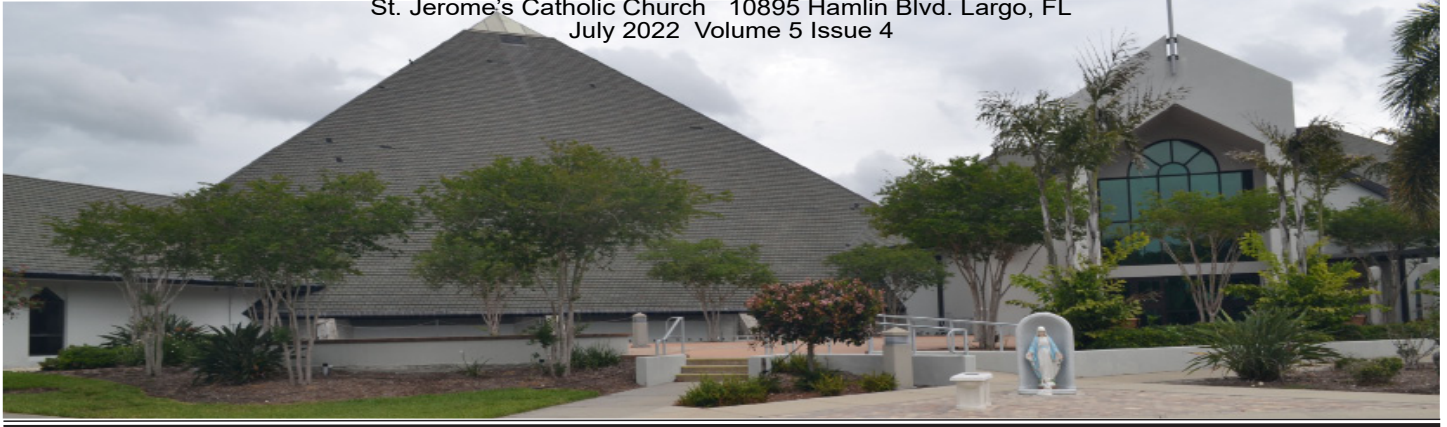


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
July 2022 Volume 5 Issue 4



July Devoted to the Precious Blood of Communion

During the sacrament of communion, we should not use irreverent phrases such as "we're serving wine at Mass." After consecration, the wine is no longer wine—it is the Precious Blood of Jesus, to which the month of July is devoted.



Holy Communion is not always the simplest thing to explain, though with a lively faith it can be easy to be enthusiastic about it! People may even be put off because we're "exclusive" about who receives. (If you're stumped on how to explain this subject to others, here's some help.) Other people not understanding or not believing shouldn't hold you back, though! How much do you understand? Do you need to pray "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!"?

This month being dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus, spilled on the cross for us, is your opportunity to focus directly on this topic. Read about it. Pray about it. Frequent the sacraments, including confession so you can receive Him with a clean soul!

Reflect on how you can succinctly respond to others' questions about your faith, your Savior, and receiving the Precious Blood. The Anima Christi prayer may help you to delve into this month's focus.

The Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within Your wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from you.
From the evil one defend me.
In the hour of my death, call me.
And bid me come to You,
That with all Your saints,
I may praise You forever and ever.
Amen.



From around the world
of interest to Catholics

Spanish Jerusalem Bible changes 'fishers of men' to 'fishers of persons'

The Matter of Life, a new pro-life movie, will be streaming in theaters soon

The past should be source of inspiration, not the destination, Pope says. He has previously said he has never denied the Eucharist to anyone.

Vandalism of pro-life pregnancy centers continues across US.

Bishop Robert Barron to lead Winona-Rochester Diocese in Minnesota

Minors seeking abortion in Illinois no longer need notify parents

Lawrence Lader Is the Father of the Abortion Movement

Pope Francis: There are many 'restorers' in the US who do not accept Vatican II

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers,
This year, we enter into an exciting chapter for our council. Bingo is going very well, breakfasts each month continue to exceed expectations, and we are seeing bricks laid at the grotto on a regular basis. We plan to continue our service to the parish by assisting other ministries with events like the 4th of July party, wine and beer tasting, Trick or Trunk, the Christmas party, and many other events. We need your support!

To encourage more participation and help you find a volunteer opportunity that matches your skills and inter-

ests, we are developing a new phone tree. In the next several weeks, you should expect a call from a fellow Knight. I will initiate the tree and track how long it takes to get a message out and making random calls to verify the correct message was received. This tree will be a valuable resource to keep you informed of KofC events and to check on the welfare of our members.

Finally, I encourage all of you and your families to attend the Council Officer Installation on Wednesday, July 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. The installation will take the place of our regular Officer Meeting on that date. Please come and celebrate the exciting new year ahead of us.

Vivat Jesus,
Bill

LAUGHTER
is the best
MEDICINE

How does an attorney sleep? First he lies on one side, then he lies on the other side.

I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none of them work.

Will glass coffins be a success? Remains to be seen.

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo? One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter.

Two windmills are standing in a wind farm. One asks, "What's your favorite kind of music?" The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma? There's no menu - you get what you deserve.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers yesterday, but couldn't find any.

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A maybe.

Anyone who says their wedding day was the best day of their life has clearly never had two candy bars fall down the chute at once from a vending machine.

**FR. TOM IS ON VACATION.
HIS COLUMN WILL APPEAR
IN THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER.**

**You can't keep getting mad at people
for sucking the life out of you
if you keep giving them a straw.**

LOOKING ABORTION IN THE EYE

"One third of all pregnancies in Detroit ends in abortion." Such was the shocking headline of the Detroit News in huge black letters. The distressing numbers revealed that while there were 18,360 women who became pregnant in Detroit, 5,693 of these pregnancies resulted in the deaths of children killed in abortion. I can speak with a certain authority on this subject. Since 1977 I have stood outside abortion centers in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit and have helped hundreds of women turn away from abortion, providing many of them extensive material assistance," stated one Detroit News reporter. "When a Detroit News article cited 'poverty and dwindling access to affordable contraception' it barely

scratched the surface why a third of all Detroit pregnant women flocked to the doors of abortion centers. "After 35 years of helping inner-city women in crisis pregnancy, I can say with confidence that the abortion cocktail is mixed with two lethal ingredients: sexual activity without marriage and the irresponsibility of men who beget children and do not father them. Nearly 90 percent of women obtaining abortions are unmarried. These are women who face motherhood without the support of an intact family, a husband, or at least responsible live-in boyfriend who supports her and nurtures his children. This causes women to experience poverty, low self-esteem, abandonment, a sense of being over-

whelmed and unstable personal circumstances. This leads women, often coerced by their boyfriends, to the doors of abortion centers," she stated. Poverty is very real in many inner cities, but we also need to honestly consider how non-marital sexual behavior and absentee fathers contribute to poverty — how these elements hold women back from jobs and educational opportunities. And throwing more birth control pills at women will not get at the real source of economic problems or tragic abortion rate either. Heal the family, call men to responsibility and you will do much to bring life back to cities for the born and the innocent unborn," she concluded.



JULY BIRTHDAYS



Tom Christy
July 2



Pete Ganio
July 16



Joe Ghezzi
July 18



Jack Fitzgerald
July 19



A Message from Our Field Agent

In this day and age, we have home security and smart technology helping to keep our homes secure. There are doorbells that see, security cameras that can be set up inside and out, smart speakers like Alexa and Google Assistant that can control lots of home features. Thermostats or room air conditioners can be set to automatically adjust to changing temperatures. Garage doors can be opened when packages are delivered to an empty home to protect products from porch bandits. Lawns can be watered at optimal times and even the grass can be cut robotically. Doors can be locked remotely and lights in various rooms can be turned on and off by voice or by preset timers. These devices can do the thinking for you. Your home can be on "autopilot." You can set them and forget them.

Yes, there are many advantages to automatic programming of these devices. We can see who's at our door by watching on our phones, we can open and close the garage door for package delivery, we can be energy efficient by setting the thermostat for heat and air conditioning for optimal times and temperatures. But there is a big cautionary tale that some devices, if not properly monitored, can cause havoc. These devices can be hacked and expose the homeowner to security breaches, even taking over cameras and watching inside the home unbeknownst to the homeowner.

Thinking about all these technological devices I am struck by the parallels with the new and evolving automated devices that our homes use and a family's insurance protection. A family can take a look at where they stand using our financial needs analysis program and put products in place to address the unknowns. Taking action to address shortfalls brings a family a certain sense of comfort and well-being that should the unexpected happen, the family is protected.

ing at your family's needs and taking steps to ensure that those needs are addressed is a prudent and wise thing to do. However, while home security systems create a certain comfort level and it's dangerous to become complacent, so too when it comes to your family's future financial security. Just as one must be vigilant and make sure these smart systems protect the family and are kept safe from hackers, it's important to be vigilant with a family's insurance protection. It can't be addressed once and assume that it's always going to be OK. It's dangerous to just "set it and forget

it." Situations change; life can be one surprise after another. If you've completed a family financial needs analysis and taken steps to protect your family, congratulations!

When it comes to protecting your family, don't let the "hackers" of complacency, indifference, or laxness wreak havoc on your life!

Let's get together and make sure your family doesn't have any "security breaches!"

This is a great start because look-

Vivat Jesus!

BITS AND PIECES

1. Due to the continued success of our breakfasts, it has been decided there is no need to take a hiatus, so

they will continue on the third Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted. It would also help if we had a breakfast committee.

2. Supreme Raffle booklets: most councils commit to purchase \$500 worth. Knights are encouraged to purchase a book of 10 tickets each costing \$5. Knights can purchase individual tickets or buy book of 10 for \$50. Knight can sell the 10 tickets if they wish. This fund raiser is 50/50

split with Supreme and Council. The grand prize is \$25,000.

3. Advocate Gregg Appel suggested that we donate inscribed bricks for the grotto for our passed members. At this writing, I think there are nine.

4. The new officers' installation will take place July 6, most likely in the parish center, at 7 p.m. Afterwards, a meal will be served.

St. Jerome Knight of Columbus Selected to Become a Friar



Jason Peterson

On May 25, 2022, I found out I was accepted into the US-6 OFM Interprovincial Postulancy program. My adventure begins on 8/10/2022. It has taken me a long time to reach this place. My grandfather was a minister for the Reformed Church of America. When he died over 500 people packed into a tiny church. I think a religious vocation was deeply rooted inside me on this day. Only months later when I was in 6th grade standing outside the cafeteria waiting to go to my next class did I realize it. I was facing the cafeteria when a thought appeared in my head that I am called to be in religious life. Since the young age of 10 my calling has been growing, forming, and shaping me.

There are many reasons I am drawn to the Franciscan Order, but the main reasons are the simple life they live, living in community with other brothers, helping each to grow closer to God, and helping those who

are less fortunate.

The path to final vows takes many years. The first step in my journey is the Postulancy. It begins August 10, 2022, when I will become a postulant in Silver Spring, MD. I will live in community with other Friars and postulants for about a year, studying and learning about the Franciscan Order and the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare. When not studying, I will be a volunteer for one of the Franciscan ministries.

The second year is the Novitiate year. It is 366 days long and I do not come home during this time. The main focus of this year is contemplation and meditation. The major highlights of this year will be receiving the Franciscan habit and at the end of the year taking simple vows. Simple vows are taken every year until the final year when a postulant takes his final vows.

The third year is called Brothers Walking Together. At the meet-and-greet weekend, I learned we can be sent anywhere in the United States or internationally. During this time we will help those that are less fortunate, marginalized, or in tough situations.

The 4th and 5th years are called the post Novitiate years and are usually spent in New York City or Chicago, depending on the work I would be doing as a Brother. This time is meant to help me prepare for my active ministry.

The 6th year is the pastoral year and the year before taking final vows. During this year, I will be assigned to an active ministry and live the life of a friar. At the end of this year, I will take final vows and be considered a holy professed Brother.

Priesthood is different from brotherhood. One's formation path is decided during the 6-year forma-



Jason Peterson, one of these days if all goes well. Pray for Jason.

tion process. All candidates start on the track for priesthood. Candidates chosen for the path to priesthood during the novitiate will attend seminary for 2 to 3 more years after final vows. A Brother can do just about any job he wants to do. There are Brothers that are painters, farmers, therapists, barbers, teachers, and local church workers.

I am not sure what my challenges will be or know what my ministry will be, but I look forward to the new and interesting challenges. I look forward to this year and everything it has to offer. No matter what I am called to do as a Franciscan, I know that I will be making a difference in people's lives and that is what I am called to do above all else.

I Hope you will pray for me and be assured that I will for you. Pax Et Bonum, Jason Peterson

Scripture Verses to Strengthen You in Hardship

1. "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:26)
2. "Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)
3. "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4)
4. "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them

- from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all." (Psalm 34:17-19)
5. "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" (John 16:33)
6. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts

- and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)
7. "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)
8. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)
9. "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Saint Ignatius of Loyola



St. Ignatius of Loyola

Ignatius, a Spaniard, was born of a noble family at Loyola, in 1491. At first, he attended the court of the Catholic king, and later on embraced a military career. Having been wounded at the siege of Pampe-luna, he chanced in his illness to read some pious books, which kindled in his soul a wonderful eagerness to follow in the footsteps of Christ and the saints. He went to Montserrat, and hung up his arms before the altar of the Blessed Virgin; he then watched the whole night in prayer, and thus entered upon his knighthood in the army of Christ. Next, he retired to Manresa, dressed as he was in sack-cloth, for he had a short time before given his costly garments to a beggar. Here he stayed for a year, and during that time he lived on bread and water, given to him in alms; he fasted every day except Sunday, subdued his flesh with a sharp chain and a hair-shirt, slept on the ground, and scourged himself with iron disciplines. God favored and refreshed him with such wonderful spiritual lights, that afterwards he was wont to say that even if the Sacred Scrip-tures did not exist, he would be ready to die for the faith, on account of those revelations alone which the Lord had made to him. It was at this time that he, a man without educa-tion, composed that admirable book

of the Spiritual Exercises. However, in order to make himself more fit for gaining souls, he deter-mined to procure the advantages of education, and began by studying grammar among children. Meanwhile he relaxed nothing of his zeal for the salvation of others, and it is mar-velous what sufferings and insults he patiently endured in every place, undergoing the hardest trials, even imprisonment and beatings almost to death. But he ever desired to suffer far more for the glory of his Lord. At Paris he was joined by nine compan-ions from that University. He added to the three usual vows a fourth concerning missions. Paul III first welcomed and approved the Society, as did later other Pontiffs and the Council of Trent. Ignatius sent St. Francis Xavier to preach the Gospel in the Indies, and dispersed others of his children to spread the Chris-tian faith in other parts of the world, thus declaring war against paganism, superstition, and heresy. This war he carried on with such success that it has always been the universal opinion, confirmed by the word of pontiffs, that God raised up Ignatius and the Society founded by him to oppose Luther and the heretics of his time, as formerly he had raised up other holy men to oppose other heretics. He made the restoration of piety among Catholics his first care. He increased the beauty of the sacred buildings, the giving of catechetical instructions, the frequency of ser-mons and of the sacraments. He every-where opened schools for the edu-cation of youth in piety and letters. He founded at Rome the German Col-lege, refuges for women of evil life, and for young girls who were in dan-ger, houses for orphans and catechu-mens of both sexes, and many oth-er pious works. He devoted himself unweariedly to gaining souls to God. Once he was heard saying that if he

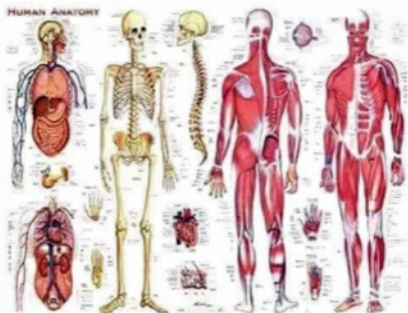
were given his choice he would rather live uncertain of attaining the Beatif-ic Vision, and in the meanwhile devote himself to the service of God and the salvation of his neighbor, than die at once certain of eternal glory. His power over the demons was wonder-ful. At length in the sixty-fifth year of his age he passed to the embrace of his Lord, whose greater glory he had ever preached and ever sought in all things. He was celebrated for miracles and for his great services to the Church, and Gregory XV enrolled him amongst the saints; while Pius XI, in response to the prayers of the episcopate, declared him heavenly patron of all Spiritual Exercises.



In 1974 a group called Nazareth put a song entitled "Love Hurts."

I listened to it to a few times, thought it was ok, but since I knew what love was already, thought little of it afterwards. "Love is like a flame, it burns a lot" did very little for me. The tune wasn't catchy either. So I moved on. It is now 2022, and I have learned a lot about love, and I must confess that, indeed, love hurts. How is that? There comes a time when you're falling in love that you discover several things: it is very difficult to get along without being with a person because your life seems empty. You come to realize that you care more about the person you love than you care about yourself. I know my wife has lost sleep over her worry and love for me too many times to count. No wonder love hurts. When we had to put Maggie, our dog of 16 years, down, my wife was holding her, and as Maggie took her last breath, her head fell gently onto Jean's breast. We cried. Love hurts. When Jean's mother lay in bed at her nursing home and the nurse gave her some morphine, we listened to "A Celtic Farewell". We were holding her hand as she died. Love hurts. And I'm sure you have examples of your own. Now let's look at a higher love. "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son so that those who believe in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3: 16. And while He was hanging on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." On his death there is an earthquake, the veil of the Temple is rent, and saints rise from their tombs. Love hurts.

THE MOST ADVANCED MACHINE ON THE PLANET ...



... AND THEY WILL TELL YOU IT HAD NO DESIGNER.



FAMOUS MIRACLES

Lourdes

Lourdes is one of the world's most famous miracle sites - a French grotto to which is said to have healing properties for those who drink or bathe in it.

And we aren't talking about curing a headache or funny stomach here. This grotto supposedly has heavy duty healing powers, and there have been multiple cases throughout history of it curing seemingly terminal or incurable ailments.

On the 10th May, 1948, Jeanne Fretel arrived at Lourdes in a comatose state as a result of tuberculosis peritonitis. After being given some Eucharist (the disc shaped wafer used in Christian mass), Jeanne woke from her coma and declared herself cured. Her miracle cure was officially recognised in 1950.

One of the most recent examples of Lourdes' healing properties is Jean-Pierre Bely, who arrived on the 9th October 1987 suffering from multiple sclerosis. After spending time near Lourdes waters, he was declared cured.

The Miracle of the Sun

This is one of, if not the miracle with the highest number of witnesses. Between 50,000 and 100,000 people claim to have seen the Miracle of the Sun on the 13th October, 1917 whilst standing in the Cova da Iria fields near Fatima, Portugal. Reportedly, after a downfall of rain and dark clouds the sky became clear and the Sun appeared as a spinning disk. After emitting multi-coloured lights, it appeared to zig zag quickly towards Earth. Some witnesses said their clothes, previously wet, had dried instantly.

Some people attributed the phenomena to Our Lady of Fatima, an apparition of the Virgin Mary which had appeared to three young shepherd children on three different occasions supposedly telling them to watch out for a miracle on that specific day in October. It was officially accepted as a miracle by the Roman Catholic church on 13th October 1930.

Padre Pio

Original name Francesco Forgione, Padre Pio was a Roman Catholic Capuchin priest who had perhaps the world's most famous case of stigmata. Despite his efforts to the contrary, news of his mysterious wounds on the palms of his hands and feet went global in the early 1920s. In addition to bearing the marks of Christ's crucifixion, some people also attested to Padre Pio as having powers such as healing, prophecy and even levitation.

One of the most tangible and undeniably mysterious things about him is the fact that when his corpse was exhumed in March 2008, he looked almost exactly the same as the day he died - 40 years earlier - in 1968.

Mother Teresa

In 1998, Monica Besra went to a Missionaries of Charity home in West Bengal, India. She had a fever, headaches, vomiting, and swollen stomach. She had begun treatment for tuberculous the year before. However, the medications she'd taken hadn't kept a lump from growing in her abdomen (though some reports have described Surgery was deemed necessary, but Besra was too weak and unwell.

On September 5, Besra was praying in the Missionaries of Charity chapel when she saw a light emanating from a photo of Mother Teresa. Later, a medallion that had touched Mother Teresa's body was placed on Besra's abdomen, and a sister said a prayer while asking Mother Teresa for help. Besra awoke early the next day to find her tumor had disappeared. Medical exams showed the abdominal mass was no longer there, and the doctors she'd seen agreed Besra no longer required surgery.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

In 1531, Juan Diego said the Virgin Mary appeared to him, first asking him to build a church where he stood and then later, to collect a bundle of flowers. When he opened his robes, the flowers fell away to reveal a now famous image of Mary, one which can still be seen today in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Roman Catholics claim the image has survived ammonia spills and even a bomb explosion, but one hard fact remains - the painting remains as colourful today as it did 500 years ago, surviving the Mexican heat in a way contemporary replicas could not imitate and with minimal restorative work.

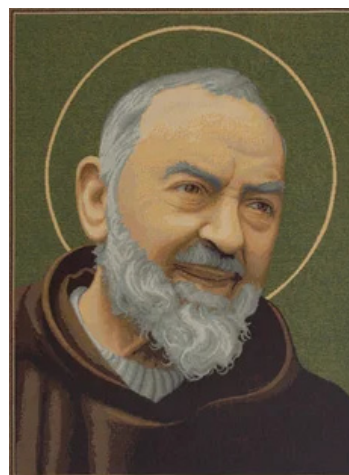
If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would change.



Our Lady of Lourdes



Our Lady of Fatima



Padri Pio



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tabernacle in Brooklyn Diocese Stolen

A tabernacle has been stolen from St. Augustine Catholic Church in the Park Slope neighborhood of New York City's Brooklyn borough. A spokesperson for the Diocese of Brooklyn said, "The Holy Eucharist housed inside the tabernacle was thrown all over the altar." The burglary was discovered by Father Frank Tumino, pastor of St. Augustine parish. This is devastating, as the Tabernacle is the central focus of our church outside of worship, holding the Body of Christ, the Eucharist, which is delivered to the sick and homebound," Fr. Tumino said. "To know that a burglar entered the most sacred space of our beautiful Church and took great pains to cut

into a security system is a heinous act of disrespect. The burglar cut through a metal protective casing to take the late 19th century tabernacle, which is irreplaceable due to its historical and artistic value." Police have estimated the tabernacle's value at \$2 million. The angels on either side of the tabernacle "...were decapitated and destroyed." A safe in the sacristy was cut open, the diocese added, but it was empty. The Brooklyn diocese reported that while St. Augustine's has security cameras, "...the burglars apparently made off with some components of the recording system."



Purgatory: Not a Place for a Second Chance

Popular images of purgatory are probably inspired by Dante and expanded upon by imaginative artists, often with an aim to thrill or horrify their audience. As a result, Catholics lose sight of what ought to be a consoling article of faith, and Protestants are confused or scandalized by what appears to be a jumbled scam devised to subvert or avoid God's justice. What the Church teaches about purgatory is very simple: "The souls of the just which, in the moment of death, are burdened with venial sins or temporal punishment due to sins, enter purgatory." Our belief in purgatory is based on a passage from 2

Maccabees, in which the Jewish hero, Judas Maccabeus, orders prayers and sacrifices for slain patriots, that their sins might be forgiven. Jesus, too, speaks of the possibility of forgiveness after death when he teaches, "Whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven ... in this age or in the age to come" (Mt 12:32). We must remember one thing: purgatory is not a "second chance"; it is the final step for righteous individuals who, before death, lacked an opportunity to atone for venial sins or do sufficient penance for serious sins already confessed.



IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBER,
FRIEND,
AS YOU WALK BY,
AS YOU ARE NOW,
SO ONCE WAS I.
AS I AM NOW,
SO YOU WILL BE.
REMEMBER
ETERNITY.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE
OF THINGS HOPED FOR,
THE EVIDENCE OF
THINGS NOT SEEN.
HEBREWS 11:1

After a Terrible Tragedy, Is Sending "Thoughts and Prayers" Meaningless?

Many of us have been on the giving or receiving end of "thoughts and prayers" after something tragic or sad has happened. It's a simple and quick way we acknowledge others' pain and communicate our care and concern. Sending "thoughts and prayers" is a way to convey that you're thinking about someone and standing in solidarity with them; it's a promise that you are praying for the person or situation.

But in the aftermath of the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas, there's been a lot of criticism about posting the sentiment "thoughts and prayers" at times of tragedy.

So is using this phrase meaningless? Is it just a convenient way to ignore taking action on what needs to be addressed when it comes to pressing and important issues?

Prayer and solidarity with brothers and sisters in times of tragedy is essential — and so is action. Prayer and solidarity should lead us to action. If a serious issue like violent gun crime is not addressed on multiple levels, things won't change. But that doesn't



mean there is no place for prayer — in fact, the most important issues and most terrible circumstances should always be covered in prayer. Christians know that prayer is powerful. First, it changes the heart of the one who prays, making us more docile to what God wants us to do. It helps us take the right actions.

Prayer also changes the recipient, especially when they know they're being prayed for. When we pray for someone, we are lifting them up to God, asking for His mercy, grace, and blessing. It can be consoling and healing when you know that others are praying for you.

And while sending "thoughts" to someone may seem vague and empty to a believer, at its best it's a senti-

ment that expresses empathy and a desire to stand with another in their suffering. When we are thinking about another's suffering, or reflecting on a tragic situation, it may spur more explicit acts of kindness, generosity, and justice. Sending "thoughts and prayers" is a good thing — so long as it's genuine and sincere. But given the over-

use of the phrase, to make sure your words are received in the best light, try being more specific and personal with your wording. Instead of posting "sending thoughts and prayers," say something like, "I'm praying for you," or "I'm offering my Rosary this week for everyone affected by this tragedy," or "I'm asking Jesus to comfort all who are grieving right now." It can also be very meaningful to use people's names when conveying your prayers.

And then, after you pray, take action. Prayer and action go hand in hand in the Christian life. Prayer should inform and empower our action. So let people know you are thinking about them and praying for them — and then get going.

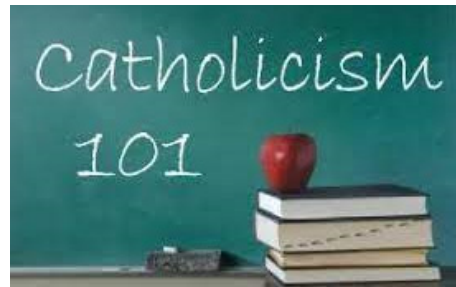
Who Can Be Anointed?

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has a dual character, expressed by St. James in his New Testament letter: "Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven" (Jas 5:14-15).

The sacrament is intended to strengthen as well as to forgive sins. Because it involves forgiveness of sins, its celebration is reserved to priests and bishops. This is also why the Code of Canon Law says it is celebrated for persons "having reached the use of reason". The age of reason is generally considered to be about 7 years old.

Commentators and theologians suggest that the recipient of the sacrament must have the use of reason in order to profit from the two ends of this sacrament: to understand and benefit spiritually and psychologically from its strengthening grace, and to receive forgiveness of sins.

Children under the age of reason are



not capable of sin and not capable of understanding the grace of this sacrament and receiving its consolation. Even though the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick cannot be offered, in such cases it is certainly appropriate to gather family and friends of the child for shared prayer.

A non-Catholic can receive the anointing of the sick, in special situations.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died to save all people. He won superabundant grace for us by His death on the Cross. The Church teaches that a person must be in the state of grace when he or she dies in order to get to heaven. One of the most effective means for grace is the sac-

raments, so we want to do whatever we can to provide the sacraments to all of the baptized, Catholic or not. For that reason, the Church allows baptized non-Catholic Christians to receive not only the anointing of the sick, but also the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist in special circumstances. Chief among those circumstances is when a person is in danger of death.

In these cases, there is only one requirement: the person must ask for the sacrament, and if the attending priest explains things clearly and has some pastoral skill and grace on his side, the gravely ill person usually wants to receive such sacraments.

This case is provided for in the Code of Canon Law: "If there is a danger of death . . . Catholic ministers may lawfully administer these same sacraments [penance, Eucharist, anointing of the sick] to other Christians not in full communion with the Catholic Church, who cannot approach a minister of their own community and who spontaneously ask for them, provided that they demonstrate the Catholic faith in respect of these sacraments and are properly disposed".

The Catholic View of a Good Death

In the summer of 1997, the United States Supreme Court decided that the Constitution does not protect a right of competent, terminally ill patients to commit suicide with the aid of a physician. This means that the decision whether or not to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia will be left to each state. Thus far, only Oregon has chosen to legalize physician assisted suicide. But vigorous debates about its moral and legal status are taking place in many communities. How should Catholic Christians approach the issue of physician assisted suicide?

It is important to acknowledge the very real problems in our health care system that have created the demand for assisted suicide. Over the past thirty years or so, the dark side of medical progress has made many people fear that they will die lonely, dehumanized deaths. They worry about being hooked up against their will to medical technology that cannot benefit them, but can only prolong their suffering. They worry about indifferent care givers and uncontrolled pain. They worry about being isolated in a hospital bed, separated from the

family members and friends whose love and support they desperately need. But assisted suicide and euthanasia are the wrong responses to these very real worries.

The Roman Catholic tradition offers a severe critique of a society that would allow anyone to die alone and in pain. But it also opposes the view that a "good death" is a sharp and sudden transition from existence to non-existence, facilitated, if necessary, by a lethal prescription. From the perspective of Catholic thought, the process of dying should not be viewed as a useless experience. A death that allows us the time to come to terms with our lives and those with whom we have lived it—to thank and be thanked, to forgive and be forgiven—is a good death. The process of dying can be a graced experience, not only for the persons undergoing it, but also for the persons called to care for them. The Catholic tradition has long considered the practice of caring for the sick and dying a corporal work of mercy, like feeding the hungry. It expresses our solidarity with the most vulnerable in

our midst, vividly revealing that neither their fundamental dignity nor our own depends upon worldly power or independence. The dignity of each of us rests in the fact that we are created in God's image and likeness.

Our task is to work to ensure that everyone in our society has access to basic health care, which always includes comfort care and pain control for those who are terminally ill. The challenges posed by climbing health care costs cannot be met in a way that denies the fundamental dignity of all human beings. They cannot be met in a way that erodes our capacity to respond to those who most need our care. This is a matter of both justice and charity. As Pope John Paul II writes in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*: "Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation.

We need then to "show care" for all life and for the life of everyone". That is the most fundamental challenge of all, the challenge of living the gospel of life.

Exorcists Feeling Overwhelmed, According to Sources

A survey from a Vatican-approved religious university in Rome found that Catholic exorcists feel overworked and under supported by bishops, according to *The Times of London*.

Italian exorcists spoke to researchers at Regina Apostolorum's 16th annual exorcism course in Rome, attended by 120 participants, *The Times* reported.

The course attracted a significant crowd thanks to Pope Francis's support of exorcism, the paper said. He has previously spoken about helping those who are "possessed by evil," and made exorcism an official Catholic practice, according to the *Independent*.

The conference's exorcists said that they needed more support from psychologists to determine whether people are mentally unstable or demonically possessed.

Father Giuseppe Bernardi claimed to have performed a nine-hour exorcism on a woman who hurled abuse in Latin and assaulted monks. The woman's

father thought she was suffering from "a psychiatric problem," reported the *Journal of Vicenza*. But the mother, and later Bernardi, believed she was possessed by a "demonic influence."

Bernardi said he had to seek help from psychologists to determine whether she was disturbed or possessed but did so without the help of the church.

The lack of support from bishops is a grievance echoed by other surveyed exorcists, the *Times* said. They complained about receiving little help in exorcising the long lines of Catholics claiming satanic possession.

Exorcists also said they had been tasked with conducting exorcisms on people with COVID-19, *The Times* reported.

Participants at the conference claimed that demonic possession could be recognized by unusual physi-



St. Catherine of Siena Exorcising a Possessed Woman by Girolamo di Benvenuto

cal strength, vomiting, or a sudden ability to speak Latin, Hebrew, or Aramaic.

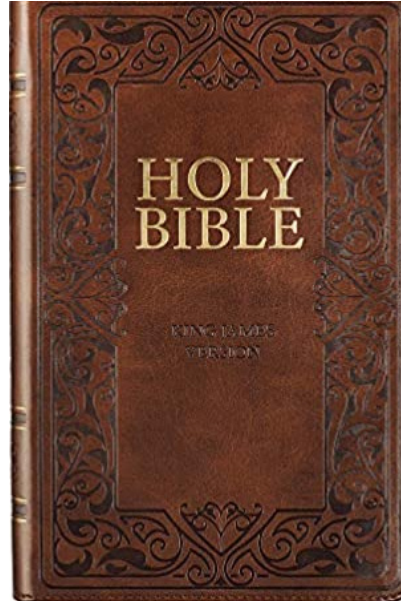
Italy has 290 exorcists, and there were 37 in Spain, the survey found. "Many of the potentially possessed people they see in Spain have spent time with New Age, spiritual or meditation groups," researchers said.

In the UK and Ireland, there were 28 working exorcists, and in Manila, the Philippines, there was a "dedicated office and team."

Which Bible Should Catholics Read?

The King James Version of the Bible was never a "standard" for the Catholic Church. It was commissioned in 1604 and published in 1611 for the Church of England, by sponsorship of King James VI. The books of the current King James Version include 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. The original King James included the books of the ancient and Catholic Old Testament: Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach), Baruch, and First and Second Maccabees. By 1769, however, the King James Version had dropped these seven Old Testament books and conformed itself to the shorter Protestant canon (or list) of Old Testament. Hence, for Catholics, the King James Bible is incomplete, lacking these books that were in the Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament). These had been read by Christians since the apostolic era and for more than 1,500 years until Martin Luther eliminated them. It is impossible to deny the lofty beauty of the King James Bible. It is an English masterpiece worthy of Shakespeare. It was written in an intentionally majestic style to emphasize the sacredness of the biblical text. And while it can certainly edify, there are times when it can be more difficult to understand. For example, when Pilate handed Jesus over, the King James renders it:

"Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away" (Jn 19:16). Gorgeous English to be sure, but the phrase "he him therefore unto them" can vex the inexperienced reader or speaker of the text. Or, for another example, in the resurrection appearance of the first Easter evening: "And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?" (Lk 24:40-41). Again beautiful, but "while yet they believed not for joy and wondered" is complex. For Catholics, the "standard" translation was once the Douay Rheims Bible. It is actually an older English translation than the King James. The Douay Rheims was published in 1582. Its language is in an older style but less lofty. As such, it is more understandable to modern readers. It also has the Old Testament books



that are missing in the King James. For more traditional Catholics, the Douay Rheims is favored due to its time-tested quality and its use in scriptural translations of the old missal. For Catholics in general today, the most commonly used translations are the Revised New American Bible (RNAB), the Revised Standard Version (Catholic edition) (RSVCE), and the Jerusalem Bible (JB). The RNAB emphasizes readability and, because it is used for the lectionary at Mass, it is recognizable. The RSVCE is more accurate in its translation and more scholarly. The JB is also very readable and has good footnotes and cross-links. Further, all of these newer translations take advantage of the most recent Biblical discoveries. Many ancient manuscripts have been discovered since the 16th century that have helped to clarify textual puzzles in the ancient Hebrew and Greek manuscripts.

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Council Has Monthly General Meeting To Discuss Many Items

Our council met June 15 to discuss many things: selling more inscribed pavers; a Florida State Council Raffle, a committee to help us get ready for the July 6 new officer induction ceremony, the apron orders are in, help needed for the July 2 grilling of hamburgers and hotdogs, and small crosses in front yards across the country and how to make them. After the meeting we had a snack of hamburgers and hotdogs, not only for members but to encourage other catholic men to join our council. I believe we have had 4 men recently join, bringing our total number of members to 93.



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM POPE FRANCIS

“When one realizes that life, even in the middle of so many contradictions, is a gift, that love is the source and the meaning of life, how can they withhold their urge to do good to another fellow being?”

“In order to do good, we need memory, we need courage and we need creativity... Remember that the other is not a statistic or a number. The other has a face. The ‘you’ is always a real presence, a person to take care of.”

“To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope. Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn’t lock itself into darkness, that doesn’t dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow.”

“The future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognize the other as a ‘you’ and themselves as part of an ‘us.’ We all need each other.”



New Officers To Be Installed July 6

Please refer to last month's newsletter for pictures and positions. The installation will take place at the officers' meeting. No other business will be conducted. There will be a meal afterwards. Wives are welcome.

OUR MISSION

Knights are Catholic men who build a bridge back to faith. There is much good and necessary work to be done in this world, and that's what Knights do every day

YOU ARE BORN
A MAN.
YOU BECOME
A KNIGHT.



I'm not telling you that it's going to be easy.
I'm telling that it's going to be worth it.