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Dear Readers,

Christmas for us was beautiful! I hope it was the same for all of you. It actually got a little cool here in Texas which helps bring those cozy warm feelings of the season. Obviously cozy warm feelings aren't the point of the season but they sure are nice to have! Midnight Mass went very well despite the fact that Hal didn't nap at all that afternoon/evening and stayed awake all Mass long. His ability to work well on little sleep may serve him well one day 😊 Watching him open presents was delightful though he mostly just enjoyed the sound of the paper tearing and not the actual gift :p My father-in-law spoiled us with gifts this year, and we had a wonderful time celebrating with all of Henry's siblings. It is so good to have family around. A few days later we flew up to MN, so that my family could meet Hal (only mom had met him up until then) and to attend a wedding. Flying with a baby was easier than I expected but I felt like we packed more things for him than we did for both Henry and I! Seriously, babies require a lot of STUFF! We had such a lovely time up there and Hal enjoyed the snow almost as much as his mother did (I forgot just how wonderful snow is!). Everything went smoothly until we got sick coming home... but we made it!

It is so good to not be teaching again! I mean, I do love teaching, but covering for a 2nd and 3rd grade teacher for 2 months while having a 3 month old was a little... exhausting. Less exhausting than a year ago when I was pregnant and teaching high school, but still exhausting. So, with all my new-found free-time I am deep cleaning and organizing every shelf and closet in the house! If you know me at all, you know I love to read, and if a person loves to read they usually own a lot of books. Well, I definitely own a lot of books! I have heard it said that it takes 1,000 books to be a library, and if that is the case, then I do believe we own 2 libraries. In my defense, I have read nearly every book that I own, though there are many that Henry had that I have yet to read, but hopefully one day 😊 Anyhow, back on topic. One of our closets up until now has simply housed boxes of books we had no shelf space for and finally, much to my delight, we obtained 2 more tall (and matching) bookshelves! Yay! So, now I have this huge empty closet to work with and a mountain of books on the floor to finish sorting and either donating or finding the perfect place on a shelf for. It has been fun for sure!

We celebrated Hal's half birthday and I bought him a Boston cream pie for the occasion. He loves sweets and chocolate in particular so I was excited to get that nice messy baby eating cake picture. Well... he is more polite than I give him credit for because he simply sat there and waited for me to offer him a bite and when I tried getting him to hold the piece and eat it, he preferred to just nibble off of it very reasonably and smack his lips to show his appreciation 😊 He isn't crawling yet, but boy is he always curious and awake! Standing is his favorite position and he spends many hours walking along his toys and the furniture. He is a handful for sure, but a cute one and so worth it!

It is hard to believe that Lent is upon us already; the days and weeks just fly by! In our busy lives/world, a good resolution may be to slow down. Everything is so easy and convenient now, that we want it all, and all right now. We plan so many activities into our day and when something takes longer than it should, we are mad, for some of us, VERY mad. The second rule of Venerable Teresita's Code of Amiability, "To repress a sign of impatience at the very start," is very fitting here. (Hopefully by now you have all mastered her first rule, of "Smiling until a friendly smile forms readily on one's lips.") If we slowed down a little more, and were not so impatient about getting to the next thing, we would certainly all become a little more saint-like.

I know, it is hard to be patient all the time, and there are things that you SHOULD be excitedly looking forward too, but next time you feel yourself getting impatient, pause, take a deep breath, look around, and smile. There is no need to be in such a rush ALL the time. That sibling of yours who is taking forever to get ready to go to the store with you.... Pause. Take a deep breath. Look at all you have to be grateful for. Smile at that sibling and see what you can do to help them get ready. Waiting 10 minutes for your drive-through food? Pause. Take a deep breath. Realize that they are still saving you time and even if they are slower than usual, it is no excuse to get impatient. Getting impatient probably won't get you your food any faster, and it certainly won't make anyone's day happier. Besides, it would ruin you following the first rule of keeping that kindly smile on your lips.

Whatever your Lenten resolution is, try to have a way to track your progress on keeping to it. And don't give up! Too often if we start off weak on our resolution, we just give up, and say we failed. But it is like gaining muscle, hard at first and gets easier with time. So, stick to it, and start each day with fresh resolve to do better on it.

Wishing you all a fruitful Lent,

Therese Harrity

Challenge of the month

Organize part of your room/house and keep it clean for one month. Now, this may not sound like fun to most of you, but I absolutely assure you that once you do this you will be a happier person! You may feel like this is a random challenge, but there is a reason it is said that “Cleanliness is next to godliness.”

Humans thrive on structure and order and when the space you live in becomes chaotic or overcrowded then it is harder to find inner peace and calm. God spoke to many of his chosen saints in the quiet solitude of a cave or field and though I am not recommending that you take up the lifestyle of a shepherd, I am saying that we tend to surround ourselves with too much STUFF. Sometimes it is not so much the amount of stuff we have as the fact that it is not properly organized and arranged. So here are some tips for organizing a room or space in your house.

- 1) **Choose a manageable space.** Don't decide to reorganize the entire kitchen and dining room area all at once (unless you are already very experienced in this domain). Choose a section such as a pantry, cupboards, or countertops. I recommend you start with your bedroom as that space has most effect on you, being the first thing you wake to and a place for you to relax in at evening time.



- 2) **Declutter.** For this step, follow one simple rule: if you do not love it or need it, give it away. Set out a big box to put things you want to get rid of in and donate them to a local thrift store. If it is hard for you to give things away, then try the '6-months box'. Put it in a box and if you do not reach for it or miss it for 6 months then maybe you really CAN get rid of it.



- 3) **Get or make some storage containers/organizers.** These are very often overpriced, but you can find some reasonable ones at Dollar General, Family Dollar, Walmart, or a thrift store. Get creative. One of my favorites is using over-the-door shoe organizers for small things other than shoes. It is great for storing lotions, socks, hair ties, brushes, deodorant, etc. in a bedroom or bathroom and can also be used for craft supplies such as tape, scissors, ribbon, stickers, glue, etc. in a craft closet or space. You can also repurpose cardboard boxes and cover them in pretty wrapping paper to store things under your bed. There are a TON of Pinterest ideas on repurposing cardboard boxes for organizing. I have added one later in this issue, but feel free to find more ideas or come up with your own.



- 4) **Find a home for everything.** Now you get to put everything in its place. For this step, I encourage you to be versatile. You may have to rearrange things a few times before you get it to fit just right. You may make slow progress sometimes, but that is okay! If there are things you are struggling to find a place for, then perhaps they could be moved to an alternate space, or maybe even gotten rid of.

- 5) **Enjoy your happier space!** When it is all done, you will sit back and be proud of your work. Not only did you do a great job creating a pleasant space to be in, you also have put order to it that will help you to KEEP that space clean. Less clutter and more happiness 😊

Pinterest on Paper



- Cardboard box (mine measured 8 1/2" high x 9" wide x 16" long)
- Elmer's Fabric Spray Adhesive
- Fabric, lightweight cotton, printed or solid; 36" long x 60" wide
- Extra large black Ric Rac trim (optional)
- Scissors
- Measuring Tape
- Newspaper (to protect working area)

1. Cut the lid flaps and sides of the box to your desired size. Place it centered on the fabric. Using a pair of sharp scissors, cut out the corners of the fabric as shown. Leave 1/2" extra of fabric (i.e. a bit wider than the sides of the box you are trying to cover) on either side of the flaps (these will be folded in to make a nicer finished edge to the box).

2. Spray one side of box. Fold fabric up and press out any bubbles or air pockets.

3. Spray the inside of the box and fold fabric into the box. Press out the air bubbles. Repeat on opposite side.

4. Clip the fabric corners at the bottom corners of the box. Wrap the cut edges around corners of box.



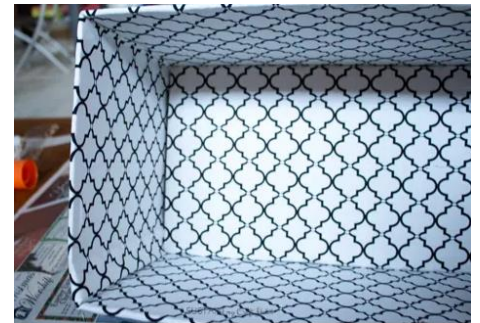
5. Fold lengthwise cut edges as shown. Spray outside of box. Fold fabric up and press out all air bubbles. Spray inside of box and fold fabric into box. Repeat on opposite side of the cardboard box.

6. Measure and cut a piece of cardboard about 1/4" to 1/2" smaller than the bottom of the box to finish the storage box. Spray and upholster with fabric and add it to the bottom of the box.

7. For decoration, you can add some ric rac to the top edge. Spray the underside of the ric rac and press onto box.

These instructions as well as many other creative ideas can be found at sustainmycraftyhabit.com

Her use of fabric to cover the box is genius as it will last much longer than wrapping paper. Don't have fabric? NO WORRIES! Just go to the sheets and blankets section of a thrift store and pick out a set you like. It should be plenty of fabric for your project and way cheaper than buying fabric from a craft store. The spray adhesive is a little expensive but works so beautifully that it is worth it. You can get by with other glue options as well though so don't let that stop you 😊 I would love to see pictures of some boxes or organization updates you do! I always love to hear from my readers!



"For every minute spent organizing, an hour is earned."

— Benjamin Franklin

WORTH WHILE

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

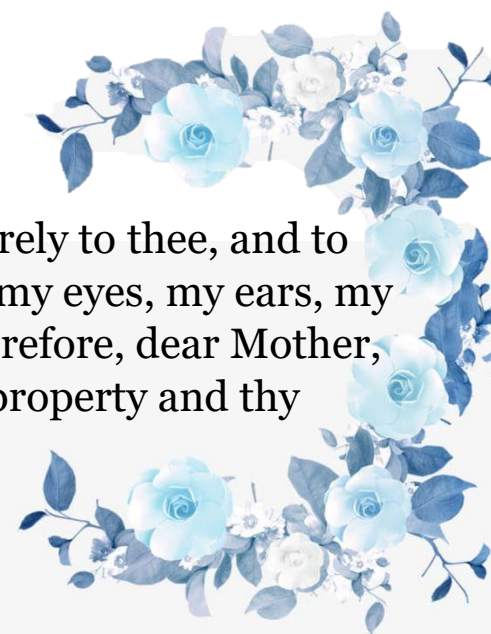
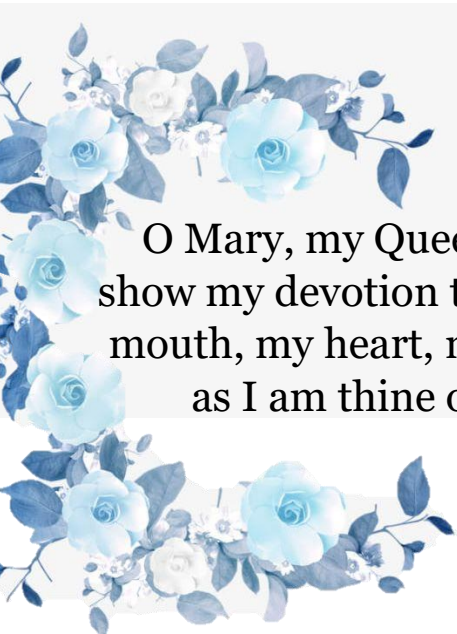
It is easy enough to be pleasant,
When life flows by like a song,
But the man worth while is one who will smile,
When everything goes dead wrong.
For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth the praises of earth,
Is the smile that shines through tears.

It is easy enough to be prudent,
When nothing tempts you to stray,
When without or within no voice of sin
Is luring your soul away;
But it's only a negative virtue
Until it is tried by fire,
And the life that is worth the honor on earth,
Is the one that resists desire.

By the cynic, the sad, the fallen,
Who had no strength for the strife,
The world's highway is cumbered to-day,
They make up the sum of life.
But the virtue that conquers passion,
And the sorrow that hides in a smile,
It is these that are worth the homage on earth
For we find them but once in a while.

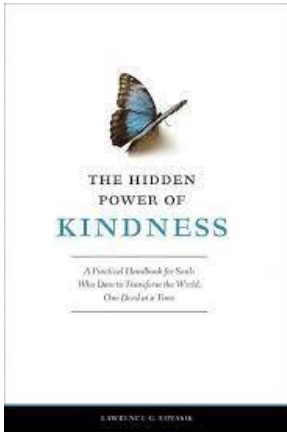
Prayer Corner

We all know the power of Our Lady and her role as the mediatrix of all graces. Perhaps you already know this prayer as it is nearly as commonly known as the practice of 3 Hail Mary's daily for purity. It is very short and I highly recommend adding it to your morning prayers.



O Mary, my Queen and my mother, I give myself entirely to thee, and to show my devotion to thee, I consecrate to thee this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve, wherefore, dear Mother, as I am thine own, keep me and defend me as thy property and thy possession.

Read me or Rue it



The Hidden Power of Kindness *by Fr. Lovasik* *A Practical Handbook for Souls Who Dare to Transform the World One Deed at a Time*

Just as the title suggests, this is a book about choosing kindness and the power it has to change the world. If you are not familiar with Fr. Lawrence Lovasik then I highly recommend you pick up this book. He has the ability to make spiritual reading filled with practical applications and written in a way that is easy to read. This book is broken down into chapters that are composed of smaller commentaries on a particular subject. I considered using this book instead of 'Girls, You're Important' as my chapter inserts for each issue since it is just so full of GOOD and PRACTICAL advice. You can get it on Amazon or Sophia Institute Press.

Miss Rumphius *by Barbara Cooney*

This children's book is just oh so darling! It is about a little girl whose grandfather teaches her that when she grows up she "must do something to make the world more beautiful." She travels all over the world and sees so many things, then settles down in a little house by the sea. One day on a walk she sees some of her favorite flowers blooming nearby and she knows just what she is going to do to make this world a more beautiful place. Can you guess what she does?

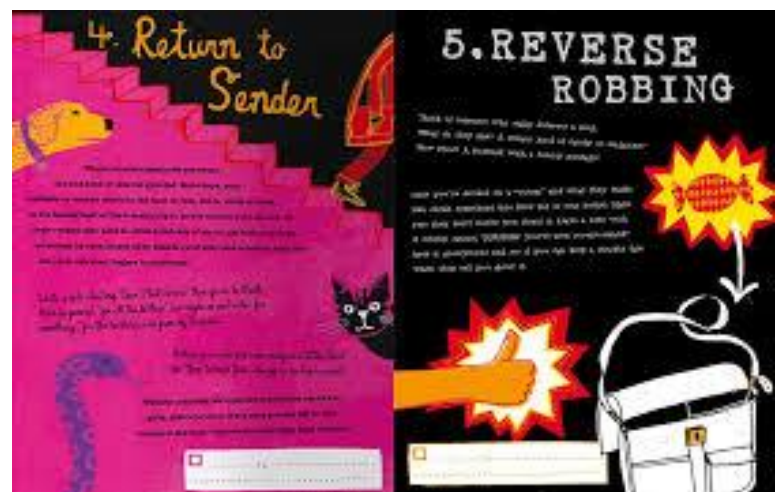
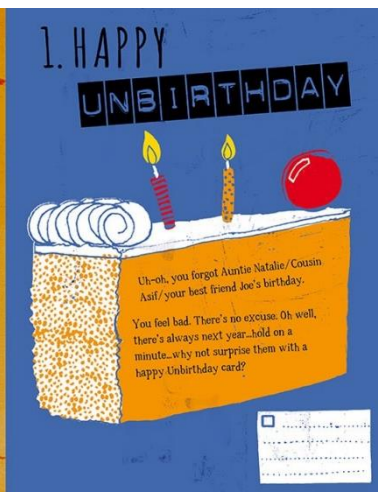


Do Nice, Be Kind, Spread Happy – Acts of Kindness for Kids



by Bernadette Russell

Want to officially join the 'International Kindness Club'? Here is the starter book! Never heard of this club? Well, then I am here to tell you all about it. It is easy, do nice things, be kind to others, spread happiness and you can be a member! This book has pages and pages of great ideas on how you can make a positive difference every day. Read through and find one that you want to do, then do it. Record the date you did it and you will create a fun, memory-filled book of making the world a better place. This book is geared toward middle or high schoolers but could be done earlier or later than that. You can find copies for about \$5 pretty easily online. And once you complete it, pass it on! See how many you can get to join the Club!



Proud Penny

You probably know some girl whom, if her name were Penny, you could rightly call Proud Penny. She looks down upon other girls whom she, in her conceit, considers inferior to herself. She likes to appear intelligent, rich, and popular. As a matter of fact she may not be bright. She probably is not rich. And she is making herself unpopular by her pride. While she wants to be well regarded, she is acting in a way that will make people think little of her. What she needs is humility. How much more attractive and likeable she would be, if only she were willing to appear as she is, if only she did not pretend to be wealthier than her standing indicates, if only she did not seek so crudely to be popular. True popularity comes from being something, not from trying to be what one is not.

How much more attractive and likeable she would be, if only she were willing to appear as she is.

There is a winning charm about a girl who uses her meagre talents to the full and then sweetly admits that she can do no more. There is a noble richness about the girl who can use to best advantage what clothing she has, and who is not ashamed of her home just because it cannot compare with Alice's or Jean's. We all think much more highly of the girl who realizes that she is what she is, than of one who frantically attempts to seem far above her real self.



'We all think much more highly of the girl who realizes that she is what she is, than of one who frantically attempts to seem far above her real self.'

A girl need not be ashamed that she is poorer or less intelligent than another. If she calmly admits the fact she will take on a gracious charm that will often make her more popular, in the proper sense, than some of her seemingly more fortunate rivals. Humility is one of those precious virtues that make a girl more attractive. It is worth more, even in a natural sort of way, than mere wealth and talent.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, when she was congratulated by her cousin Elizabeth on the great privilege of having been chosen to be the Mother of the Savior, and the very Mother of God, could think of no better way to express her joy and gratitude to God than to comment that He had regarded the lowliness of His handmaid. If Mary, who was

the most favored of all girls and women who ever lived, could modestly refer to her lowliness, surely no other girl ought to be proud and haughty and put on airs. Besides, she deceives no one. People soon understand her for what she is. Proud Penny will be a despised Penny. A humble Penny will win the love and esteem of all. God loved Mary because she was humble. God loves the humble girl of today.

True popularity comes from being something, not from trying to be what one is not.

Perhaps some of you have met a 'Proud Penny' before. There were definitely a few on some of the camps I went to, as well as at boarding school. The most popular girls by far on camp and at school were the simple ones. The ones who were just themselves and didn't try hard to be something they weren't. Too often we think we are boring as we are and that we need some more excitement and thrill to be likeable, when in reality the most likeable thing is truth and honesty. You know you are good friends when the other person is comfortable being themselves around you, so if a person is always trying to put on a show and not just being themselves it will be hard for them to gain true friends.

Keep this in mind with your own friendships, make sure you are forming them on a good base of simple truth, of humility. Just be yourself. And if your current friends would stop hanging out with you if you dropped any show that you have, then they are not your true friends, they are other ones out there for you.

Camp 2023

A good place to meet more girls and make friends is on camp! Join us this summer! It isn't everyone's favorite thing, but it is a lot of fun. If you haven't been, I highly recommend trying to get on a camp this summer, whether this one or one that the Society Sisters run (you can find information on the SSPX website). It can truly change your life and build friendships that will last your lifetime.



Venerable Teresita Quevedo Camp

August 7th-15th

Camp Chaplain: Fr. Soos

Camp Director: Mrs. Therese (Gerads) Harrity

Location: Sibley State Park, MN

Ages: 12-18yrs

Fee: \$200

To Register:

Contact Mrs. Harrity at (320)339-4658

Or email

Venerableteresitacamp.sspcx@gmail.com

Registration begins March 13th

Let all who see me see thee