

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

June, 2024

Virtual Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Saturday, 12:00

2783 Lafayette Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10465
718-597-6298

Sunday Worship
Sunday 11:00 am

cotm47@verizon.net

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Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor

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HETHER YOU turn to the Old Testament and see how God called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldeans or turn to the New Testament and see how God stopped Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus, the Bible is filled with things that actually happened. Our Christian faith is rooted in history.

Frederick Faber felt the new religious movements that seemed so popular in his day were dangerous. He felt there was too much emphasis on the experience of the moment. After three years as an Anglican minister, he left that church and joined the Roman Catholic church. He appreciated the continuity with the past that he found there, and he respected the martyrs who had given their lives for Christ. But as a Roman Catholic, he missed the singing he had enjoyed as an Anglican. So he wrote hymns to help fill the void. Today Christians of all denominations sing Faber's hymns, grateful to God for the faith of our spiritual ancestors.



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2, NRSV

Faith of Our Fathers

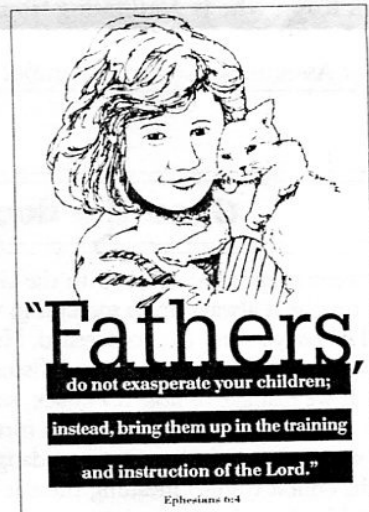
Faith of our fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!

*Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.*

Faith of our fathers! we will strive
To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then be truly free.

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.

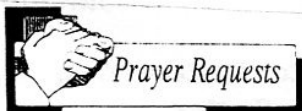
Frederick William Faber (1814–1863)



SPECIAL DATES*

- Flag Day, June 14th
- Father's Day, June 16th
- First day of summer, June 21st

News From the Pews



Continue praying for:
Ellen McCullough,
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
Loretta Byrd, Alice & Alex Rivera

Everyone is invited to join our virtual "**Hour of Prayer Power**" every Friday at 7:00 PM. The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860, code: 371231#

Our **Online Bible Study** meets
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)
for information on joining

GRADUATION



Congratulations to:

Anthony Acevedo, who is graduating from MS101. Anthony will be attending Carmel High School in September.

And

Dean Koys, who is graduating from St. Johns' PreSchool. Dean will be starting kindergarten at Miller Avenue School in September.

Open the door

We seem to have lost touch with the God of surprises. We forget that he is always up to something wondrous and unexpected where you and I are concerned. He taps on our heart's door, waiting for us to open up and discover what he holds for us. If we manage to hear his knock, sometimes what we find is almost unbearably precious. It turns out to be the one thing we need most in life, or as my daughter Ann used to say, "the onliest thing," meaning there is nothing more splendid in the universe.

—Sue Monk Kidd, *God's Joyful Surprise*

CHURCH CHUCKLES

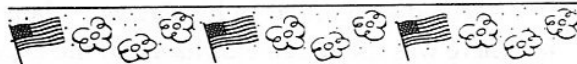
An old man had passed on. A wonderful funeral was in progress, and the country preacher talked at length of the good traits of the deceased, what an honest man he was, and what a loving husband and kind father he was. Finally, the widow leaned over and whispered to one of her children, "Go up there and take a look in the coffin and see if that's your pa."

Rev. Kendall liked to add a little spice to her sermon about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. As she preached, she walked through the congregation waking up all the snoozers.

Kids are free

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates.

When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me, Daddy. I'm under five."



Hymn for a summer day

Maltbie Davenport Babcock, a minister in upstate New York at the turn of the 20th century, often walked near Niagara Falls to enjoy the view of Lake Ontario and the surrounding scenery. He'd tell his wife he was "going to see the Father's world."

After Babcock's death in 1901, his wife, Katherine, published a book of his writings, including the 16-verse poem "My Father's World." Franklin Sheppard set it to music in 1915, using two verses of text for each hymn stanza.

This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

JUST BEEN THINKING A LITTLE....

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 PM is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing", it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.



A life-filled prayer

A high school senior in Washington, D.C., offered this graduation prayer, which applies to people of all ages:

"Dear God, grant us one thing before we leave the sheltered reassurance of our childhood. Show us life. Not an empty, shallow world of shallow people and shallow dreams, but real life. For we have known the bliss of childhood as well as the passion of adolescence.

"We want to make the world a better place, but we don't know how. We want to throw our arms around our brothers and our sisters, but our hands cannot reach. We want to break the cycle of violence and the bonds of injustice in our society, but we're not strong.

"Smile on us when we drink from the waters of truth. When we are old, reassure us that our struggle helped make the world a kinder, gentler and more peaceful place. And please, God, don't let us die without ever having lived."

What's missing?

While teaching a Bible college class, Donald Miller conducted an interesting experiment. He told students he was going to leave out one important truth and that they should try to detect it. Miller then talked about people's sinfulness and our need to repent; he read Scripture and stories; he discussed the reward awaiting us in heaven.

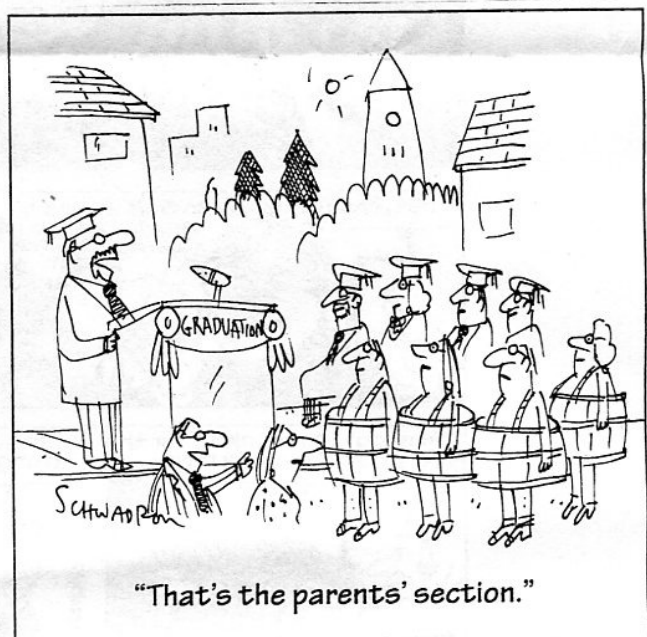
Not one of the 45 students realized their professor had left out Jesus. "I had said nothing about his love, his life and incarnation, his death or his resurrection," Miller says. "I had said nothing about our need to ... have his righteousness cover us."

Miller, author of *Blue Like Jazz*, says he could probably conduct the same experiment from Christian church pulpits, and few people would notice or be upset. Faith should be a relationship, not a formula, he argues, and it's hard to have a relationship when you leave out Jesus.

"Look for the helpers"

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world.

—Fred Rogers





I'm on vacation!

The power of attitudes

Attitude is the mind's paintbrush. It can color a situation gloomy and gray, or cheerful and gay. In fact, attitudes are more important than facts.

—Mary C. Crowley

- "Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father!"

—Lydia M. Child

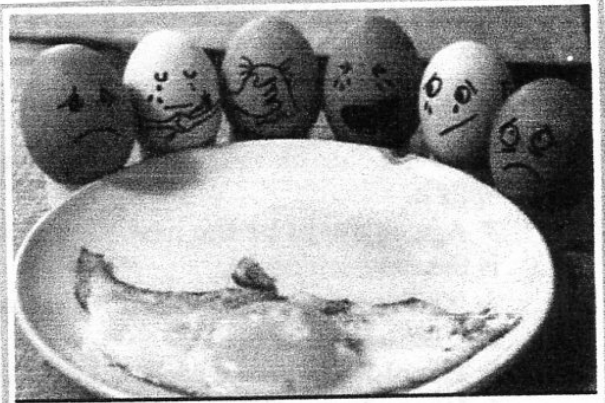
- "When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry."

—Jewish Proverb

Remember the Giver

God wants us to enjoy the good gifts that he gives to us, provided that we don't so focus on the gift that we forget the Giver. When the gift becomes more important than the Giver, you have idolatry; when the Giver is seen through the gift, you have worship.

—Warren Wiersbe



He died last fry day. Thank God he wasn't beaten. Don't worry, he went over easy. He's now on the sunny side. He's definitely in a better plate.

Our only job

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.

—Thomas Merton

