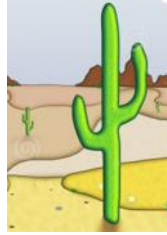


The Desert

The School of Mary

By: Jessica Mendez



The last month has felt somewhat like living in the desert. Going into this situation, I feel that many of us wandered around not really knowing what to do or how to cope with all the changes that were suddenly happening.

One night as I struggled to fall asleep, the Holy Spirit brought to my mind the parable of the Good Samaritan. If you have forgotten where to find it, look in Luke 10:25-37. I know that when we look at this parable we think of Jesus as the Good Samaritan. We feel warm and fuzzy at the thought that he picks us up, tends our wounds and pays our expenses; rightfully so, but I believe there is more to this parable that reveals our behaviors. The whole reason why Jesus shared this parable is because an expert of the law chose to test Jesus with the question, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Because Jesus knows that this man thinks he is an "expert, Jesus says, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" (emphasis added by me) To which he answered, "Love the Lord your God with all you heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." There is more to this conversation, but I am going to share the revelation that I believe the Holy Spirit gave me.

In the parable, a man goes into the desert, from Jerusalem to Jericho. We know that this was a dangerous road. This man went alone, with no tools, no weapons, he was unprepared. Much like this man, many of us at the beginning of this pandemic wandered into the "desert" with no preparation. What happened to this man? He was robbed! Have you felt robbed? When he was robbed, he was stripped of his clothes, beaten and left for dead. Just like us, in our journey we have been stripped of our security, we have been beaten down by our emotions and most of us have been left without the Sacraments that sustained our spiritual life.

This man hoped that, as he saw a priest pass by, that he would stop to help, but he did not stop. As he saw the Levite pass by, again he was left unaided. What have you looked to aid you? The traditional form of the church that we have become so familiar with has been taken from us. Even our friends and family cannot help us in this situation. Once again, we have been left unaided just as this man. This pandemic has forced us to go beyond what we think we know. It has forced us to go beyond our normal comforts and forms of worship. It has caused me to look deep into my heart and has tested my faith in ways that I did not know it could be tested. This pandemic has caused us to recognize who God is to us, who Jesus is to us, who the Holy Spirit is to us. Have you taken time to explore a new relationship with Him? Or have you still held on to your old comfort? What did you turn to? Television? Alcohol? Junk food? Who did you seek? Facebook? The Good Samaritan is on His way to rescue you, to heal your wounds and to pay your debt. Will you allow Him to show you something new? We have a new normal. How will we allow this to transform us? I pray that each of us will answer His call to a new level of holiness. As we continue on this journey, let us join Jesus in His passion by offering up all of our suffering in union with His for all who are suffering through similar struggles. Let us offer up our desire to go shopping for those who have been confined to their homes or a hospital long before this pandemic. I believe that as we offer up our suffering, the Holy Spirit will give us a new perspective, we will lose our sense of entitlement and we will gain a grateful heart for all of the things that we have taken for granted, especially the precious sacraments and time with our loved ones.

God bless you all! Until our eyes meet again, continue to pray for us as we continue to pray for you!

In this month of May, we bring you some meditations received during prayer by Mary Constancio. Let these words inspire you to come closer to Jesus and live your faith more fully.

Do not despair, do not worry, for worry is useless and brings about fear. Close the door to worry so that fear will not enter. Worry opens doors to un-trust of God. Worry opens doors of guilt, opens doors to many health issues, opens doors to the fear of death of many kinds.

Pray, pray, pray that your faith will endure with grace, with exaltation.

Look around. Look to the left and look to the right. There are clouds of darkness wanting to overtake your joy, your view of Jesus. This darkness wants to impede your faith from being put into action.

Your greatest test will be to be patient with one another, to love and serve one another, to forgive one another, to show mercy to one another. Look ahead of what are the needs of each other without the attitude of entitlement.

Learn to serve as you have been served. Service is the hardest to give when you think the one to serve is not worthy of your kindness.

Kindness, kindness, kindness will remove many sins because you will see things differently afterward.



HAPPY
Mother's Day



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

As the COVID-19 virus continues to affect us, we have rescheduled the Men's Retreat and the Women's Retreat.

Macho Men of God retreat will be held May 29-31

Women's retreat will be held on June 12-14.

In the meantime we are working to make some retreats available online and updates will be posted on our website at www.flameofmercy.com.

Louis Life Center: May Update

Much progress has been made during April, even though most of the country has come to a stop. By the Lord's grace, the building framing is complete, and most of the siding is installed. Please note that just two men have built 90 % of this structure: Isidore Martinez and Manuel Constancio. We still need help installing the metal roof, with the installation of electrical wiring to the front part of the building soon to follow.

The Ambassadors are hoping to hold its first retreat in the building on the weekend of September 4, 2020, which will be the Macho Men of God Retreat. Your financial support is needed to meet this goal. And as always, keep us in your prayers.



The siding on the lower section of the building is almost complete.



(Above) View of the inside of the chapel which is two levels and can seat 64 persons.



The gift shop waits for the installation of the roof.

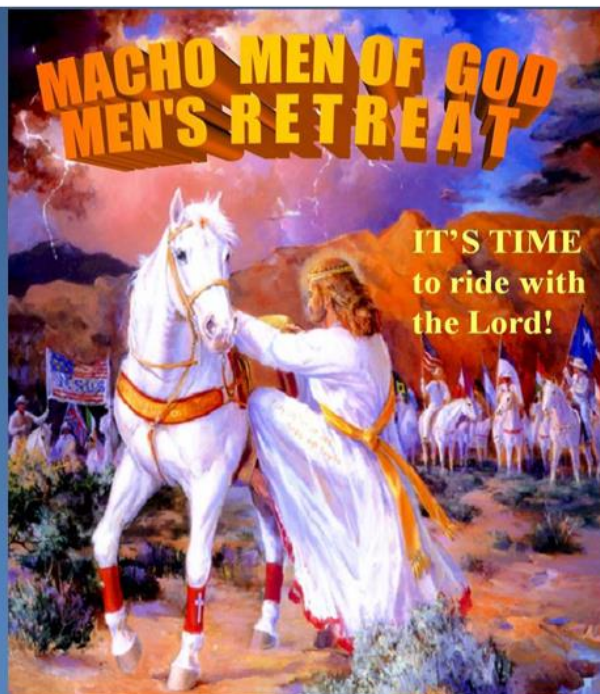


Ralph Mendez and his sons help clean up the panels for the new roof.

92nd Men's Retreat

May 29-31, 2020

- Accepting the Purpose for Who God Created Me to Be
- How to Recognize a Wounded Family & Bring Healing
- Getting out of Desperation
- Is Your Addiction Leading Your Life?
 - Overcoming Your Physical Sickness with God's Mercy
 - Is Your Sickness Running Your Life?
 - Overcoming Addictions
 - Come Experience God's Love



**Join us
For a weekend
that will
change your life!**

Women of Power Retreat

An Instrument of God

June 12-14, 2020

Possible Topics Include:



- What Keeps Me from Being God's Instrument?
- The 3 Pillars of Faith
- An Attitude of Gratitude
- Words that Heal or Destroy
- Healed in Body & Spirit
- How to Forgive & Live Again
- Healing from the Spirit of Grief
- Understanding & Supporting My Husband's Mission in our Family

Featured Speakers Include:



Mary Constancio



Jessica Mendez



Brenda Garcia



Corina Constancio



Carolyn Huntzinger



Kathy Gloria

The Ambassadors The Altar of Grace

Here is an inspiring Reflection received by Mary Constancio during prayer. Take it to your heart:

When you cannot admit that there's even a possibility you could be wrong, that is pride.

Lay down your pride at the Altar of Grace where you can pick up the grace of humility, lay down selfishness and the spirit of offense, so that your will is given over to God, to Jesus.

It is a new dawn that is coming, and the light of this new dawn will shine through you.

The reason you cannot feel repentance or experience it is because you have become blind of sight of heart, that you have become accustomed to denial that your heart is crusted with the spirit to be right and self-righteousness.

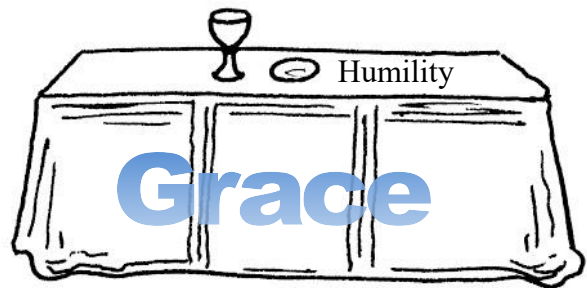
You must ask yourself if you are truly ready to be wrong about how you feel about being entitled to your feelings and how you react to that entitlement. For even the Devil feels entitled to fiercely destroy God's children, for that is what sent him to Hell: his desire to be like God, to be above Jesus, for pride and arrogance are the roots of entitlement. This is where hurt feelings come from. This is where disobedience comes from!

You see, my daughter, God will lift you up. He will be the one to show his love, his favor when it is time. He will bring you honor. He will bring you the respect you are to have.

My children, you are not as far off as you think, and not as close as you think. But you have said "yes," and that will bring you as close as God calls you.

My children, you have become numb: numb because you protect yourself from pain and suffering, but you must allow me to remove that defense you have placed around your heart, soul, and mind.

It is time to write a new book of mercy where the other one has been received, and this one begins.



2020 RETREAT SCHEDULE

RETREAT RESCHEDULE DATES

- **Macho Men of God Retreat**
NEW DATE: May 29-31, 2020
- **Women of Power Retreat**
NEW DATE: June 12-14, 2020
- **Self Image Retreat** **NEW DATE—TO BE CONFIRMED July 31-August 2**

- **Celebration of the Feast of the Assumption**
August 14-15, 2020 (No charge to attend)
- **Macho Men of God Retreat**
September 4-6, 2020 (Labor Day Weekend)
- **Women of Power Retreat**
September 18-20, 2020

Retreat Registration Fee: \$175.00

Register today online: www.flameofmercy.com, Email: Admin@flameofmercy.com, or call the office at 806-832-4243

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