

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

**"You are a priest forever according
to the order of Melchizedek."**

- Hebrews 5:6



**Father Philip Sosa, M.S.F.
A Priest of Jesus Christ for 45 Years**

SUMMER 2013

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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celebrating Mass with
Fr. Phil (center) at St. Joseph's
in Donna, TX on June 1, 2013.
Back Cover: A procession during a
Holy Family Weekend
in Danville, Illinois in
May 2013.

Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

We are more than halfway through the calendar year and the Year of Faith. If you have not had a chance yet to do something to observe this special year, how about this summer?

Hopefully, our lives are reflecting the call to holiness and being a missionary. The Spirit that Jesus promised to send still gives power to His Church and each of its members. Once we open our hearts to the Spirit, changes take place. Just look at the lives of the Apostles and that first Christian community. We, too, are called to be witnesses of Jesus' message of salvation, and our lives can impact those around us. **We do not need to go very far to be a missionary.**

This summer, take advantage of the opportunities that allow us to relax, enjoy quiet time, and listen to inspirations of the Spirit. The joy and happiness we experience in our families and in seasonal celebrations should move us to reflect upon God's presence in our lives. Try it once and you'll see that God is always near to you.

Please refer to page 14. Available in English and Spanish, our new *Holy Family Prayer Book: Prayers for Every Family* will help you live out a grace-filled Year of Faith. I enthusiastically encourage you to order copies for your family and friends.

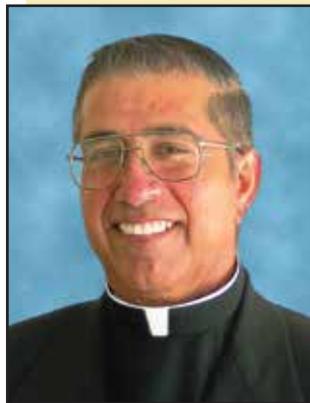
May your summer be very happy and full of great joy.

God bless you always.

Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am

Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.

Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.
Provincial Superior



Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.

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HOLY FAMILY LIFE

The Four Miguel(s): A Family Legacy at Holy Family Church

by Father Robert DeLong, M.S.F.

Recently, I was privileged to baptize the child of a young couple who are good friends. While this is not an unusual occurrence for many priests and deacons, this particular baptism was unique. The unique element was not that the baby is named Miguel, but that he is Miguel Gomez IV (the Fourth!), and all the other Miguel(s) were present.

It is not all that rare that one's entire family shows up for baptisms, but, in this case, there were four generations present, and all four generations are active in the Church and in the same parish.

The Gomez Family was the first family whom I met when I came to Holy Family Parish in New Braunfels, Texas as a novice in 1999. They immediately made me feel welcome and opened their hearts and doors to me. I am happy to say that our friendship still continues.

None of us knew that we actually had a relationship, or something in common, even before I came to Holy Family Parish. In conversation one day,



Father Robert & "The Four Miguel(s)."

the name of a Gomez relative came up that I recognized. When I said that I knew the gentleman's name, his sister exclaimed, "Oh! You are that Robert?" It turned out that I had been the nurse/case manager for her brother in his final illness. God has a way of connecting us all.

The Gomez Family, immediate and extended, has been involved in Holy Family Parish since its inception 50 years ago. Miguel, Sr. was married in the old church building when it was still a mission; Junior was married in the current church, as was Miguel III. We just have to wait and see about Miguel IV!

Many of the family members are still active as lectors, extraordinary



Miguel, Sr.'s Wedding

Miguel, Jr.'s Wedding

Wedding of Miguel III

Eucharistic ministers, servers, and Rosary presenters, and are active in the planning of events and celebrations in the parish. I have no doubt that “Li'l Miguel” will follow in the same path.

The Gomez Family, with all their diversity, in good times and in bad, has remained constant in their faith and in their practice of it. If there is a “regular family” with all the attendant ups and downs, who always seem to come out of it stronger and more faithful, it could be this one. Yes, I could be biased when I say this, but, HEY!, I am a part of this family, and honored to be so. By

the way, I am also a Confirmation sponsor for two family members.

I consider the Gomez Family, and all their members, immediate and extended, to be a special part of my life, and, more importantly, a very special and important part of this parish at Holy Family Church in New Braunfels.

Thank you all (y'all!), and may God give a special blessing to “The Four Miguel(s).” All of you are special to me and to the many other lives you have touched. Keep up the good work of God and the good work of serving Holy Family Church. 

Family Forever Society

Where there is a Will... there is a Way to make a Difference.

Having a will is important. It provides the opportunity to have your decisions today help care for your loved ones in the future. It also provides the opportunity to support the Missionaries of the Holy Family with a bequest to secure our mission into the future. Legacy gifts are so special that we have the **Family Forever Society. To receive a booklet on preparing your will and to learn more about the **Family Forever Society**, please write us at: Missionaries of the Holy Family, 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri 63118-1412, or call us at 1-888-484-9945.**

*If you are remembering the Missionaries of the Holy Family in your estate plans, please remember us as: **Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family – North American Province.***



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

When Mandates Oppose “God-dates”

by J.P. Richardson

For the United States, 2013 is a big year. Our nation’s foundational values are being uprooted. The field of health is being plowed and replanted, with methods and seeds new to the land. Controversial changes in medical care are being mandated by people in government. Citizens are being ordered to pay for other people’s sterilizations, contraceptives, and even drug-induced abortions. This decree by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is commonly called the HHS Mandate.

Mandates may have produced the most fundamental changes in America. In 1918, it was mandatory for children to attend school. Parents who did not comply with school mandates could be fined, even jailed. People who refuse to comply with health mandates today also face fines, maybe even jail.

Some Americans worry that the topsoil of our liberties is being contaminated. Will “the land of the free” be another land of the un-free? Freedom of religion is called “America’s first freedom,” number one in the Bill of Rights, the catalogue of liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Does the HHS Mandate tumble religious freedom and crumble

the foundation of our nation? Without religious liberty, what would America be?

Many Catholics and other citizens say they cannot, in conscience, obey the HHS Mandate. Obedience to conscience is sacred to Americans. Many schools, hospitals, charities, and businesses exist for religious reasons. Religion has been their inspiration and guide in their mission and work. If Americans lose their freedom of religion and conscience, what will we become?

The Year of Our Lord 2013 celebrates the anniversary of another mandate, long ago in another land. In 313 A.D., 1,700 years ago, Emperor Constantine decreed freedom of religion within the Roman Empire. For the three previous centuries, Jesus Christ and Christians had been persecuted, even slain.

Constantine’s mandate, the Edict of Milan, fundamentally transformed the world. Western civilization, cultivated by Jewish and Christian religions, freely blossomed with lavish fruit in fertile fields and ever-growing branches of learning. Would our world today be possible without Constantine’s mandate?

The Edict of Milan mandated religious freedom, but the “Edict of Washington, DC” denies religious freedom. Are America’s “progressives” moving us forward through the 21st century, or are we actually regressing, moving backward to the third, second, and first centuries A.D.?

What is a mandate? This English word combines two Latin words – manus (hand) and dere (to put or give) – meaning to put into hand. “Mandate,” either a verb or a noun, means command or demand. A mandate is more handed *down* than handed *over*. It permits no choice: Do it *or else!* What if the government mandates that citizens do something, but their consciences mandate that they don’t?

Sir Thomas More of England became Saint Thomas More of Heaven by obeying his God-minding conscience rather than his mandate-minded king. Thomas lost his chancellor’s head, but he won his martyr’s crown. “I die the king’s good servant, but God’s first,” Thomas said. It might be said that he obeyed a “God-date” (a word we made up) rather than the king’s mandate that everyone profess the king, not the pope, as the head of the Church. Thomas More’s conscience offered him no choice if he wanted to go to Heaven, which he wanted more than anything in the world.

“For what shall it profit a man if he gain

the whole world and suffer the loss of his soul?” Jesus asks us, as He asked Thomas More, as He asked the crowd in **Mark 8:36**. Will we answer Jesus as Saint Thomas answered, as every martyr since Saint Stephen has answered?

What is a “God-date?” A command of God and a demand of conscience, the “voice” of God in our souls. We can think of “mandate” as commanded by man (human beings). Man gives mandates to man. “God-date,” our invented word, means commanded by God. God gives God-dates to man.

Man cannot give God-dates to man. Only God can give God-dates, and He can give them to anyone, including angels (His messengers), because

He created everyone. Can man give mandates to God? Never. Otherwise, man wouldn’t be man, and God wouldn’t be God.

In Scripture, we find many God-dates. Everyone should obey The Ten Commandments (**Deuteronomy 5:6-21**). Here are a few more:

- The Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” **Matthew 7:12**
- The Greatest Commandment: “Love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.” **Matthew 22:36-40**
- The Beatitudes. **Matthew 5:1-12**

Sir Thomas More of England became Saint Thomas More of Heaven by obeying his God-minding conscience rather than his mandate-minded king.

- Jesus's reply to Peter to forgive someone "not seven times, but seventy times seven times." **Matthew 18:21-22**
- Jesus's answer to the rich young man: "If you want to enter eternal life, keep the Commandments... If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven. Then come, follow Me." **Matthew 19:16-22**

Our conscience, when it is God's voice, gives us God-dates, too. Saint Thomas More's conscience told him: "Serve God first." Saint Augustine's conscience said: "An unjust law is no law at all."

In Acts, the Apostles disobeyed an unjust mandate. Saint Peter, their leader, told the court: "We ought to obey God rather than men." (**Acts 5:29**) We ought to obey God-dates rather than unjust mandates.

Without religious freedom, can we grow a "Culture of Life?" Must we plant, instead, a Culture of Infertility and Killing? If government mandates killing, while our conscience "God-

dates" life, what must we do?

- "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." **Matthew 22:21**
- "Be fruitful and multiply." **Genesis 1:28**
- "Thou shalt not kill." **Deuteronomy 5:17**

Okay, so "God-date" is just a play on words, but we're playing for keeps. Everyone has dates with God. Immediately after death, we must face our particular judgment. At the Last Judgment, as our Nicene Creed says, Jesus "will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." In Heaven, we'll have a perfect God-date lasting forever. Won't that be divine? To get ready, shouldn't we make each day a date with God, obeying mandates if we think God approves, but, if not, obeying His God-dates instead? 

Mr. J.P. Richardson, a freelance writer from Saint Paul, Minnesota, has worked for many years in Pro-Life ministries.

Around The Province...



◀ Deacon George Miller and Mary Jo "Jody" James received their certificates as Permanent Members of the Holy Family Prayer Association during Mass at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri in April 2013.

Around The Province...



- ▲ The Confirmation students at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seguin, Texas prepare the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner.



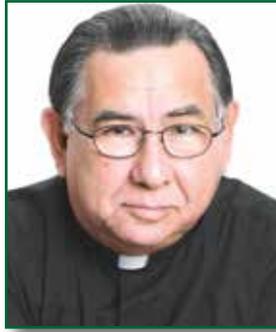
- ▲ Some of our Holy Family priests and brothers gathered for Mass at the Chapter Meeting in San Antonio, TX in April 2013.



- ◀ Is this Santa Claus from the North Pole or Santa Treviño from Saint Joseph's in Donna, TX?



A PROFILE OF SERVICE



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him, O Lord

Father José Mario Galindo, M.S.F.

July 6, 1945 – May 14, 2013

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father José Mario Galindo, M.S.F., age 67, died on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas.

Father Mario was born on July 6, 1945 in Victoria, TX to Isidoro Lujan Galindo and Martha Silva Galindo. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts in Corpus Christi, TX. As a layman, Father Mario worked for the Corpus Christi Public School System for over 30 years as a music teacher. After his retirement, he began to pursue God's call to the priesthood.

Father Mario attended Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. He made his first vows with the Missionaries of the Holy Family on August 15, 2003, and he was ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ on April 13, 2007.

He served his diaconate at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Donna, TX, and he returned later to serve there as Parochial Vicar. He had been currently serving as the Director of Vocations, working out of his office in the Berthier House in San Antonio.

Father Mario loved to give vocation presentations! He would travel anywhere to give his finely-tuned, PowerPoint presentation to elementary and high school students, young adults, and everyone who wanted to learn more about the Missionaries of the Holy Family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters Rosa Guevara, Sylvia Galindo, and Graciela Maldonado. He is survived by a brother Leo S. Galindo and his wife Yolanda; a sister Guadalupe Sermersheim and her

husband Pat; and nieces and nephews Adriana and Raul Martinez, Argentina and Seledonio Conde, Marta Guevara, Amanda Rocha, Alma Guevara, Linda Guevara and husband Warren, Ricardo Guevara, Mark and Gary Maldonado, Benita and Tracy Sermersheim, and numerous great nieces and nephews.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. May his

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

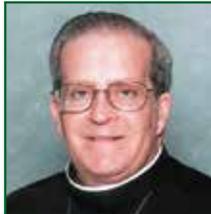
Memorials: Using the return envelope found in the middle of this magazine, please send contributions in Memoriam of Father José Mario Galindo, M.S.F., or make an online gift at www.MSF-America.org. Thank you and God bless you. 

Men of God: Religious Forever

In this Year of Our Lord 2013, four priests and two brothers of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination or religious vows.



Fr. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.
45 years



Br. Rolland Kapsner, M.S.F.
40 years



Fr. Andrea Spatafora, M.S.F.
30 years



Br. John Griffin, M.S.F.
10 years



Fr. Camillo Botello, M.S.F.
10 years

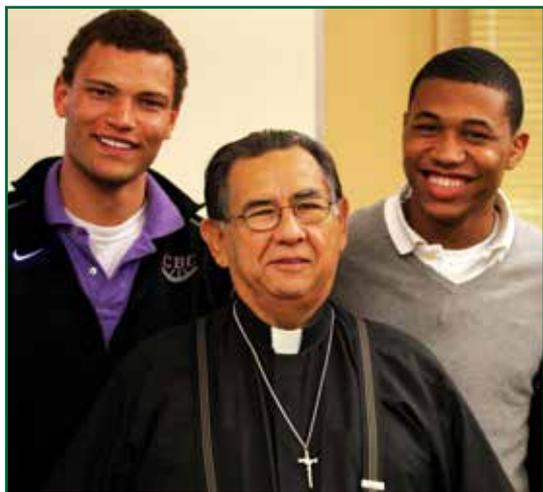


Fr. Robert DeLong, M.S.F.
1 year

We thank God for our priests and brothers, and we beseech Him to send us many more. If you would like to send a Tribute Gift in honor of one or more of these Men of God, please use the envelope found in the middle of this magazine. Thank you and God bless your family!



A TRIBUTE OF SERVICE



The Last Lunch:

A Tribute to Father Mario Galindo, Friendship & Family

by Mary J. Wisniewski,

Mission Office Director, Archdiocese of San Antonio

In April 2013, Father Mario Galindo, M.S.F. unexpectedly invited me to join him and Maurice Prater, the advancement director of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, for lunch, along with some of his friends. I had decided that morning to wear the long-sleeved, golden blouse that I had purchased during a recent missionary trip to India. When Father Mario arrived at my office, he joked that I looked like a piece of Wisconsin *cheese*!

Since I am from Wisconsin, and where Father Mario had studied at the Sacred Heart School of Theology, we had spoken several times about the loveli-

ness of Wisconsin, the beauty of Lake Michigan, and the fall change of color of the trees.

We proceeded to the favorite Mexican restaurant for visiting missionary priests, where I was treated by Father Mario to a delicious lunch of *cheese* enchiladas, laughter, good conversation, and the chance to meet new friends. This was not the first meal we shared, as Father Mario had the gift of bringing people together. He also made sure I was connected to the Missionaries of the Holy Family and their important work.

Then, barely a month later, I was stunned to see his obituary in the San

Antonio newspaper. I was shocked by his unexpected passing, as were all of his dear family and friends. I had the blessing to attend his funeral at Holy Family Parish in New Braunfels, Texas and to meet his loved ones. His proud brother and sister and their families, along with his community of the Missionaries of the Holy Family and other brother priests, were moved to tears at his earthly departure.

At the generous reception provided by the Holy Family Bereavement Committee, I spotted a handsome young boy, thoroughly enjoying a large slice of *cheese* pizza. I asked him if he liked the pizza, and he turned and smiled at me with a big grin and sparkling dark eyes, which reminded me of Father Mario. (As I found out later, he

was Father Mario's great nephew.)

With sadness in my heart, I smiled back, thanking God for food, laughter, friendship, the priesthood, and families, from whom are born the next generation of goodness and kindness and caring.

Thank you, Father Mario, for your faithful witness to God's love and goodness, and for bringing joy into this world through your teaching of music, your holy priesthood, and your many acts of kindness.

"Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord for years to come." **Psalm 23:6** 

Pieta Votive Candles



This beautiful Pieta statue is in Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, and in the rectory are the offices of the North American Province of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. If you would like us to light a seven-day votive candle for your family and your intentions, please use the return envelope stapled in the middle of this magazine. Candles burn in a rack to the right of the statue. (The suggested donation is \$7.00.) May God bless you.



PARENTS' TIME-OUT

Addenda

Contributed by Dr. Ray Guarendi

Dear Dr. Ray,

I have to get firm and say, "I mean it!" or "Now!" to get my kids to listen. And they're starting to ignore me even then.

Help. — I mean it!

It sounds like your kids have trained you to resort to what I call "Addenda." It's a sticky trap that can pull in even the best of parents. What are addendums? They are words or sentences tacked on to a parental request or command designed to add weight to our original words.

A recent survey ranked the top seven parental addendums:

- 1) "I mean it!"
- 2) "Did you hear me?"
- 3) "Now!"
- 4) "I'm not going to say it again!"
- 5) "I said (repeat original directive)..."
- 6) "Don't make me come over there!"
- 7) Use the first, middle, and last name (varies from child to child).

What's the problem with using addenda anyway? First, as you are finding out, they don't work. In the beginning, they grab some attention or compliance, but their power fades with time.

Second, they convey a false message.

Do you only mean it when you say, "I mean it?" If you don't say it, does that mean you don't mean it, and, in fact, you are "just talking to hear yourself talk?"

Third, addenda tend to get loud. The more they are used, the easier they are to fire off with increasing volume. And it's a short step from high decibels to high emotions. After a while, that can take its toll on both you and little Wilford.

Last and most important, when it comes to discipline, the persuasive power of words isn't improved with more words. If a twelve-word request isn't heeded, why would a fifteen-word one be? **A truism of discipline is that the teaching power lies in the consequences, not the words.**

Addenda are attempts to add weight to words that have lost their weight. So how do you withdraw from addenda? It's probably best to go cold turkey. Stop using them. But, what can you put in their place to give yourself more authority with your kids?

There is one kind of addenda that works pretty well. Here are examples. "Hazel, please pick up in the family room." Addendum: "If I ask you again, you'll vacuum it, too." "Butkus, leave your brother alone, or..." Addendum: "...you'll head for your room for half an hour." "Don't nag me, Constance, because..." Addendum: "... the next time you ask the answer is automatically, 'No.'"

Action addenda work. Word addenda don't, not long term anyway. Authority comes from consistently meaning what you say. And meaning what you say comes from backing your words with consequences, not more words.

So don't do it anymore, okay? I mean it! I'm not writing just to watch myself write. Do you read me? Chuckie Norton Slugski... [MJ]



Dr. Ray Guarendi

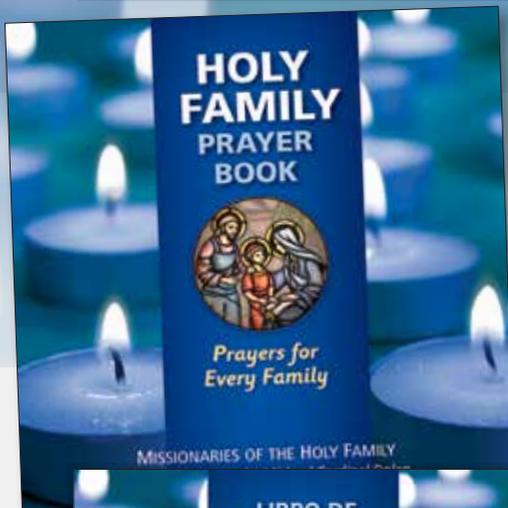
The father of 10, Dr. Ray is a psychologist and a popular TV and radio personality and guest speaker offering parenting advice in concert with Catholic values. More information about Dr. Ray's books and DVDs can be found on the internet at www.DrRay.com.

Thank You & God Bless You, to everyone who made a financial gift in the 2013 calendar year to date. We, the priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, extend our deep gratitude to all our benefactors. You are remembered in our prayers.

www.MSF-America.org



New Prayer Books, Devotions



Holy Family Prayer Book

Prayers for Every Family
Missionaries of the Holy Family

Foreword by
Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

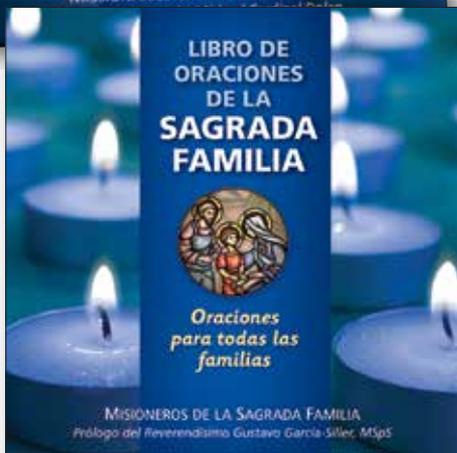
This simple prayer book, devoted to the Holy Family, offers traditional and original prayers dedicated to helping families today. Included in *The Holy Family Prayer Book* are a variety of prayers that will help families stay spiritually grounded and ever-present in faith.

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Misioneros De La Sagrada Familia

Prólogo del Reverendísimo Gustavo
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PUBLICATIONS

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Las dos ediciones tienen Imprimatur.

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YOUTHFUL OUTLOOK

Fifty Years of Wonderful Volunteers

by The Holy Family “Passion Team”

Fifty (50) years! Wow! That's about three times older than most of the people in our youth ministry. We are so excited and grateful about the fiftieth anniversary of our parish. We know who work hard to keep our parish vibrant and successful. Beginning in September 2013, we are going to spend the next year recognizing all our current volunteers who help to make



Holy Family Youth Ministry Leadership Team

that God has blessed us for many years at Holy Family Catholic Church in New Braunfels, Texas. We have so many ministries serving our parish, and so many people who have committed their time, energy, gifts, and talents to help build up our parish over the last 50 years.

Our youth ministry program wants to recognize all Holy Family volunteers

Holy Family Church the special place that it is. We want them to know how much we appreciate all their efforts and dedication. We will ask them to share their motivation and inspiration for serving in our parish, and we will also ask them how God called them to serve in their ministries.

With 50 years of parish life, we are sure to hear some amazing stories! We

can't wait to find out how God has been working through our volunteers to be His hands and feet. We have many people who have been serving at Holy Family for several decades, and we have grown over the last 50 years because of them. We are thankful that they have lived out their faith and have become beacons of light in our parish.

Holy Family volunteers have helped build and maintain such ministries as:

- Healing Ministry
- Holy Name Society
- Liturgy Committee
- Religious Education
- Rosary Makers
- Spanish Crecimiento (Growth)
- The Bingo Committee
- And many, many more!

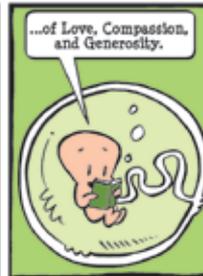
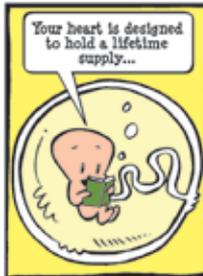
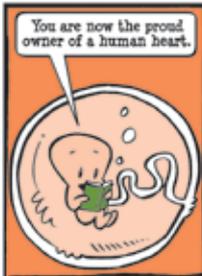
We know that if it was not for the dedication of many volunteers over the past 50 years, we might not have the opportunity today to receive God's teaching and grace through our Holy Family Parish. It can be very challenging to serve for more than a few years in any ministry because of the time and effort that is required. We want to do our part to show our gratitude to those who

continue to serve, especially when it's not easy to do.

WE LOVE our parish. We love the families, the ministries, and, especially, Father Feddy! What a great example he is to us. Father Feddy has taught us to live a life that honors Christ, and he has inspired us to make sacrifices to share the saving message of Jesus with the world. Our parish is so special, and we are proud to be a part of it. That's why many of our young people volunteer in areas such as altar servers, lectors, religious education assistants, choir members, and in the leadership of the Spanish Crecimiento Ministry. We want to do our part to continue to build up the Church, so that, 50 years from now, there will be many more generations of youth who will have their Catholic Faith formed and strengthened at Holy Family Parish.

Look for the Volunteer Appreciation posters around the parish. We can't wait for the celebration to begin and to see how God will bless our parish with many new and returning volunteers. God bless the families of Holy Family Parish, and God bless all our amazing volunteers! 

Umbert the Unborn



by Gary Cangemi



PARISH SPOTLIGHT

Holy Family Parish

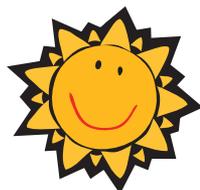
Holy Family Church is a parish in New Braunfels, Texas, and the pastor is a priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, Father Feddy Himawan, M.S.F. Holy Family is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a parish. Congratulations!



God bless you, Father Feddy, and your parish family at Holy Family Church!

Thursday -
Sunday,
August 8 - 11,
2013

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- 3.) **Lodging:** Camping/RVs, etc. – no charge (no hookups available). Cabin rental is \$50 per night, and there are 30 air-conditioned cabins with refrigerator (1 or 2 bedroom cabins).



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DEAR FATHER

Ask Father John

by Father John Carl Lombardi, M.S.F.

Q: *Dear Father,* can you help us understand homosexuality and the Church's teaching? We know many homosexuals, and they are sweet and kind people. They are intelligent, hold prestigious jobs, make good money, live with dignity, contribute their talents to the community, and don't ask anything in return -- just to be loved and accepted.

A: All you say about homosexuals may be true, but it is not only the person but also the homosexual act that needs to be addressed, including what the Church teaches about homosexuality and chastity.

Before we begin to examine what the Church teaches about homosexuality, let's look at the moral perspective and the natural law. One does not need religion to see that morals do not change over time. What might have been bad to do years ago, is still bad to do today. It is natural law that helps us realize this. That is why homosexuality, abortion, contraception, premarital sex, and anything else that hinders the building up of humanity is bad. It wounds society.

Now let's look at what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has to say in regard to homosexual orientation:

"Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as

acts of great depravity, tradition has always declared that 'homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered.' They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved." (CCC 2357)

"The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition." (CCC 2358)

(Therefore, "same sex unions" are

thus contrary to the very nature of marriage. From the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, see *Persona Humana* 8.)

Next, let's examine what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has to say about chastity:

"Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection." (CCC 2359)

The following are just a few verses from Sacred Scripture regarding homosexuality:

- Genesis 19:1-29
- Romans 1:24-32
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
- 1 Timothy 1:8-11
- Jude 1:7

I recommend that you also read Howard Clinebell's book, *Basic Types of Pastoral Care & Counseling* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1984), especially his chapter on "Six Dimensions of Wholeness." It demonstrates that we are more than sexual beings, and that we have other facets to our lives and personalities that can be developed, such as:

- Enlivening one's mind;
- Revitalizing one's body;
- Renewing and enriching one's intimate relationships;

- Deepening one's relationship with nature and the biosphere;
- Growth in relation to the significant institutions in one's life; and
- Deepening and vitalizing one's relationship with God.

In our society today, too much emphasis is placed on our sexual nature instead of becoming holistic human beings.

Courage is an organization that offers spiritual support for Catholic men and women who suffer from same-sex attraction and who desire to live chaste and virtuous lives according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Holy Roman Catholic Church.

Courage groups are international, and the central office phone number is (203) 803-1564. Also, on the internet, look under "Chapter Listings" at www.couragec.net. 



Father John Lombardi, M.S.F., a retired priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, lives at Padua Place in San Antonio, Texas. He writes a regular column on apologetics for *Today's Catholic*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Antonio.



UNITED IN CHRIST

Always a Priest, Wherever I Go

by Father Ignacy "Ignatius" Pajak, M.S.F.

In the southern region of Poland called Silesia, I was born into a family of eight children. During my childhood, many people worked in the coal mines, and this is what my father did for 27 years.

After elementary school, I attended a middle school where I began to grow and mature. During a pilgrimage to a Marian Shrine, I met a bishop from Africa, and I began to think about my calling in life. Following the example of my older brother, I joined the Missionaries of the Holy Family and studied at a seminary in Kazimierz Biskupi. (In my immediate family, three of us are Holy Family priests.)

After my ordination as a deacon, I was sent to Rome for two months where I met members of the Missionaries of the Holy Family from other provinces. After

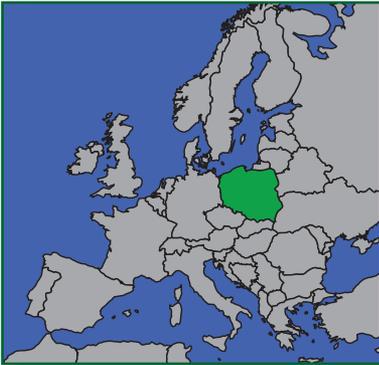


spending two years in a parish in Poland, I was sent to the University of Lublin to study Latin and Greek. I then came back to our seminary to teach for 13 years, followed by four years at the University of Lublin to teach Cultural Studies.

After teaching at the university, I began to

help provide retreats for laypeople who wanted to lose weight and grow stronger in their faith. During the holidays, I would assist priests in the Bavarian region of Germany (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is from Bavaria.), Italy, and England.

Recently, after meeting with my provincial superior, Very Rev. Marian Kolodziejczyk, M.S.F., he decided to send me, at the age of 54, to the United States of America to improve my



English language, serve in American parishes, and learn more about the Universal Church. I hope to strengthen the ties between our Polish and North

American Provinces of the Missionaries of the Holy Family.

“Niech cię Bóg błogosławi!” (‘God bless you’ in Polish.) 

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A FAMILY NOVENA



Our Lady of La Salette

by Father F.A. Eka Yuntoro, M.S.F.

La Salette is a small mountaintop village in the French Alps, on the last foothills of the Pelvoux Range in France, and in the Diocese of Grenoble. The village is more than 6,000 feet above sea level, and the mountains surrounding it form a bowl. In winter, La Salette is cold and covered by snow, and it is difficult to travel there.

In the fall of 1846, two children, Maximin Giraud and Mélanie Calvat, were destined to be the witnesses of Mary's apparition at La Salette. The children were very poor, but without guile; simple and straightforward. They were shepherds and tended cows and sheep on the hills of La Salette. The children did not know each other well, as

Mélanie would only work in the area during the winter months.

In mid-September of 1846, one of the farmers, Pierre Selme, was in need of a cowhand as his regular shepherd was sick. So he asked his friend, Germain Giraud, a wheelwright, to loan his son, Maximin, for a few days. Mr. Giraud gave permission, and young Maximin arrived at Mr. Selme's farm on September 14. On Saturday, September 19, 1846, Maximin and Mélanie climbed a local mountain at sunrise, each prodding the four cows confided to their care. Maximin's goat and dog tagged along.

When the Angelus bells rang at noon from the steeple of the village church

of La Salette, nestled in the valley far below, the two shepherds led their cows towards “the fountain of the beasts,” a little pool of water formed by the stream which ran down the mountain ravine. Near this little fountain, the two children lay down on the grass and fell asleep. Suddenly, Mélanie woke up and called Maximin to go and find their cows. They saw a brilliant globe of fire, as if, in the children’s words, “The sun had fallen there.”

In the globe of fire, a woman was seated, her head in her hands, her elbows on her knees, in the posture of one crushed by grief. The lady was seated on a small bench made of stones. When the lady spoke to them, the children could not recognize her identity. They would simply call her “The Beautiful Lady.”

The Message of Our Lady of La Salette

The beautiful lady stood up while the children remained transfixed. She said to them in French, “Come near, my children, be not afraid. I am here to tell you great news.” Then the children hurried to her, and her voice, they said, was like music. She was like a mother, upset with her family, who had fled to the mountains to weep. The beautiful lady was tall and seemed to be made of light. She was dressed like women of the region with a long dress, and her apron was nearly as long as her dress.

The children said that she wept all the time while she spoke the following words, “If my people refuse to submit, I will be forced to let go the arm of my Son. It is so strong and so heavy. I can

no longer hold it back. How long a time I have suffered for you! However much you pray, however much you do, you will never be able to repay the pains I have taken for you. I gave you six days to work; I have kept the seventh for myself, and they will not give it to me.

If the harvest is ruined, it is only on account of yourselves. I warned you last year with the potatoes. You paid no heed. Instead, when you found the potatoes spoiled, you swore and brought in the name of my Son. They will continue to spoil, and by Christmas this year there will be none left.”

Then she said, “Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people.” These were her last words spoken at La Salette, and, with that, Maximin and Mélanie were entrusted with the message. The lady ascended to the top of the hill, remained suspended in the air for a moment, raised her eyes to heaven, and glanced in a southeasterly direction before disappearing.

We also call her Our Lady of Reconciliation, because of her message to bring reconciliation to all the people of God. She wants us to go back to her Son, to praise Him, to be faithful to His laws, to love Him, and to love one another.

Novena to Our Lady of La Salette

Do you know that novena prayer (“novena” is Latin for nine) began with the apostles after the Ascension of Our Lord? When Christ ascended from earth, the apostles gathered back in the Upper Room with Our Blessed Mother and prayed for nine days. On the ninth day, the Holy Spirit came and anointed

each apostle, and this enabled them to proclaim the Good News. We know this as Pentecost. It is from the example of the Apostles that we have novena prayer.

A novena is known as a devotion consisting of specific prayers recited on nine successive days. Novenas grew in popularity in the 12th century, and this type of prayer continues to be beneficial today for petitions of healing, protection, or other blessings for ourselves or others. The prayers have a rich meaning for us in helping to increase our faith in God's love.

According to the Constitution of the

The first day of our novena begins on the day of Our Lady's apparition on September 19, and continues until the vigil of September 28, which is Founder's Day for our congregation. In Grave, Holland on September 28, 1895, Father Berthier founded the Institute for Late Vocations with the permission of Pope Leo XIII, which became the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family.

The purpose of our novena to Our Lady of La Salette is to promote our spirituality, reconciliation, and rebuilding of a community of love in the Church. We "renewed" this novena to Our Lady

Daily Novena Prayer: September 19 - 27

Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for us on Calvary. Remember also the care you have taken to keep us faithful to Christ, your Son. Having done so much for your children, you will not now abandon us. Comforted by this consoling thought, we come to you pleading, despite our infidelities and ingratitude.

Virgin of Reconciliation, do not reject our prayers, but intercede for us, obtain for us the grace to love Jesus above all else. May we console you by a holy life and so come to share the eternal life Christ gained by His cross. Amen. (*Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be*)

Missionaries of the Holy Family, our founder, Servant of God Father John Berthier, M.S. chose Our Lady of La Salette as our patroness. It means that each member of our religious community has a special devotion to Our Lady of La Salette, and we share our spirituality wherever we go. We promote the need for reconciliation as the message from La Salette.

of La Salette at St. Joseph's Church in Donna, Texas in 2012, and we are trying to help people come back to God with love and joy.

Praying together as a community of love to Our Lady of Reconciliation, may we have the graces to continue to faithfully respond to our vocation, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." (**Matthew 9:37**) God bless you. 



THE POETRY CORNER

In Honor of all Christian Mothers

© Felipa H. Montoya,
Parishioner at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Seguin, Texas

On your special day, Dear Mother,
I would like to congratulate you.
I wanted to bring you red flowers
And make you feel special.

More beautiful than flowers
Your name is to me.
If you knew how much I love you,
How happy you would be.

Being present or being absent,
Never will I forget you
Because your name, Dear Mother,
Could never compare to others.

You see me with your eyes,
You love me with your heart,
You have me in your thoughts, and
You remember me in your prayers.

That way I am, Dear Mother,
A part of your being.
How can I forget you,
If love is what I need?

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Tu Nombre de Madre

© Felipa H. Montoya,
Parishioner at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Seguin, Texas

En tu día, Madre Mía,
Te quiero felicitar.
Te quise traer bella flores
Y hacerte sentir especial.

Más bellas que las flores,
Es tu nombre Madre Mía.
Si supieras cuanto te amo,
Muy feliz te sentirías.

Estés presente o estés ausente,
Nunca te puedo olvidar,
Porque tu nombre de Madre,
No se puede comparar.

Tú me miras con tus ojos,
Me amas de Corazón,
Me trais en tu pensamiento,
Y me recuerdas en tu oración.

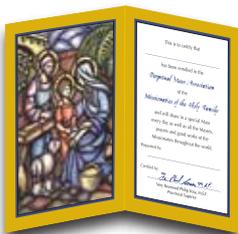
Así sea Madre Mía,
Parte de tu ser.
¿Como podré olvidarte,
Si tu me saves querer?

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