- Special Christmas Events
- Christmas Tree Lighting**  
Gathering Space  
Friday, December 9, 2022 7:00 PM
- Christmas Concert**  
Church  
Friday, December 16, 2022 7:30 PM
- Christmas Wafer Oplatek Service**  
Chapel  
Sunday, December 18, 2022 1:45 PM
- Christmas Carols**  
Church  
Saturday, December 24, 11:00 PM

- Christmas Day  
Sunday, December 25, 2022  
12 Midnight
- Christmas Mass** Church  
7:30 AM
- Christmas Mass** Church  
9:00 AM
- Christmas Mass** Church  
10:45 AM
- Christmas Mass** Church  
12:30 PM



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



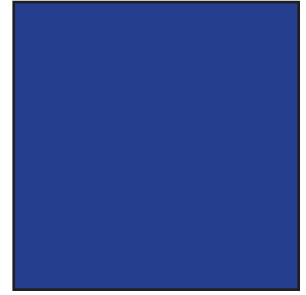
Ed Wirth  
December 1



David Bright  
December 4



Thuy Nguyen  
December 8



Rick Hendrickson  
December 9



Scott Sacchi  
December 11



Chester Wojciechowski  
December 11



Tony Crevello  
December 13



Ray Boduch  
December 21



Jordan Zupansic  
December 21

## St. Vincent de Paul's Life Was One of Giving

The Catholic Church remembers Saint Vincent de Paul, the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor and marginalized.

During a September 2010 Angelus address, Pope Benedict XVI noted that St. Vincent "keenly perceived the strong contrast between the richest and the poorest of people," and was "encouraged by the love of Christ" to "organize permanent forms of service" to provide for those in need.

The exact year of Vincent's birth is not definitively known, but it has been placed between 1576 and 1581. Born to a poor family in the southwest of France, he showed his intellectual gifts from a young age, studying theology from around age 15. He received ordination as a priest



in the year 1600, and worked as a tutor to students in Toulouse.

During a sea voyage in 1605, Vincent was seized by Turkish pirates and sold into slavery. His ordeal of captivity lasted until 1607, during which time the priest converted his owner to the Christian faith and escaped with him from Tunisia. Afterward, he spent time studying in Rome, and - in a striking reversal of fortune - served as an educator and spiritual guide to members of an upper-class French family.

Although Vincent had initially begun his priesthood with the intention of securing a life of leisure for himself, he underwent a change of heart after hearing the confession of a dying peasant. Moved with compassion for the poor, he began undertaking missions and founding institutions to help them both materially and spiritually. The one-time slave also ministered to convicts forced to serve in squalid conditions as rowers aboard galley ships.

Vincent established the Congregation of Priests of the Mission in 1625, as part of an effort to evangelize rural populations and foster vocations to remedy a priest shortage. Not long after this, he worked with the future Saint Louise de Marillac to organize the Daughters of Charity, the first congregation of women religious whose consecrated life in-

involved an extensive apostolate among the poor, the sick, and prisoners.

Under Louise's direction, the order collected donations which Vincent distributed widely among the needy. These contributions went toward homes for abandoned children, a hospice for the elderly, and an immense complex where 40,000 poor people were given lodging and work. Vincent was involved in various ways with all of these works, as well as with efforts to help refugees and to free those sold into slavery in foreign lands.

Though admired for these accomplishments during his lifetime, the priest maintained great personal humility, using his reputation and connections to help the poor and strengthen the Church. Doctrinally, Vincent was a strong opponent of Jansenism, a theological heresy that denied the universality of God's love and discouraged reception of the Eucharist. He was also involved in the reform of several religious orders within France.

St. Vincent de Paul died on Sept. 27, 1660. Pope Clement XII canonized him in 1737. In 1835, the French scholar Blessed Frederic Ozanam took him as the inspiration and namesake for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, a lay Catholic organization working for the relief of the poor.

## Wayne Nuñez Shares His Life Story

Born in Tampa, Wayne moved with his family to California when he was 10 or 11 years old, and upon graduating from high school, he thought he might go into sports. As a junior in high school, he had a tryout with the Los Angeles Dodgers and was the last one cut. Since he was relatively short, he ended up playing second base, which he loved. After graduating from high school, he and his girlfriend, Pam, got married. He began working for the city of Tampa in the recreation department as a playground director. He knew the draft was coming up and to avoid the Army, he tried to get into the Navy, but they weren't accepting married men, so he tried the Air Force, and they took him. That's how he got interested in air traffic controlling. In the Air Force, he took a battery of tests and considered the Secret Service. "I wanted to become another James Bond," he said. Un-

fortunately for him, all the spots in that field were full, but one of his supervisors told him that there were openings in Air Traffic Control and that he probably would be good at it. "At that time, I didn't know the difference between an Air Traffic Controller and a school guard," he laughingly said. This was in 1966. He was in the Air Force for four years and went to Viet Nam. Pam, his wife, and their daughter stayed with her parents in Tampa. Wayne was a controller in Danang for a year. After leaving the Air Force, he applied for a job with the FAA and was accepted immediately. Through the GI Bill, he got a degree from a McKendry College in Lebanon, Illinois in Business Administration. "It was incredible," he said, "but I always had Air Traffic Controlling in the back of my mind and ended in doing that from 1970 to 2004." Back home in Tampa, he hooked up with their division of controllers and became a supervisor of all new employees and anyone who needed a re-

fresher course. Wayne was working in the Tampa when 9/11 happened. Within an hour or less, all planes were taken out of the air. "That was the worse experience of my life," he said. Even so, he loved his job and had a security clearance from the FAA.



I have about 38 years of government service," he said. "When I retired in 2004, I had a pay grade of GS15, the highest I could get. Being an Air Flight Controller is not for everybody. There is a lot of stress that must be dealt with."

Born a Catholic, he went to St. Joseph's which is still there. His mom basically raised him. He fell in love with Pam as soon as they met. They were wed for almost 50 years. They were married in Sacred Heart in Tampa. She has been deceased almost 8 years. Bill DeVarti talked Wayne into becoming a Knight. "I love being a Catholic and a member of the Knights of Columbus and a parishioner at St. Jerome's," Wayne concluded.



Brother Bill Bannon has developed a computer program that will be a great help in locating an inscribed brick in the grotto. With a click of the keyboard, you can find what you are looking for without any delay. More information coming in the next newsletter.

Brother Joe Ghezzi has plans to create stations of the cross in the grotto. Also, he has plans to make a large rosary in the grotto with stakes identifying the Our Father locations in the rosary. We continue to desire to turn the grotto into a prayer garden and make it as peaceful and meditative as possible. The Knights would like it to be called a Prayer Garden. Joe and his fellow workers are to be congratulated on their dedication to

this project.

The altar also needs some attention. The weather has not been kind to it. Besides needing to be sanded down and refinished, it needs a cloth to cover and protect it from the elements.

We also think electricity will be added to the area for night-time security. The grotto remains a work in progress.

The possibility of an auxiliary council called the Columbiaettes was discussed at both the officers' meeting and the general meeting.

We are hoping to have at least 100 members in our council by the end of the year.

There is still a cleanup from Ian's powerful winds going on. Extra storage is desperately needed for various items. This would be temporary. If you are aware of some extra space, please contact GK Bill McClelland at 724-766-2614.

During the officers' meeting, Jim

Hand mentioned that he felt there is a need for members to identify various skills they have which could be used to help the elderly and ill with minor chores, such as plumbing, electrical, or any items that would be too difficult for widows and the ill to accomplish on their own. A committee will be formed that will identify various skills that our members have and they then, hopefully, will be available to lend a hand to remedy the situation when it crops up, just like a handyman would. This should be a very rewarding ministry. However, there might be liability involved, so that will have to be looked into before moving forward.

Bingo continues to be an excellent source of income for our council's various monetary needs. We are now faced with the unusual problem of just where to donate the money.



# WHAT IS A NOVENA?

The word "novena" is derived from the Latin word for nine, or "novem." Typically, a novena refers to nine days of prayer, asking God for a specific intention, often through a Saint's intercession. Novenas are a beautiful way to grow purposeful, consistent, and persistent in daily prayer.

Many of the most popular and widely prayed novenas begin or end on a Saint's feast day. And it's important to note that while most novenas are indeed nine days long, there are some exceptions (like the Christmas novena, which is 25 days long!).

## Why is a Novena 9 Days?

There are a few reasons why the number nine might be significant. The first comes from the Acts of the Apostles, when Jesus told His disciples to gather together and pray after His Ascension into Heaven. Tradition tells us that the Apostles, along with the Blessed Virgin Mary, went to the Upper Room and prayed together for the nine days between Jesus' Ascension (believed to have been 40 days after His Passion/Passover) and Pentecost.

Another reason could be that nine is significant because of the nine months that Mary carried Jesus in

her womb. In fact, people in the Middle Ages traditionally spent nine days in prayer leading up to Christmas to signify the nine months that Jesus spent in the womb of His mother!

The parallel between Jesus spending nine months in Mary's womb before coming forth to fulfill His mission on Earth, and Mary and the Apostles spending nine days in prayer before going forth to spread the Gospel is striking.

## How Do You Pray a Novena?

Simply pray the novena prayer that corresponds with each day for nine days straight. Some novenas repeat the same prayer each day (those are great ones to start with!), while others have a specific prayer for each day of the novena.

## Choosing a Saint

When it comes to choosing a particular Saint's intercession to seek, it's wise to choose a Saint who has some link to your intention.

For instance, if you are praying for an intercession linked to motherhood, you might consider praying a novena to ask for the intercession of Saintly mothers such as St. Gianna Molla, St.

Zelie Martin, or St. Monica.

If your intention centers around a job or employment, you may consider a novena to ask for the intercession of St. Cajetan, the patron Saint of job seekers, or St. Joseph.

If your intention feels particularly thorny, convoluted, or desperate, a novena to ask for the intercession of St. Jude, patron Saint of desperate situations. These are not hard and fast rules, just ideas to get you going!

## Lean into Grace

Finally, don't sweat the details too much. If you miss a day, it's okay. Say two prayers the next day, or just call it a wash and keep going. God is merciful. A sincere heart and our best effort is what He asks of us!

It's important to remember that God is absolutely not a genie in a bottle. We don't get prayers granted like wishes as long as we click our heels together three times or say certain prayers the right way. While a novena is a beautiful way to bring our specific intentions before God, it's not a guarantee that He will answer our prayers in the way that we hope. Often, His answers are always better than anything we could have imagined or hoped for anyway.

## A BRIEF STORY OF FAITH

A story is told of an elderly priest who had served at the motherhouse of a community of Sisters for decades. As he was dying, the Mother General asked him if he had any last requests. He said, "I want to be buried with the Sisters." She informed him that, according to the rule of the order, that was not possible. He pressed: "After all my years of service, I think I deserve some special consideration." Reverend Mother went to the general council, who came up with a Solomonic solution: Monsignor could be buried in a plot at the entrance to the nuns' cemetery. So, now the question was: "What do you want on your tombstone?" Quickly, the old gent replied: "Blessed art thou among women!"



Statue of Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Dr. Joseph Carrozza had been looking forward to a once-in-a-lifetime visit to the country of his ancestors: Sicily. At age 67 and in poor health he had little time left to complete this journey with Cheryl, his wife. Joseph's main medical problem came from neuropathy in his feet and long-lasting back problems which surgery and shots can not correct. He had made up his mind that he was destined to live out the remainder of his life with pain, doing his best to function as an internal medicine doctor and a loving husband. He is determined not to feel sorry for himself.

In 2021 plans were finally made for an extended vacation in Italy. Unable to walk far, Joseph and Cheryl made plans for someone to drive them wherever they went. At home he used both a walker and a cane and wore a back brace. He decided that taking a walker would be too difficult, so he hoped his back brace and cane would suffice. In addition, he had Cheryl to cheer him on and literally support him as much as she could.

Taking off from the Albany, NY, airport they

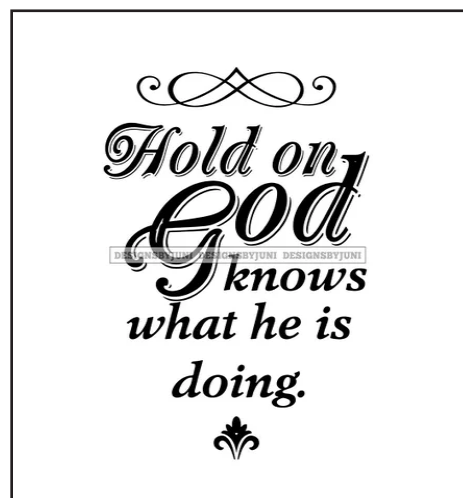
eventually made their way to Rome. From there they went to Sicily with short stops in between. Their hotels were beautiful, the sights were gorgeous, and the food was delicious. And best of all, Joseph's pain was not more than he could handle. At one point he said that there were so many churches they could have spent their entire vacation going into them all. One that caught their attention was St. Francis of the Immaculate. He was cautioned by Cheryl that he probably couldn't make it to the top of the many steps. He was determined to try, though. Before he began ascending, he noticed a butterfly flut-



tering toward him out of nowhere; it landed on his cane and stayed there until Joseph started up the steps. It went straight up into the sky. By the time he got to the top of the steps, his pain was practically totally gone and the butterfly was out of sight. When he was taking his pain medication it had never worked this well before. What was happening? He was amazed. Going inside, he and Cheryl offered up some prayers as they always did and suddenly Joseph found himself crying like a baby as he asked for his pain to be taken from him so he could lead a normal life. Crying was very unusual for him.

After their prayers they left the church and made their way down the steps. Little by little Joseph felt the pain returning which immensely puzzled him. He had been thinking that perhaps God had performed a miracle, but if that were the case, why was the pain returning?

The experience was wonderful, but he couldn't stop wondering what had happened. His faith had been challenged, and he has determined it will be a while before he can conclude what to make of the experience, especially since the pain has returned in full force.



# A Few Thoughts about Purgatory and Praying for the Dead

Praying for the dead might not make sense to nonbelievers but for Catholics it is part and parcel of the faith tradition, rooted in Old Testament readings and supported by the Catechism and the Church's funeral liturgy. "Our faith teaches us to pray for the dead," said Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, Ill., stressing that although people hope that those who die are with God and the angels and saints, it is not necessarily a guarantee.

Scripture teaches that all of the dead shall be raised. However, only the just are destined for the kingdom of God," the bishop wrote.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the clearest Bible reference about prayers for the dead is from the Second Book of Maccabees. When soldiers were preparing the bodies of their slain comrades for burial they discovered they were wearing amulets taken from a pagan temple which violated the law of Deuteronomy so they prayed that God would forgive the sin these men had committed.

The New Testament echoes this notion in the second letter of Timothy when Paul prays for someone who died named Onesiphorus, saying: "May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church also has something to say about prayers for the dead, stating: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." The Roman catacombs where early Christians were buried also were places of prayer.

Today, prayers for the dead begin at the moment of death, often when family members are gathered around the bedside of the person who has died. Prayers for death and grieving are among the "Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers," published in 2007 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, that includes prayers immediately after death, prayers for mourners, prayers at the graveside and a more general prayer for the dead.

Of course these prayers continue in the funeral liturgy, which is the "central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the de-

ceased," according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' overview of Catholic funeral rites. The website points out that it is "an act of worship, and not merely an expression of grief." It is a time when the Church gathers with the family and friends of the deceased "to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery," it adds.

The prayers in the funeral liturgy express hope that God will free the person who has died from any burden of sin and prepare a place for him or her in heaven. "The funeral rite is a prayer for the dead, designated by the Church as the liturgy of Christian burial," wrote Bishop Braxton in his reflection.

He noted that many parishes "regularly disregard" the emphasis of this liturgy by printing funeral programs which say: "the Mass of the Resurrection: A Celebration of Life," even though the person has obviously not yet been raised from the dead."

According to the Catechism, most Catholics who don't merit hell still need purification before entering heaven and pass through a state when they die that the Church describes as purgatory. Paulist Father Joe Scott said praying for the dead has "further origins in our belief in the communion of saints."

The priest, an associate pastor at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community in Los Angeles, added that living members of this communion can "assist each other in faith by prayers and other forms of spiritual support."

## Brother Knights Honor Unclaimed Army Veteran at Funeral Mass



L-R: Chuck Lake, Bill McClelland, Jim Patton, Joe Ghezzi, Pete Grasso, unidentified, Rocco Totino, Pat Minucci

Thank you to all of the Knights of Columbus family who were able to attend the funeral mass for the unclaimed Army Veteran at St. Jerome's. Msgr Muldoon celebrated and

thanked our group for participating.

James Fullerton will be buried with military honors at Florida National Cemetery.



one in five has a diagnosed mental illness. That's 20% of our population. Chances are, someone you

ed suicide laws.

We must realize that when people hurt, they tend to suffer silently. They withdraw into themselves. Those with anxiety and depression sink deeper and deeper into the belief that they are worth nothing, that they don't matter to others, and that the world would be "better off" without them in it. They want someone to love and care for them, or they want a way out.

Medical assistance in dying (MAID) has been available in Canada since 2016 and is set to expand in March 2023, extending eligibility to those with a mental illness. The new bill would allow people to apply for medical aid in dying solely on the basis of a mental disorder.

When a government deems it appropriate to "care" for people by allowing them to take their own lives, we have reached a point of serious crisis.

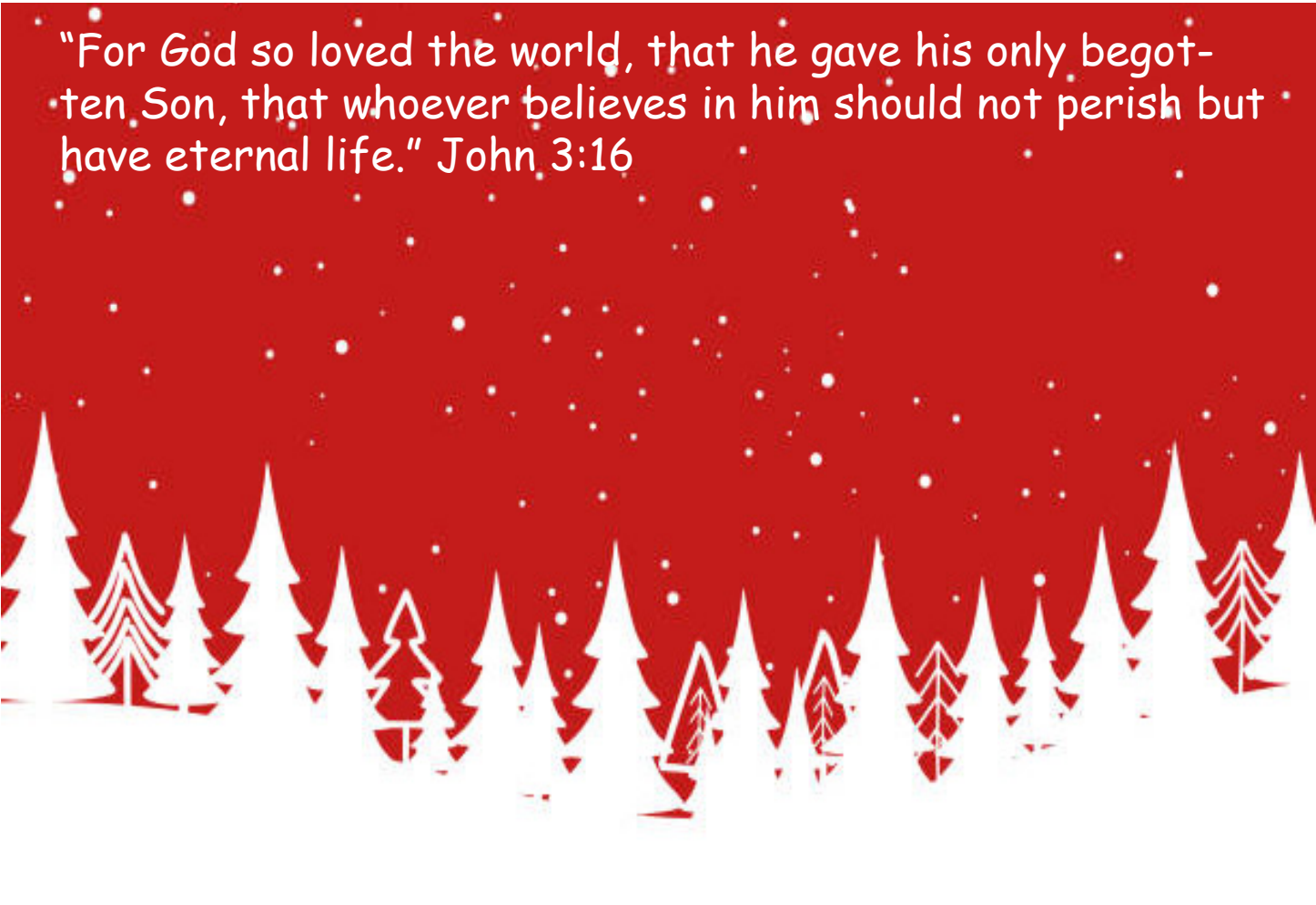
Mental illness is a terrible thing. According to Canadian statistics, over five million people seek mental health services each year, and about one in three Canadians will be affected by mental illness every year. The statistic is higher in the US, where about

know is suffering from some type of mental illness. This is not a crisis to take lightly. As Christians, we desire to help such people, not to make them feel like failures or like burdens so that they want to end their lives. Yes, this law is Canadian and doesn't extend to America, but the mentality is pervasive—and though laws do not cross borders, ideologies do.

We must pay attention to those around us. We must look at their needs and offer to help them. Sometimes we can do nothing but listen or even just sit. But even by sitting with them, we are giving them the most important message we can: You matter to me. And when people know they matter, they will be less likely to want to take advantage of assist-

Then along comes laws like the one in Canada that tell people that it's okay to feel so despondent that you want to take your own life: "Here, we'll make it easy. The world will be better off without you."

It's evil, and it gives people a free pass from taking care of one another. The only way that we can stop the insidiousness of assisted suicide laws is to speak out against them and to ensure that our friends, family, and neighbors know that we value them. Christ told us that whatever we do to others, we also do to Him. Let us remember this, especially as we head into the holidays. The world is full of people who are hurting. It is our job to help them through the pain, not to help them extinguish their lives.







# Trunk or Treat

October 28, 2022



# A Historical Perspective of Scapulars

Devotional scapulars are objects of popular piety, primarily worn by Roman Catholics, as well as some Anglicans and Lutherans, designed to show the wearer's pledge to a confraternity, a saint, or a way of life, as well as reminding the wearer of that promise. Some devotional scapulars bear images, or verses from scripture.

Scapulars typically consist of two rectangular pieces of cloth, wool or other fabric that are connected by bands. One rectangle hangs over the chest of the wearer, while the other rests on the back, with the bands running over the shoulders. Some scapulars have extra bands running under the arms and connecting the rectangles to prevent them from getting dislodged underneath the wearer's top layer of clothes.

The roots of devotional scapulars can be traced to the gathering of laity into confraternities for spiritual direction, whereby the faithful would be assigned some badge or token of affiliation and devotion. The image or message on the scapular usually reflects the order's focus, tradition or favored devotion. Devotional scapulars and the indulgences

attached to them grew along with the growth of Catholic confraternities during the 17th and 18th centuries. The fact that specific promises and indulgences were attached to the wearing of scapulars helped increase their following, as was seen with the early example of the Brown Scapular, habit of the Carmelites. This promise was based on the Carmelite tradition that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared

to St. Simon Stock at Cambridge, England in 1251 in answer to his appeal for help for his oppressed order and recommended the Brown Scapular of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel to him and promised salvation for the faithful who wore it piously. Regardless of the scholarly debates regarding the exact origin of the Brown Scapular, it is clear that it has been a part of the Carmelite habit since the late 13th century.

By the early 20th century the devotional scapular had gained such a strong following among Catholics worldwide that Joseph Hilgers, in the Catholic En-



cyclopedia of 1912 stated: "Like the rosary, [the Brown Scapular] has become the badge of the devout Catholic". In the 1917 reported apparitions of Our Lady of Fátima the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared "with a Rosary in one hand and a scapular in the other". Sister Lúcia (one of the three Fátima children visionaries) stated that the Virgin Mary told her: "The Rosary and the Scapular are inseparable".

In the United States "Scapular Magazine" helped enroll one million Americans to pray the Rosary based on the Fatima messages