

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL  
June 2022 Volume 5 Issue 3



Pentecost, also called Whitsunday, (Pentecost from Greek pentecostē, "50th day"), major festival in the Christian church, celebrated on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2), and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.

The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) was primarily a thanksgiving for the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, but it was later associated with a remembrance of the Law given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. The church's transformation of the Jewish feast to a Christian festival was thus related to the belief that the gift of the Holy

Spirit to the followers of Jesus was the firstfruits of a new dispensation that fulfilled and succeeded the old dispensation of the Law.

The Jews had an early harvest festival seven weeks after the firstfruits offerings of Passover, called Shavuot, or the Festival of Weeks. When the festival was first celebrated in the Christian church is not known, but it was mentioned in a work from the Eastern church, the *Epistola Apostolorum*, in the 2nd century. In the 3rd century it was mentioned by Origen, theologian and head of the catechetical school in Alexandria, and by Tertullian, Christian priest and writer of Carthage.

In the early church, Christians often referred to the entire 50-day period beginning with Easter as Pentecost. Baptism was administered both at the beginning (Easter) and end (the day of Pentecost) of the Paschal season. Eventually, Pentecost became a more popular time for baptism than Easter in northern Europe, and in England the feast was commonly called White Sunday (Whitsunday) for the special white garments worn by the newly baptized. In the First Prayer Book of Edward VI (1549), the feast was officially called Whitsunday, and this name has continued in Anglican churches. In Catholic and other Western churches, priests often wear red vestments during Pentecost to symbolize the "tongues of fire" that descended on the disciples from the Holy Spirit; members of the congregation also wear red in some traditions, and the altar is commonly dressed in a red frontal cloth.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

By 2019, the number of Catholics decreased by 2 million people.

Pope: Love your mother-in-law

Ukraine Bishop: "As long as there are believers in Kharkiv, I will remain with them"

Pope Francis says he has asked to meet Putin in Moscow

Climate activist's self-immolation stirs questions on faith, protest

Church of Scotland Ready to Approve Same-Sex Marriage

Pope Francis Says NATO Started War in Ukraine by 'Barking at Putin's Door'

Pakistan: "I spent 8 years on death row after being falsely accused of blasphemy."

Colorado parish defaced with pro-abortion graffiti for second time in seven months

Pope Francis to LGBT people: God 'does not disown any of his children'

Pope Francis to travel to Canada in July to visit Indigenous communities

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

Brothers,  
I thank you for entrusting me to leading this great organization for one more year. I draw inspiration from all the ways you continue to do God's work, using the unique talents each of you bring to the council.

We are planning for a new officer induction ceremony on July 6th. This will be in place of our regular officer's meeting, so family is encouraged to attend. The venue is yet to be decided, as the flooring issues in the church have (at this writing) yet to be scheduled.

Speaking of scheduling, grotto work must be scheduled with the Parish Office. It is more important than ever to have a robust committee meeting on a regular basis to coordinate work, promote use and continue to sell and install bricks. Please see me, Bill Bannon or Joe Ghezzi if you would like to serve on this committee.

Vivat Jesus,  
Bill

YOU ARE BORN  
A MAN.  
YOU BECOME  
A KNIGHT.



Dear Friends:

I am grateful to Almighty God that He has blessed us with the freedoms that we celebrate as we mark the birth of our Nation on July 4th. I am also grateful that my father instilled a great love for our country in my sisters, my brother and myself. What makes our country great, in the words of Charles Krauthammer, is "our commitment to the moral proposition: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.'"

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Friends:  
Happy Father's Day!

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV once wrote that, "...to be a good father [a dad] should first be a good 'son of

God the Father.' If a father has an identity crisis in the spiritual realm - that is to say, he does not understand his intimate relationship to God the Father - then he will not be able to transmit to his children and family and authentic vision of God the Father." We thank our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and those men in our lives that are like fathers to us for their love and example.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Tom Morgan



### A Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,  
In your wisdom and love you have created us and called us your own. Bless our fathers, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

In moments of joy, rejoice with them. In times of struggle, give them your courage and perseverance. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor and appreciate them always with a spirit of profound respect. May the example and prayer of St. Joseph inspire them to live their vocation with courage.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Prayer for Our Nation

God our Father, giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for your glory and dwell among your people.

Send your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.



# JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Vic Carro  
June 6



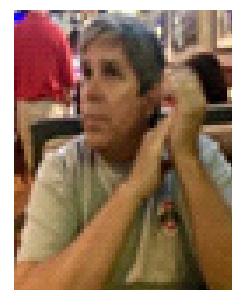
Jeff Puskaric  
June 15



Boone Bowen  
June 16



Joe Zanga  
June 16



Larry Dolan  
June 24

## Danny McConnell's Funeral Held in Grotto

It was very fitting that the grotto was used as a setting for Danny McConnell's funeral mass, for he worked tirelessly helping to complete it. As was his nature, he volunteered for anything that needed to be done with his usual huge smile. He was loved by all who knew him and is greatly missed, but we are strengthened by his faith. He will be greatly missed. (Photos courtesy of Advocate Gregg Appel)



### Can a Stillborn Child Be Baptized?

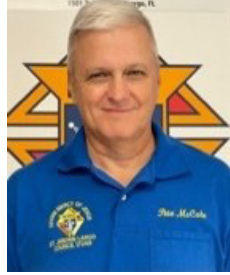
As regards children who have died without baptism, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved and Jesus' tenderness toward children which caused him to say: "Let them come to me, do not hinder them" allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without baptism.

# NEW OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

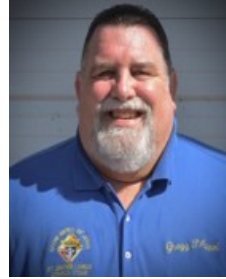
Installation will be July 6. No other business will be conducted.  
Wives are invited.



**Grand Knight**  
Bill McClelland



**Deputy GK**  
Pete McCabe



**Advocate**  
Gregg Appel



**Chancellor**  
Chuck Lake Jr.



**Warden**  
Gene Sanders



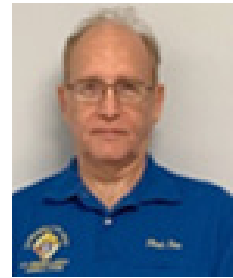
**Inside Guard**  
Pete Ganio



**Outside Guard**  
Joe Moore



**Recorder**  
Rocco Totino



**Treasurer**  
Paul Lee



**Chaplain**  
Fr. Tom Morgan



**Financial Secretary**  
Fred Belzel  
(Appointed for 3 years)



**1-Year Trustee**  
Jim Blackwell



**2-Year Trustee & District Deputy**  
Pete Grasso



**3-Year Trustee**  
Rick Hendrixson



**Lecturer**  
Ed Wirth  
(appointed)



These council members attended our last general meeting May 11, 3033.  
They represent about 30% of our entire membership.

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council Members and Their Wives Enjoy State Convention



Pete Grasso, District Deputy; Dawn Grasso; Bill McClellan, Grand Knight, Claudia McClellan; Christa and Fred Belzel, Financial Secretary

Waste Hauler Generates Electricity by Burning Aborted Babies

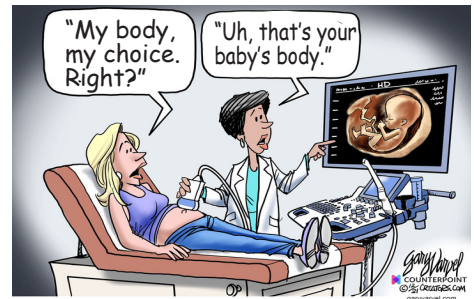
On March 25, 2022, a driver for Curtis Bay Energy relinquished several medical waste boxes after being told aborted babies were inside them. Additionally, at the Baltimore, MD Planned Parenthood Curtis Bay Energy is also receiving, transferring, and burning aborted babies for energy. Their website reads, "We manage the largest medical waste incinerator in the US and the only facility in the Northeast Region that utilizes Waste-to-Energy incineration to safely convert infectious/biomedical waste and non-hazardous pharmaceuticals into useful energy." Curtis Bay Energy, which services much of the east coast, converts aborted babies into electricity for



Aborted fetuses in Bio Hazard boxes awaiting disposal.

use in households and businesses in the Baltimore, MD area. Many bio-waste haulers can't afford their own incinerators, so Curtis Bay is a drop-off site for other medical waste companies that service abortion centers such as BioMedical Services.

Aborted babies are being burned for electricity for those who live in Baltimore, MD! "Curtis Bay owns state-of-the-art medical waste processing and material management technology, and continues to invest in research and sustainable waste management solutions that generate the lowest carbon footprint."



"I'm glad you chose your hand for my body." Page 5



**Msgr. Dacian Dee**  
June 26, 1930  
May 21, 2022

Monsignor Dacian Dee left this world to return to the Heavenly Father at 4:15am on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

He is now at the gates of Heaven hearing confessions.

*Eternal rest grant unto him,  
O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine  
upon him.*

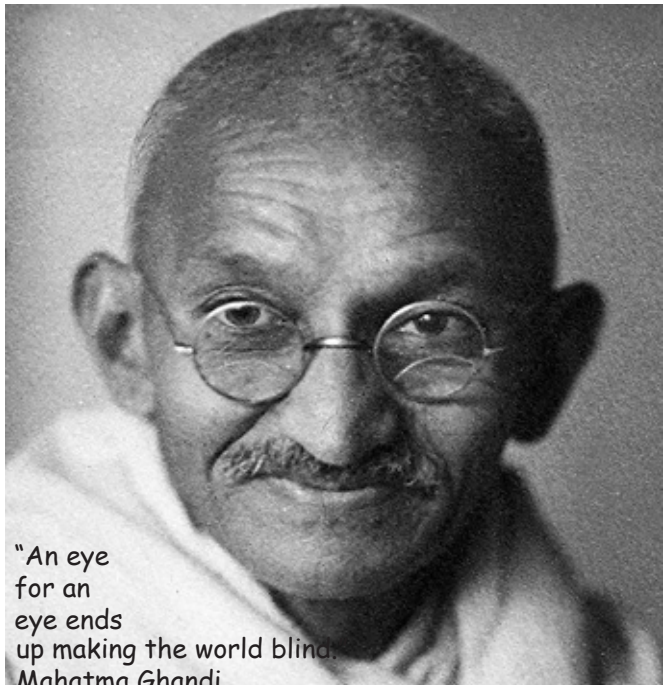
*May his soul and the souls of  
all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace.*

*~Amen~*





Several members help with a Sunday breakfast. They are held the third Sunday of each month. It has not yet been determined if the breakfast might go on hiatus soon since the snowbirds are leaving.



"An eye for an eye ends up making the world blind."  
Mahatma Gandhi

# JOURNEY OF Faith

By Jim Hand, Editor

"when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, 'I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer

## Who Is Jesus?

**In chemistry,** He turned water to wine.

**In biology,** He was born without the normal conception.

**In physics,** He disproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven.

**In economics,** He disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5000 men with two fishes & 5 loaves of bread.

**In medicine,** He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs.

**In history,** He is the beginning and the end.

**In government,** He said that He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace.

**In religion,** He said no one comes to the Father except through Him.

So, Who is He? He is Jesus! The greatest man in history, Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master. Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. He had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb yet He lives today.

We should feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us. Amen

him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:31-40

I recently spent about 10 days at Morton Plant Rehab Center, recovering from shingles. It was a painful ex-

perience in more ways than one. The more embarrassing, though, was having to be showered by a young nurse whom I had never met before. There I stood, as she assisted me with a shower. For some reason, I thought at the time these words from Jesus: "I was sick and you looked after me." I thanked her and told her she was doing what our savior had told us to do. She said, "I know, He is my savior too."

I will never forget that moment.

## Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks

Kateri Tekakwitha, given the name Tekakwitha, baptized as Catherine and informally known as Lily of the Mohawks (1656 - April 17, 1680), is a Catholic saint and virgin who was an Algonquin-Mohawk. Born in the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, on the south side of the Mohawk River in present-day New York State, she contracted smallpox in an epidemic; her family died and her face was scarred. She converted to Catholicism at age nineteen, when she was baptized and given the Christian name Kateri in honor of Catherine of Siena. Refusing to marry, she left her village and moved for the remaining five years of her life to the Jesuit mission village of Kahnawake, south of Montreal on the St. Lawrence River in New France, now Canada.

Kateri Tekakwitha took a vow of virginity. Upon her death at the age of 24, witnesses said that her scars vanished minutes later, and her face

appeared radiant and beautiful. Known for her virtue of chastity and mortification of the flesh, as well as being shunned by some for her religious conversion to Catholicism, she is the fourth Native American to be venerated in the Catholic Church.



Only known portrait of Catherine Tekakwitha

She was beatified in 1980 by Pope John Paul II, and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at Saint Peter's Basilica on October 21, 2012.

Various miracles and supernatural events are attributed to her intercession.

## The Glorious Life of St. Bernardine

Bernardine was born in Carrara, Italy, in 1380. Even as a boy he nursed the sick during a time of pestilence in Siena. During a severe illness he decided upon entering a monastery and becoming a Franciscan. His superiors assigned him the task of preaching, and he submitted humbly despite a throat affliction. God heard his petition, and the ailment was miraculously cured.

A powerful and eloquent preacher (Pius II called him "a second Paul") and a zealous apostle, Bernardine traveled the length and breadth of Italy, inculcating love and reverence toward the holy Name of Jesus. He exerted a powerful influence upon his contemporaries, inaugurating a genuine reformation within the Church. Seldom has a saint had so many and so distinguished followers (including St. John Capistran). Upon entering a city, Bernardine had a standard car-

ried before him upon which was the holy Name of Jesus (IHS) encircled with twelve golden rays and surmounted by a cross.

When he preached, this symbol was placed alongside the pulpit; or he would hold in his hand a tablet bearing the divine monogram in letters large enough to be visible to the entire audience. It was also his zealous appeals that induced many priests to put the Name of Jesus on the altars and walls of their churches, or to have little cards with the inscription distributed among the people. At his instigation the public buildings in many cities of Italy were adorned with the monogram suitably enlarged, as can still be seen in Siena.

At the Council of Florence in 1439, St. Bernardine labored strenuously to end a schism.



## Pope Francis: Low birth rate is a 'social emergency'

Pope Francis decried the low birth rate in Western countries, describing it as an urgent social emergency and a "new poverty."

"It is not immediately perceptible, like other problems that occupy the news, but it is very urgent: fewer and fewer children are being born, and this means impoverishing everyone's future," Pope Francis said in a message on the birth rate in Italy.

"The General State of the Birth Rate" brought together political, business, and organization leaders to reflect on Italy's demographic crisis, caused by one of the lowest birth rates in Europe: 1.24 births per woman.

"The data, the forecasts, the numbers are now known to all: we need concreteness," Pope Francis said in his message.

"It is time to give real answers to families and young people: hope cannot and must not die of waiting."

Struggling to realize their dream of

children, some people settle for "mediocre substitutes," he added, such as work, cars, travel, and leisure time.

"The beauty of a family full of children is in danger of becoming a utopia, a dream difficult to realize.

"This is a new poverty that scares me," the pope commented.

"It is the generative poverty of those who discount the desire for happiness in their hearts, of those who resign themselves to watering down their greatest aspirations, of those who settle for little and stop hoping big."



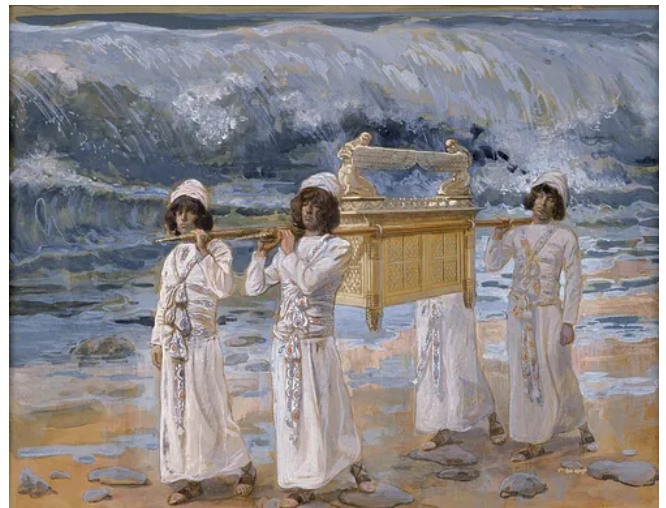
"Yes," he continued, "it is a tragic poverty, because it affects human beings in their greatest wealth: bringing lives into the world to care for them, passing on to others the received existence with love."

## Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant refers to the box-like container that held the tablets of the Law received by Moses on Mount Sinai. Tradition claimed that it contained the first ten commandments given to Israel, manna, and Aaron's rod that budded. The receipt of the tablets and the details of the construction of the Ark appear in the book of Exodus. "Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Have them make an Ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high [approximately 131×79×79 cm or 52×31×31 in]. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it ... Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you. Make an atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other. Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. There, above the cov-

er between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites. (Exodus 25).

The 'tent of meeting' served as a portable shrine during the years in the wilderness. Inside the tent, at the center, was the Ark of the Covenant, and then zones of sacredness; priests, men, women in relation to sacred space. Only Moses and Aaron were permitted to enter the presence of the Ark. The first duty upon setting up a new camp was to erect the shrine, and it was the last thing taken down when they moved on. Those carrying the equipment were placed in the center of the migrations for protection as they moved. The Ark was always carried by the tribe of Levities, the descendants of Moses and Aaron. Numbers 9:15 described the tabernacle of the Ark being covered in a cloud by day and fire at night, demonstrating God's presence among them. Whenever they set out, Moses would say: "Rise up, Lord! May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you." Whenever it came to rest,



he said, "Return, Lord, to the countless thousands of Israel." (Numbers 10:35-36) Thus, the ancient tradition that the Ark held power to defeat Israel's enemies.

Synagogues have a special niche or place for a symbolic Ark of the Covenant. This is where the Torah scrolls are kept which contain the teachings of Moses and the Prophets. Outside of Israel, the Ark faces Jerusalem. In Israel itself, Yom HaAliyah (Aliyah Day, or "going up" as in going up to Jerusalem), is a national holiday that celebrates Joshua's crossing of the Jordan River while carrying the Ark of the Covenant.

## KofC Ultrasound Initiative Reaches Milestone with Donation of 1,500<sup>th</sup> Machine

The Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative surpassed a major milestone, placing its 1,500<sup>th</sup> ultrasound machine through its signature donation program.

The machine was donated to the First Choice Women's Resource Center in New Brunswick, N.J., and blessed by Bishop James Checchio of the Diocese of Metuchen during a dedication ceremony attended by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly.

"Knights of Columbus believe in the dignity and worth of every human life," said Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly. "Our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, devoted his life to the care of widows and orphans. We continue the Order's mission by working through prayer and action to support mothers and their children, both unborn and born."

Since 2009, the Knights has placed ultrasound machines in all 50 U.S. states — with more than 100 in Florida, California and Texas. Through

the initiative, the Order covers the entire cost of this life-saving technology for the center — local councils raise half the purchase cost, and the Supreme Council contributes the balance. The total value of these machines now stands at more than \$72 million. Beyond the Ultrasound Initiative, local Knights councils have donated funds and supplies worth nearly \$14 million and members offered more than 1.3 million man-hours to assist pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes.

"Now is a crucial moment for life. Our compassion, understanding and generous support are all essential," Kelly said. "Our bold witness is needed to change not only laws, but also hearts and minds."

Knights of Columbus also put their pro-life beliefs into action through many other pro-life programs, including Marches for Life, diaper drives, Special Olympics, Masses for People with Special Needs and more.



The Doctors of the Church are teachers of the faith who have demonstrated exemplary holiness and have deepened the whole Church's understanding of the Catholic faith. They must be officially declared doctors by a papal proclamation. Such men and women also are known particularly for the depth of understanding and the orthodoxy of their theological teachings.

There are three requirements for being named a Doctor of the Church. First is great sanctity. Thus only those who have already been declared to be saints by the Church may be named a doctor. Second requirement is eminent learning. This is often demonstrated by the fact that they were known to be great teachers of the Faith. The third requirement is a proclamation by the Church, usually made by the pope.

## Writer Discovers That "Laughter Is the Best Medicine"

An improbable article about an improbable medical recovery launched an improbable second career for Norman Cousins.

Already well known in literary circles as longtime editor of the Saturday Review -- and a legendary perpetrator of April Fool's Day spoofs -- Cousins wrote an article titled "Anatomy of an Illness (As Perceived by the Patient)" in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Cousins' article chronicled his remarkable recovery from a severe and life-threatening disease of the connective tissue called degenerative collagen illness. He was hospitalized in 1964 with severe pain, high fever and near-paralysis of the legs, neck and back.

"Being unable to move my body was all the evidence I needed that the specialists were dealing with real concerns," he wrote. "But deep down, I knew I had a good chance and relished the idea of bucking the odds." He did.

The key to his recovery, he said, was a powerful drug called laughter.

"I made the joyous discovery that 10 minutes of genuine belly laughter had

an anesthetic effect and would give me at least two hours of pain-free sleep," he wrote.

Flat on his back in a New York hospital, Cousins persuaded the nurses to read him excerpts from the humor columns of E.B. White and Max Eastman and show him "Candid Camera" reruns and old Marx Brothers movies.

It's not often that The New England Journal, must reading for the nation's physicians, prints a six-page article by a layperson extolling the curative virtues of megadoses of laughter and Vitamin C. The article drew some 5,000 letters, more than anything Cousins had ever written, including 31 years' worth of signed editorials on the arms race, world affairs, air pollution and other weighty topics in the Saturday Review.

"We launched Cousins' second career," said Dr. Arnold S. Relman, editor of The New England Journal.



Norman Cousins

In that "second career," Cousins has written two books, including an expanded version of the journal article, "Anatomy of an Illness," and "The Healing Heart," which describes the "healing partnership" with his doctor which helped him recover from the heart attack he suffered in 1980. He also joined the faculty of the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine as a researcher in the biochemistry of emotions and professor of medical humanities.

## St. Monica: A Saint for Parents Whose Children Have left the Church

Lapsed Catholics are not a modern phenomenon — the life of St. Monica teaches us that. Her son, Augustine, rejected the faith she had taught him as a child.

Monica (332-387) was born into a Christian family in the town of Thagaste, now Souk Ahras, in Algeria. Her husband, Patricius, appears to have been religiously indifferent, but he did not interfere with Monica's faith and permitted her to raise their children as Catholics.

When Augustine was born, Monica did not have him baptized. Nonetheless, Monica did have her priest mark the infant Augustine with holy oil in the sign of the cross and sprinkle blessed salt, a sign of exorcism, on his tongue. This ceremony would have made him a catechumen, one who was taking instruction in the Faith, and Monica was Augustine's teacher.

Monica and Patricius were ambitious for their son. They wanted Augustine to receive a classical education so he could enter one of the professions. Before Augustine went off to the university at Carthage — the Harvard of Roman North Africa — Monica pleaded with him to remain chaste. In his "Confessions," Augustine admits he treated her "womanish advice" with contempt. He was, as he says, "in the mood to be seduced"; in fact, soon after he arrived in Carthage he found a mistress, and they moved in together. A year later,

the woman gave birth to a baby boy whom they named Adeodatus, meaning "gift from God."

That news was bad enough. Augustine compounded it by abandoning the Catholic faith and joining the Manicheans, a sect that considered itself an intellectual and spiritual elite. Manicheans taught that there were two gods — one good, the other evil — who were in constant conflict for control of the universe. Throughout history many "Jesuses" had come to earth to struggle on the side of good, but none had ever triumphed over evil.

To have her son join such a sect broke Monica's heart. She sought out a bishop who once had been a Manichean and begged him to go speak to Augustine. The bishop answered that so early in his conversion Augustine would not be willing to listen to any arguments against Manichaeism. But Monica would not take no for an answer. She pleaded and wept and made such a nuisance of herself that the bishop lost his temper. "Go away from me!" he cried. Instantly regretting his bad manners, he added, "Do not worry. It is not possible that the son of so many tears should be lost forever."

Seventeen years passed before Augustine was ready to re-evaluate his life. By that point, he was teaching philosophy in Milan. Monica had moved there, too. In Milan, she found



an ally in the city's bishop, St. Ambrose. Augustine began attending any Mass where Ambrose was scheduled to preach. Between Monica's prayers and Ambrose's eloquence, Augustine renounced the Manicheans and entered the Catholic Church. On the night of April 24, 387, at the Mass of the Easter Vigil, St. Ambrose baptized Augustine and Adeodatus.

St. Monica is also the patron of homemakers, married women and victims of abuse by their spouses.