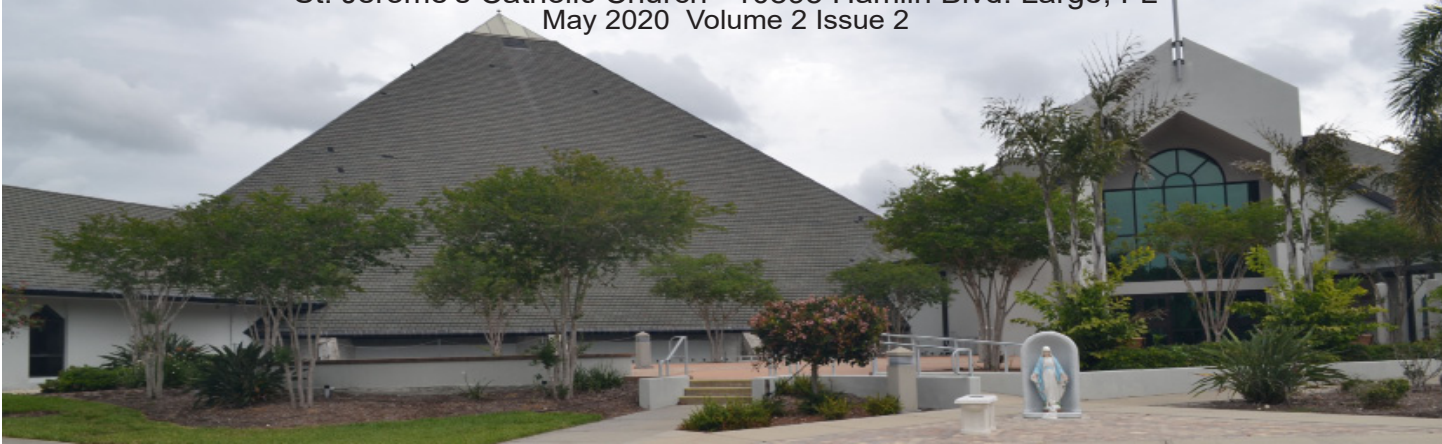


# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249  
St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL  
May 2020 Volume 2 Issue 2



## China's First Saint Was Martyred on a Cross in Wuhan



China's first canonized saint was martyred by suffocation on a cross in Wuhan, the epicenter of today's coronavirus pandemic. St. Jean-Gabriel Perboyre, a Vincentian missionary priest from France, was betrayed by one of his catechumens for money, bound in chains, tortured, tied to a wooden cross and strangled to death in Wuhan in 1840. Dr. Anthony Clark, a professor of Chinese history, said that Wuhan's martyr saints are particularly suitable inter-

cessors for those suffering from COVID-19 today. "Sts. Perboyre and Clet were both killed by strangulation; they died because they could not breathe," he said. "How could they not be appropriate intercessors for this particular illness?" "Among the torments against Perboyre were continued beatings on his lower back and he was forced to kneel on broken glass. He certainly knew the agonies of physical suffering, and would be a good comfort for those who now suffer from this virus." Wuhan, now infamous as the origin of the coronavirus, was once an outpost for Catholic missionaries who founded Catholic hospitals in the city. The Catholic community of Wuhan has suffered greatly during the era of Chairman Mao and the Cultural Revolution, and through that time they hid the tombstones of Saints Perboyre and Clet to protect them, because of their deep devotion to those martyrs. Many missionaries left for China in the 19th century with the knowledge that they would never return. "I don't know what awaits me on the path that opens before me: without a doubt the cross, which is the daily bread of the missionary. What can we hope for better, going to preach a crucified God?" St. Perboyre wrote in a letter during his journey to China. Perboyre's remains were eventually moved to Paris to the Vincentian motherhouse. Today his tomb is located in a side chapel in the same church where St. Vincent de Paul's incorrupt body is located. He was beatified in 1889 by Pope Leo XIII. "St. Thérèse of Lisieux had a special devotion to Perboyre and kept a holy card dedicated to him in her personal prayer book," Dr. Clark pointed out. At Perboyre's canonization in 1996, St. John Paul II said: "Along the streets where he had been sent he found the Cross of Christ. Through the daily imitation of his

(Continued on page 2)



### FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

- Benedict XVI celebrates 93rd birthday with no visitors
- Vatican creates commission to address virus aftermath
- Franciscan University to cover fall 2020 tuition costs for incoming students
- Pope: Crisis is time to consider universal basic wage
- Boston archdiocese assembles teams of priests to anoint coronavirus patients
- Hunger in Venezuela becoming 'a fuel more dangerous than gasoline'
- Pope Francis urges Catholics to unite through praying the rosary in May
- 2020 priest ordination class is slightly smaller, more diverse, survey finds
- Pope prays that pastors will have courage to be close to their people

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

Brothers: I don't need to tell you the stress that this pandemic is placing on everyone. Thank you for hanging in there. I encourage all of you to remain steadfast and safe, and for

those who do not think this is real, I have handled four family deaths at my funeral home, two of which came from Freedom Square where Brother Gregg and I have our mothers living and where Brother Joe Moore works. Please continue to be safe.

Obviously, we have not been able to meet as a group. I am looking to do an online meeting on May 13 with Zoom. You will be receiving more information in the next week about this program.

I am able to share a few things Supreme has been working on and a few happenings at our church. Supreme has designed an online Exemption Program for all new members. It is set up where a new member is able to apply and attend the 30-minute program online. Supreme handles the paper-

work and sends the Rosary, etc. We would do an online vote to accept the new member. My hope was that by the time we got to this we would be meeting together again, but it appears this staying home mandate may go on into the summer. Supreme has also revised criteria for councils to receive awards. Next, we have the issue of voting for new officers. I will be doing a separate mailing for this with a slate of officers. This will be done by regular postage so as not to miss anyone. You will be given the slate of officers. During our May online meeting, those names will be read three times. If there are any additional names then that name will be added to the new officer slate. I will then send out a mailing with the names, and everyone will have an opportunity to vote. I'm not sure of the installation date yet.

Our council continues to help Fr. Tom with confessions on Saturday. Again, we have limited the number of people participating. Fr. Tom has asked the Knights to build an outdoor altar, and this is in the development stage. We are asking all Knights to continue to provide food to our food pantry.

God bless everyone. Keep praying the Rosary for each other.

Vivat Jesus.

Pete

## Huwan Martyr (continued from page 1)

Lord, with humility and gentleness, he fully identified with him. ... After being tortured and condemned, reproducing the Passion of Jesus with extraordinary similarity, he came like him to death and death on a cross."

Today, Catholics in Wuhan have a particular devotion to St. Francis and the Sacrament of Penance, Clark observed.

Catholics in Wuhan are "known to make long lines near the confessionals of priests who are most faithful to the authentic teachings of the Church; they are a beautiful witness," he said.

"It is rare to find a church without a statue of St. Francis, and sometimes a devotion to St. Vincent de Paul. The faith there is strong, and has even flourished especially during times of persecution," Clark added.

"I have indeed heard from some Catholics during this time, and they are, like all of us, turning to the Lord and his mercy as we all confront our own frailty," he said. "I recently heard from a Wuhan Protestant who remarked on the sadness of witnessing elderly members of their church passing away. The trauma within Wuhan's Christian community has been greatly aided through the powerful faith of Christians in that area."

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Dear Brother Knights:

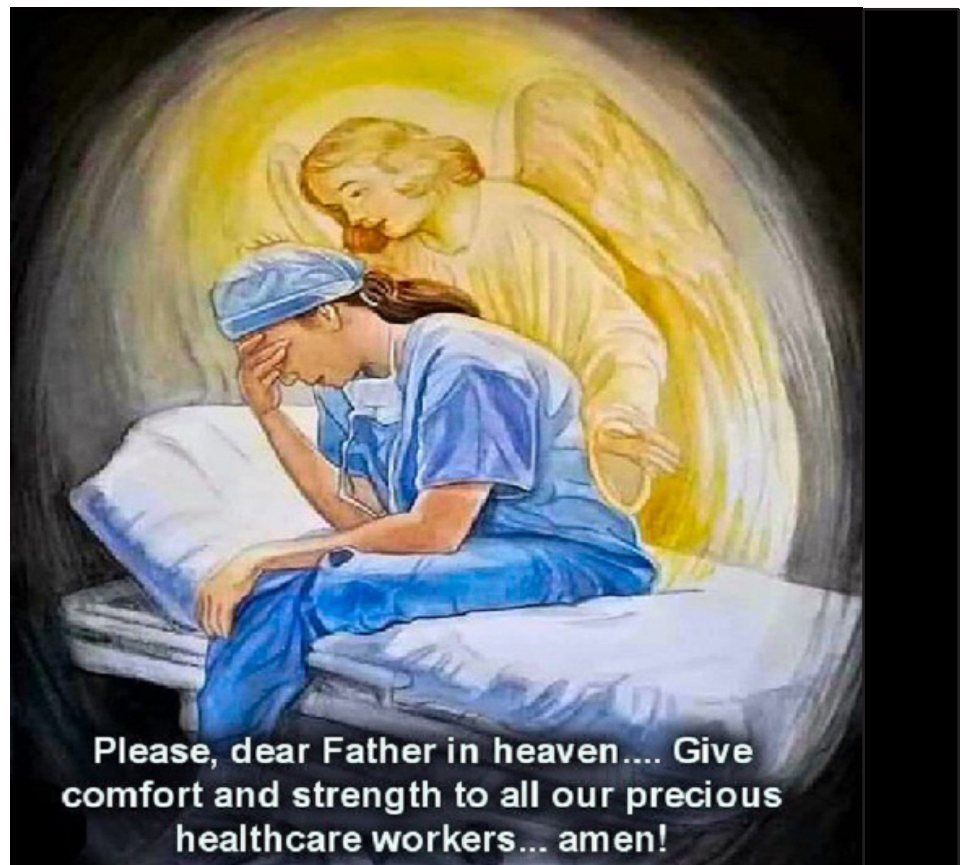
We remember during the month of May our moms, grandmothers, godmothers and those women who have been like moms to us. We lift up

a prayer for them as we say, "Happy Mother's Day."

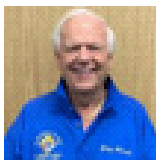
The Catechism of the Church teaches in #239 that "God's parental tenderness can also be expressed by the image of motherhood." Mothers make present the tenderness of God to their children."

We thank these dear women living and deceased for the gift they are to our lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Tom Morgan



# PROFILES OF OUR MEMBERS



Greg Musick

I was born May 6, 1946, in South Bend, Indiana. I graduated from St. Joseph HS, South Bend, IN, 1964.

I became a Third Degree Knight April, 1965 while a freshman at St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas.

I graduated in 1969 from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

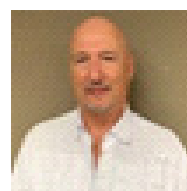
I married Nancy on April 8, 1972, at St. Mary's Church, Lake Forest, IL.

My children are Brian, May 1973; Kristin, Aug. 1974; Kevin, Aug. 1975; Kelly, Jan. 1978.

I worked in sales (wholesale clothing rep.), living in Chicago, IL, Richmond, VA, Milwaukee, WI, Tampa Bay.

I owned and operated The Beach Bar, The Beach Bar Grill, and The Beach Bar Liquors on Clearwater Beach, FL. 1991-2004.

I am now retired with our four children and six grandchildren spread out in Atlanta, Chicago, and San Diego.



Ralph Frizzle

I was born in Camden NJ, 1949, and was raised in a large Catholic family next to St. Cecilia's Parish. After high school and RCA Technical College, I enlisted in the US Navy in 1969.

I served in the Navy 4 years in Iceland and USS Ware, Destroyer DD865, cryptographic communications, and all forms of shipboard electronics. I attained Golden ShellBack.

I am the Father of 2 and grandfather of 7 and greatgrandfather of 1

I Served on IRB ICWW committee and Oakhurst HOA.

I am currently a Radiology Engineer and President of German Electronics Inc. I am also a member of St. Jerome choir as Audio/Video Engineer.



Jim Hand

I was born in Vincennes, IN.

After high school, I went to Vincennes University and graduated with an Associate degree in Engineering. After two years as a draftsman for a steel company, I

went to Purdue for more engineering but didn't like it, so I switched to education and ended up teaching high school

English for 36 years in Tippecanoe County, IN. I also had a house-painting business for the summer months.

I Retired to Florida July 1, 1998. I went through RCIA and became a Catholic in 1999. I married Jean in September of 2000. I was an Olympic torch carrier in 2004 in St. Louis. I have owned 13 motorcycles. I have written four books.

I am proud to be a member of the Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249.



Fred Belzel

I grew up in NJ and got my BS in Business Administration from Seton Hall University (Catholic University named for Mother Seton).

After 2 years in the Navy, we moved to Florida in the late 70's. My cousin, Charles Belzel, got me involved in the K of C. He was Grand Knight of 4892 at the time.

I worked as CPA for Sears and the City of Clearwater and retired in 2009.

My father was Sir Knight in NJ Council 1856. I was a member of the Squires at the time.



Pete McCabe

I have been a Knight since 1985 and have been a member of a number of councils as well as a charter member three times.

I grew up in New York City (Queens) and went to college in Ohio (Kent State University). I

entered the Air Force in 1983 and was a B-52 navigator/bombardier retiring in 2011 as a Colonel.

I have a PhD in Political Science and currently work at the Joint Special Operations University at MacDill AFB. My wife, Denise, and I live in Redington Beach and have been a St Jerome parishioner since 2012.



Wesley Stacknik

I was raised in Chicago, IL.

I graduated from Loyola University in 1964 and John Law Marshall School in 1977. After graduation, I began practicing law in

Seminole, specializing in estate planning, wills and trusts, probate, family law, bankruptcy, personal injury, and social security disability.

Also in 1977 I became a member of St. Jerome Parish.

I have been married to Claudine for 52 years, and we have three children: Jennifer, Suzanne, and Heather.

I was an usher at the 7:30 mass for 30 years.

I have been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1977.



Ed Garnier

I was born at a very early age and at a very early time: January 28, 1942, at St Mary's Hospital in Gary, Indiana, baptized at Holy Angels Cathedral in Gary, Indiana, and moved to Matlacha, Florida in 1947 with my parents and then 2 siblings

We moved to Kankakee, Illinois, in 1948, and I went to 1st grade at Longfellow public school in Kankakee, Illinois, the 2nd grade at St Joseph's Seminary, Kankakee, Illinois, the 3rd

grade at St Rose, Kankakee, Illinois, St Martin of Tours grades 4-7, St Patrick's school, 8th grade, East Jr HS, 9th grade, Kankakee Sr HS, Sophomore - Senior, graduating in 1960. I stumbled into college at St Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, for 2 years, left to work for 2 years, then finished up at St Joseph's College Calumet Ctr, East Chicago, IN. I had worked my way through college. I graduated in 1970 with a wife, 2 kids and 1 in the oven, a

house payment and car payment.

We moved to Florida in 1978 after a 5-week vacation from Inland Steel. I worked at Westinghouse in Tampa as an electrician. I got into insurance work after Westinghouse closed their Tampa plant (the union won), and retired from Allstate in March of 2000. Jason, my son, and I started our Independent Insurance Agency and I've been here ever since, working retired.

# PROFILES OF OUR MEMBERS



Jim Patton

I was born February 19, 1940, in Hoboken, New Jersey. I lived in Hoboken till the age of seven when we moved to the Jersey shore to the town of Rumson, where I attended Catholic elementary and high school. I graduated from high school in June 1957 and within two weeks I was in Cape May, New Jersey, in Coast Guard boot camp for the start of an amazing 22-year career.

My first sixteen years were spent on various units in the New York and New Jersey area. In 1967, I married my amazing wife Kathi, who joined me in my future adventures. In 1973, after spending five years on Governors Island in New York harbor, the Coast

Guard decided they needed to transfer me to Washington, DC. We spent four interesting years living in Dade City, Virginia, and on our free time got to see a lot of DC. In 1977 I was transferred to the great state of Florida, where I would be a Coast Guard Marine inspector in Tampa. I did a lot of inspections in a barge building company, and in 1979 I decided to retire. I was a Coastie on Friday, and on Monday I was civilian at the barge-building company doing the same job from the other side. I got involved with cost accounting and decided to go back to school where I earned a BS in Accounting. I took a job with a small Lawn Maintenance company as the accountant.

Working behind a desk was a big change for me. I needed to start some



Ed Wirth

I was born 6 days before Pearl Harbor, Dec. 1, 1941, in Chicago, IL, and moved to Florida 37 years ago.

I was not in the armed services.

As far as my livelihood goes, I spent 30 years with Illinois Bell AT&T Paradyne. Since then, I have had my own consulting company (still active), a local high-tech startup, and taught in 4 different universities – first in the classroom and now only online (active at 3 of them). In 1978 AT&T needed 1000 people in Orlando to help defend against an antitrust case, so I moved to Florida. After 7 years of that, I went back to NJ in 1985. Three years later, I helped write an acquisition plan and then went to AT&T Paradyne in Largo in 1988.

I am a cradle Catholic.

I love to travel, play golf, and to be around my family. I have 6 children, 11 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. (If I knew that grandchildren were so much fun, I'd have had them first.)

I became a Knight in NJ around 1986. There was a strong council in our local Church in Hopatcong, NJ. I was also part of an ecumenical movement with 10 churches around Lake Hopatcong, NJ. I am now secretary of our community Ecumenical committee, which includes about 10 local churches.



Joe Ghezzi

I am very proud to be a member of the Knights of Columbus! I am what you would probably call a "cradle Catholic," growing up in a Catholic family, in an Italian settlement in Dennison, Ohio. I went

to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and attended St Mary's Catholic School.

I started working for my father at the Parkway Cabinet Shop in 1958. My father was an old-world master craftsman who was also taught by another exceptional master craftsman, his father, my grandfather Enrique (Henry). They were the greatest mentors I had the privilege to learn from!

I make beautiful art pieces, turned boxes and bowls, jewelry boxes, wedding and anniversary gifts, memorial boxes, urns, etc. In fact I am in the process of finishing an urn for a fellow parishioner, that died of the corona virus that he caught on a trip to the Holy Land. Dick will be greatly missed, but long remembered.

We ended up in Seminole years ago on vacation to visit my Aunt Maryann & Uncle Willie. We left Ohio where the weather was very cold and snowy. My wife grew up in western Iowa and knew nothing about Florida winters.

When we arrived, it was 85 degrees and sunny; we hadn't seen sunshine for

exercising, so I took up running, first 5Ks and then 10Ks and eventually full marathons (26.2 Miles). I was hooked. I got to enjoy the travel and meeting new people so much that I took on the challenge to run a full marathon in all fifty states.

In 2005 it was determined that I needed surgery to replace a mitral valve. I still had thirty states to run to complete my fifty-state challenge. My surgeon and cardiologist said they wanted to see a picture of me completing my next marathon. Well they got it, and in addition to completing a marathon in all fifty states I have completed a total of 78 marathons. My running days came to an end in 2018 when I had to go for another mitral-valve replacement. I began going to the YMCA six days a week to work out.

I was born into a Catholic family and attended both catholic elementary and high schools. Kathi and I are Eucharistic Ministers at the 5:30 Saturday mass. I joined the Knight of Columbus in the 70s while stationed in DC and living in Woodbridge. We had a very active chapter and assembly and I moved on to SK quickly. I was on the Fourth Degree team and we traveled the state putting on degrees.

months. My wife was in such amazement that she wanted to come back in June. While I was playing with my kids on the beach, she went house hunting. The rest is history!

Being a Knight had been on my bucket list since I was an altar boy back in 1954, and watched the prestigious KofC, and God led us to St Jerome Catholic Church in 2016.



Rick Hendrickson

I was born in Brooklyn, NY, and raised on Long Island. I retired after 30 years with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals as a Sales and Marketing Manager. Currently I am "semi" retired as a Real Estate Broker at Coldwell Banker. I am married to my beautiful wife Mary Ann and have three children: Ric, Ryan and Renee and seven grandchildren.

I am an avid classic and special-interest car enthusiast and enjoy my pristine 2004 Thunderbird on sunny days. We love to travel, especially via cruise liners, and to see our amazing world. And, yes, I love watching the Rays win, one of my favorite things to do.

I am also humbled to be a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 17249.

# PROFILES OF OUR MEMBERS



Chuck Lake

I was born back in 1936 in Schenectady, New York.

I Lived most of my Life based in New York - 1936 to 1994, at which time my bride and I moved to Florida to escape the snow & ice and to enjoy the sunshine &

beaches.

I Spent 4 years in USAF (SAC), stationed mostly in northern Maine @ Loring AFB on the Canadian border. Summer was nice ----BOTH Days!!

I worked as an accountant, supervisor and auditor for a Regional Super Market Chain for several years, but most of my career was with General Electric as

an accountant, in management, as an auditor and accounting troubleshooter.

I was a cradle Catholic, having served as an altar boy, usher, choir member, lector, cantor, and parish council member.

I have been a K of C member for almost 50 years in two councils up North and treasurer for two years. I was also a member at St Patrick's, until I transferred to St. Jerome's 17249 to help initiate our council, where I am now serving as chancellor.

My wife and I follow the activities of our three children and their families. They are very involved in Scouting, two Eagle Scout sons, one Eagle Scout grandson and another on the verge and three more on the trail. Also, I am

very active in music and sports. Dolly and I were Scouting leaders for about 10 years.

In my limited Spare Time?? I love singing with the Chorale and the Silly Sinatras, reading, puzzles of all sorts, and traveling, domestic and foreign.

The most terrific experience in my life was dating & marrying my bride of 54 years, my Dolly. She's the BEST thing that's ever happened to me (with the help & guidance of Jesus Christ.)

I became a Knight in the late 60's at the invitation of some good friends and fellow ushers at St. Joseph's Church in Scotia, NY, and thoroughly enjoy every minute of it today with my brothers in 17249.

Vivat Jesus. Chuckles



GK Pete Grasso  
H.S. football pic

I was born in Welch, WV, and lived there for a couple of years before my family moved south seeking employment. My dad was a West Virginia Funeral Director until he developed an allergy to the harsh chemicals and had the choice of moving or becoming a coal miner. I thanked

them all the time for moving to St. Petersburg.

I have an older brother, Joe, a sister, Anne, who came after me, and then my baby brother Nick. So needless to say, I fell in there as the "Middle-Child." I grew up in St. Petersburg where I attended St. Paul Catholic School from kindergarten to the eighth grade, one year at Lealman Junior High and then enjoyed three fantastic years at St. Petersburg Senior High School. I was

very active in clubs and groups, but my main love (until I discovered girls) was football. That's why I included my high school football picture. I can't believe that next year we will be celebrating our 50th Year reunion.

During all of those years growing up in St. Petersburg, my dad worked part-time in funeral homes and I spent most of my time there with him, so when I graduated from high school I started my internship in the funeral home. Then it was off to college to become a Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer when I was 22 years old.

I followed this for a few years and at the old age of 27 decided I had enough, and I believe God put another thought in my heart, so I joined the St. Petersburg Fire Department where I became a Fire Department Rescue Paramedic which I did for 25 yrs. Like most firefighters, I had a part-time job on my days off and you guessed it: working back in the funeral home. So I was blessed with two great careers. During

those years with the fire department I enjoyed specializing in Tactical Rescue (Heavy Extraction, structural collapse rescue, and High Elevation Rescue). This placed me on one of the 25 domestic response teams in the United States. Eventually this came to the St. Petersburg and the team which I developed is now known as Florida Task Force 3. I also worked for a number of years on the Fire Department Marine Rescue in the waters near south St. Pete and out to the Skyway Bridge.

When I retired from the fire department, I became a special ops paramedic for BayCare and worked many years (part-time) at the Trop for Rays' baseball. During that time I was a Special Ops Paramedic and logistics specialist for Florida DMAT3, which is a federal response team for disasters. Many adventures.

About eight years ago I decided to slow down just a bit so I opened a funeral home in Largo which I currently operate with my wife, Dawn.



Charlie  
Randolph Scott

I was born in Harvey, Illinois, where my father was an air traffic controller at Randolph Air Force Base (guess how I got my middle name!)

I grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, and graduated from Lexington Catholic high school. After attending

U.K. for a few years, I moved to Jacksonville, Florida, to be an air traffic controller. But after a few months

I decided that job was NOT for me. Since I've always loved to fix things, I decided to go into the air conditioning business. My wife Marianne and I ran our business--Scott's heating and air-conditioning-- for 30 years. It was a very good business, but very stressful and after we sold it (One of Marianne's most wonderful days of her life) we started traveling and visiting the US in our motor home.

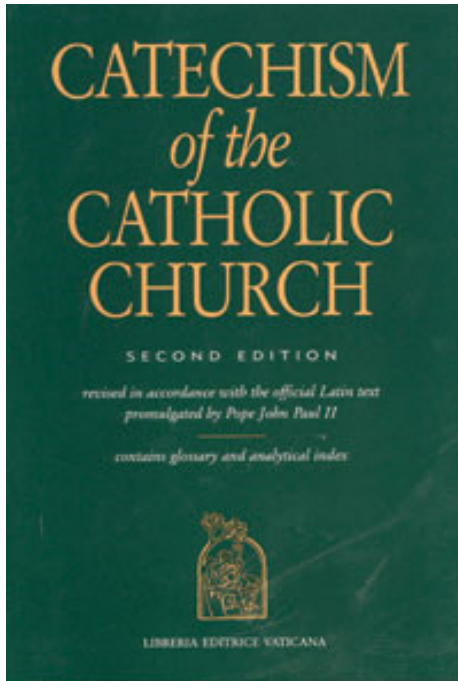
The main highlights of our lives besides our marriage and children were being very active in Marriage Encounter and then in Cursillo, as well as the charismatic renewal. As quiet as I am, I can't

believe we used to give talks in front of many people. I believe those experiences helped Marianne and me to have the strong faith and the beautiful marriage we have today.

I was also involved in the Boy Scouts with our son Matt.

These days we are involved at St Jerome's and we go to daily mass, pray the Rosary daily, and take daily walks. We are also involved in "Joy of the Gospel," a homeless ministry in downtown Clearwater.

Our summers are spent in Sapphire, North Carolina, in the beautiful Smokey Mountains



## What Does the Catechism Say about Birth Control in Marriage?

234 The marriage couple forms the intimate partnership of life and love established by the creator and governed by His laws; it is rooted in the conjugal covenant, in their irrevocable personal consent. Both give themselves definitely and totally to one another. They are no longer two; from now on they are one flesh.

2365 Fidelity expresses constancy in keeping one's word. The sacrament of matrimony enables man and woman to enter Christ's fidelity for His church.

2366 Conjugal love naturally tends to be fruitful. The church teaches that "It is necessary that each and every marriage act remain ordered to the procreation of human life."

2367 Married couples should regard it as their mission to transmit human life and to educate their children. They will fulfil this duty with a sense of human and Christian responsibility.

2368 A particular aspect of this responsibility concerns the regulation of procreation. Spouses may consider spacing the births of their children. It is their duty to make certain that their desire is not motivated by selfishness but is appropriate to responsible parenthood.

2370 Periodic continence is in accordance with the objective criteria of morality. Every action which proposes to render procreation impossible is intrinsically evil.

(These references have been edited for brevity.~~editor)