

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



**WHO IS CARRYING WHOM?
THE GRACE TO DIE FOR ONE'S VOCATION. SEE PAGE 2.**

WINTER 2024-2025

The MESSENGER

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Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

Saints Aquila & Priscilla

Saints Aquila & Priscilla were a married couple from Rome who were friends of Saint Paul.



Feast Day: July 8

They were tentmakers, thus sharing the same profession as Saint Paul, and because of this it is thought that Paul may have worked with them. Acts of the Apostles 18:18-19 tells us that they accompanied Paul to Ephesus and stayed there with him.

In the era of house churches, where Mass was always celebrated in the home of one of the families of the Christian community, their home was an important one.

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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RIP, FATHER ROBERT

Poured Out for You **Reverend Robert Wesley De Long, M.S.F.** **October 8, 1948 — August 7, 2024**

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father Robert Wesley De Long, age 75, of Seguin, Texas, entered eternal life on August 7, 2024. He was born on October 8, 1948, in Chicago, Illinois, to Bernard De Long and Jacqueline Fish.

After his high school education, Father Robert joined the United States Army in February of 1967. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and was honorably discharged in February 1973.

After his discharge, he entered Cook County School of Nursing

in Chicago, Illinois, and graduated in 1975. He worked in nursing for over 25 years as a case manager in an AIDS Clinic, an Emergency Room Nurse, and later a Hospice Nurse.

He applied to join the Missionaries of the Holy Family in 1997, and entered the novitiate on August 14, 1999, as a Religious Brother. He made his First Profession of Vows on August 15, 2000, and Perpetual Vows on August 15, 2004.

Later, he decided to study for the priesthood and was ordained on December 30, 2011. His first assignment was January 9, 2012,



Father Robert (left) with his boss, Father Phil.

as associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seguin, TX.

On July 1, 2013, he was named associate pastor at Saint Joseph Parish in Donna, Texas; and, as parish administrator of Saint Joseph's on September 19, 2013.


On July 31, 2020, he was assigned as associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, where he was eventually called home by the Lord. May he rest in peace.

Father Robert was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Dennis De Long. Survivors include his sister Sharon Kreps and his brothers, Danny De Long, Terrance De Long, and Dana De Long.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Lie in State and Blessing.

Contributions in memory of Father Robert should be mailed to the Missionaries of the Holy Family at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412. Gifts can also be received through our website at www.msf-america.org. 



Father Robert's Ordination.

Thank You & God Bless You to everyone who made a financial gift to date in 2024.

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.



Shepherds of the Church

Shepherd the Church of God by Celia Barragan



There is a new sheriff in town!

Acts of the Apostles 20:28: "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for [shepherd] the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

On August 26, 2022, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Braunfels, Texas, experienced a great loss when Father Camillo Botello, M.S.F. passed away due to illness. As a church family, the parishioners were grieving and feeling like lost sheep without their shepherd. Other priests came to fill in during this time, but the parishioners wondered who would be assigned as the new pastor.

Some parishioners began to attend Mass at other Catholic churches, needing the sense of leadership and belonging. Then, almost two months later, the parishioners welcomed a young priest, only 34 years old, by the name of Father Angelot Galson Andriamamitahina, M.S.F.

Father Angelot was coming from Donna, Texas, where he was serving as an associate priest, but he is originally from the Missionaries of the Holy Family in Madagascar. For many of the parishioners, he is the age of our children. So, we took him under "our wing" and stepped up to



Beating the heat with Father Angelot.

help. Imagine this young priest coming in to fill the shoes of a priest who had previously served church communities here for over 20 years.

Our new shepherd would soon steal our hearts! Like a good shepherd, Father Angelot accounted for his flock and their needs. He began to take inventory of what was needed at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. A parish council was re-established to confer with him as to the church's needs. One of the first things Father Angelot did was to have a social gathering, where we were all able to meet him and get to know him a little better.

At the gathering, tables were set up with lists of different ministries that were needed at the church. An Altar Society was created to maintain the church in its liturgical colors throughout the Christian year and to enhance the church's beauty during the seasons. The church choirs grew in numbers and new choirs were formed for the Masses. More altar servers, lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers were added.

A Pie Social provided fellowship among the parishioners. Families brought a pie to share and spent time talking and getting to know each other. Families and individual parishioners volunteered to lead the Rosary before each Mass as the Rosary Ministry was started.



Father Angelot with a really young bishop.

In January 2024, a Bereavement Ministry was formed to offer the church hall to parishioners for family gatherings after the loss of loved ones. The new ministry served the families and provided comfort during difficult times.

The Guadalupanos Society initiated Tea with the Saints, a talk for the parishioners and anyone wishing to learn more about our saints. The yearly Fish Fry Ministry during the Lenten season only grew stronger and larger in numbers as parishioners became more involved.

Father Angelot built rapport with the children and young adults during Vacation Bible School, Faith Formation classes, and every available opportunity. Parishioners who had left began to return and take part in the church ministries.

Our Little Shepherd sought out his sheep, and not only brought them back, but brought them in to take



Father Angelot with some of his many friends.

part in the church, *our church*. I say this with affection because, by this time, we were following our young priest who is vibrant, energetic, and exuberates love to his flock.

We met to make plans and form committees as Father Angelot began to prepare the parishioners for the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church to be celebrated in 2026.

During a time of so much sadness when our previous pastor died, Father Angelot came to lift us up. He took us under “his wing” and led his flock. A good shepherd loves his sheep and develops a close, intimate relationship with them so that they know his voice and trust him. He gave us joy and created a vision for the church.

Father Angelot created a sense of feeling welcomed. A good shepherd understands the spiritual needs of the sheep better than

they do. Parishioners understood the need to take an active part in the church. The fellowship that developed went beyond the church grounds. A good shepherd of the church leads his flock.

Then suddenly, much to our sadness, Father Angelot’s VISA and time allowed to be in the United States expired, and he was required to return to Madagascar. Our church grieved this loss, and with great sadness, we bid farewell to our young priest. We keep him in our prayers and wish him well as God prepares him for his next mission.

So again, we recently welcomed a new priest with open arms, Father Benoit Fidele Ramanandraibe, M.S.F., also originally from Madagascar. We are here to help, to serve. Father Angelot led us well, as we now look to our new shepherd to continue to lead us.

Father Angelot left us with this

message: *“It’s been two years since I shepherded you. I felt your love, help, and support. I see that our community grew in numbers, love, and faith. That is because of the Holy Spirit working within us and guiding us. Faith does not depend on the priest, like me, but it is your experience with God. Therefore, thank you for everything, especially your love. May God our Father bless you.”*



Father Benoit.

Our priests are shepherds, called and gifted to care for the spiritual well-being of the local body of God’s people. Father Benoit is first and foremost a servant, a servant of God and servant of His bride, the Church. May we, the flock, look to Father Benoit to lead us to our Heavenly Father as we, too, take part by serving our church and our fellow brothers and sisters.

Welcome to your new home, Father Benoit! **+jmj+**

Welcome

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 a 6-day votive candle lit for your family and your intentions, contact us at mprater@msf-america.org or 1-888-484-9945. Candles burn in a rack to the right of the statue. (The suggested donation is \$7.00.) Thank you and may God bless you.



THE SHROUD & THE VEIL

Faith and Science: A Perfect Match Natural Science Can Help Us to Believe Supernatural Mysteries.

by J. P. Richardson

“For those who believe, no explanation is necessary.
For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.”

- Franz Werfel, *The Song of Bernadette*

Scientists try to explain mysteries. Do you know about the Shroud of Turin? Veronica’s Veil? The Holy Face of Manoppello? The Divine Mercy Image? Eucharistic miracles?

Many people have believed that the Shroud is the cloth in which Jesus Christ’s body was wrapped for burial after He was crucified, and that the image on the Shroud was supernaturally created at the instant of His Resurrection.

Many people have believed that Saint Veronica wiped the bloodied face of Jesus as He carried His heavy Cross to Calvary, and that His image has remained on her veil ever since that first Good Friday. Also, many people venerate the Veil of Manoppello as the image of Jesus, the actual Veil of Veronica.

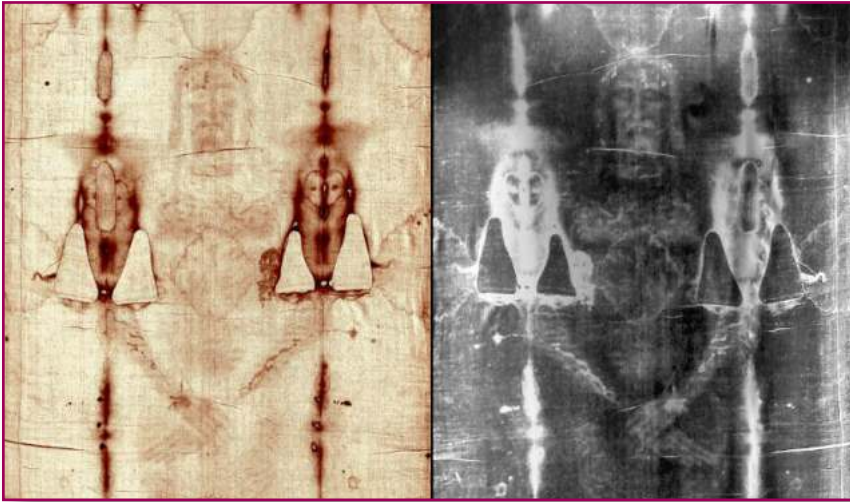
Saint Faustina, less than a century ago, revealed that Jesus instructed her to paint an image of His Divine Mercy. Various people have witnessed miracles of the Eucharist too, which

appear to become blood, even heart-tissue.

Many people find these and other apparently supernatural manifestations fascinating and baffling. The Catholic Church has not pronounced conclusions about most such phenomena. We may believe them or not. The Church says, as a guiding rule, that if we find them helpful for our faith, enlightening in our quest



Holy Face of Manoppello.



The Shroud of Turin.

for God, then we may believe them without peril to our immortal souls. It is not always easy to know what to believe. Sometimes, science can fortify belief.

What is knowledge? What is it to know something? We speak of subject and object. Our personal thoughts and feelings we call subjective; they are ours but not necessarily anyone else's. Reality itself we call objective, existing independently of our subjective thoughts and feelings.

When the subjective accords with the objective – when we perceive things as they really are – then we can speak of knowledge. If our ideas conform to reality, then we know reality. If what we think agrees with what is true, then we know that truth. We should strive to know the truth.

Knowledge is different from opinion. Opinions are subjective. If you were to ask 10 people the same question,

they might express 10 different opinions. Knowledge is based on objective facts and reality; opinions are based on feelings and beliefs, but not necessarily on facts.

Anyone may have an opinion of the Shroud of Turin, Veronica's Veil, the Veil of Manoppello, the Divine Mercy Image, Eucharistic miracles, and other apparent miracles without objective knowledge.

"Seeing is believing," an old saying goes. But is seeing necessarily knowing? Things are not always as they appear. That cool pool of H₂O you think you see on the road ahead might turn out to be just another hot, dry patch of desert sand. We can be mistaken about "knowing" something false. We might believe that we know it, but we don't truly know it because it isn't true. When we put it to the test, it fails.



Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano, Italy.

How many ways do we have of knowing things? We get information from our senses – seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching. We think, reason, and understand with our minds. We may have intuitions, gut feelings, or educated guesses, or hunches. We might know something by faith, believing it to be true, without being able to prove it by logic or scientific experiment.

As Catholics, we trust Divine Revelation to be a form of knowledge. Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches us that God reveals Himself to us in Holy Scripture (the Bible) and in Natural Law (the laws of His creation, including nature and the powers of reason and conscience in our human nature). We can know some truths

by common sense and logic. Can Revelation help us to know whether apparent supernatural miracles are true or false or, in some cases, occasions of superstition?

All knowledge requires trust. We must trust our parents, teachers, authors, scientists, experts, our own senses and minds, and, in the case of Divine Revelation, God.

Scientists, historians, and other researchers have studied the Shroud of Turin, the Veil of Veronica (the Veil of Manoppello), the Divine Mercy Image, and Eucharistic miracles. The motive of researchers is to discover whether these marvels are natural or supernatural.

Scientists do not know how the images on the Shroud and the Veil were made. One interesting finding about the Shroud, the Veil of Manoppello, and the Divine Mercy Image is that the



Overlay of Divine Mercy Image and Shroud of Turin.

dimensions of all three images match. When viewed side-by-side, or when superimposed upon each other, they line up – as if they all are images of the same man! **Just a coincidence?**

Scientists don't understand Eucharistic miracles, either, even after extensive examinations. Two fascinating findings have been that a consecrated Host sometimes has become human heart tissue, and that the blood appearing on various consecrated Hosts is Type AB – **the same type as the blood on the Shroud of Turin!**

These mysteries have been separated by many miles over two millennia. Have scientists unlocked just another coincidence? Or are they helping us to know the truth by weakening our doubts and reinforcing our faith?

Jesus said, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6)

If we want to know the Truth, then we ought to devote ourselves to knowing Jesus the best we can. We ought to give thanks to God for giving us so many ways of knowing about Him and His fascinating vast creation, both natural and supernatural.



Veil of Saint Veronica.

The Shroud of Turin, the Holy Face of Manoppello, the Divine Mercy Image, Eucharistic miracles, and many other mysteries and marvels we treasure in the Catholic Church can help us to believe with confidence, to keep the Faith, and share it with other people.

The evidence of science can add to our trust in God, who made us *"to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in Heaven."* Amen.

+jnj+

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Holy Family Seminary, Part 3

2500 Ashby Road, Overland, Missouri by Weldon Tieken

In the previous issue, Part 2, we mentioned the enclosure of the swimming pool and the completion of Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

The high school department was being phased out because of low enrollment. This left only the junior and senior classes, of which six seniors graduated in 1969. The last class of seniors in 1970 had nine graduates and the college department had six.

During these last years, the Mexican Fiestas were held several

times, and the patrons continued their card parties as fundraisers for the seminary. Romer Hall turned out to be a great gathering place for bingo, plays, breakfast, and dinner events.

Many of the scholastics coming out of novitiate came to the seminary for some of their studies. Farmington continued to be the novitiate until August 1971. Around December 1971, the novitiate was relocated to the seminary, and Rev. Philip Sosa was appointed novice master until 1975.



Demolition and debris.



Bell from the bell tower.

During the 1970s and 1980s, many of the professed scholastics resided at Ashby Road and attended various schools for their education. Several priests were also there to teach and minister at various parishes. The upkeep of the building and daily chores, plus the exterior needs of the property, were done by the religious brothers of the congregation.

Around 1989, there were discussions about the upkeep of buildings and property. The lack of vocations to the priesthood, and fewer priests and brothers overall, was starting to take a toll. These factors, plus expenses for the property, would eventually lead to selling the property. It would take about five years before all the property was sold. To many of the priests, brothers, former seminarians, patrons, and citizens of Overland, it was a sad time. Many events were held

throughout the years on this site.

As previously mentioned, around 1989, there were discussions about the upkeep of the buildings on the property. Expenses were going up, but the personnel needed to keep the buildings and property in good shape were going down. The lack of vocations to the priesthood and religious life was the biggest factor in eventually selling the seminary property.

In 1994, the Missionaries of the Holy Family decided to sell four buildings and six acres to Mission Omega. Then in 1995, the City of Overland bought the remaining acreage to be used as a park, called Wild Acres Park. However, in November 2001, the City of Overland acquired four buildings with property from Mercy Ministries of America.

The City of Overland, I believe, at one time considered using the main building as their City Hall, but this never materialized. The building sat empty, but in 2006, pipes froze and burst which caused damage to the boiler and water damage throughout the building. This eventually led to issues of mold showing up in the structures.

During the next 17 years, the building remained, but it was not used. There was talk about renovating the building around



Draining of the lake.

2019, but the cost was very high, and other issues such as mold, asbestos, and lead contamination would have to be addressed.

So, in February 2023, the Overland City Council voted to demolish the buildings: main house, annex, and chapel. A contract was awarded to Aalaco Wrecking Company for the demolition on June 12, 2023. Work began on September 8, 2023, and the project was finished on Thursday, November 2, 2023 (All Souls' Day, appropriately!), with final grading and seeding.

The next project on the property will focus on the repairs to be made to the lake and dam. In August 2022, heavy rain did some damage to the dam. So, in the summer of 2024, the process of draining the lake began. Improvements to the lake, and the area around it, are projected to continue into 2025.

It is good to see that the area will

remain as a nice place to visit and walk around the property. Many people come to watch the different birds in the area. The seminary also had a cemetery, and it still exists on the site.

+jrnj+

To be continued in the next issue.



When the walls come tumbling down.

Missionaries of the Holy Family

20



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International Cookbook



3014 Oregon Avenue
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www.msf-america.org

Here it is! The first ever Holy Family International Cookbook is now available for the ridiculously low price of \$10.00. Limited quantities! If you would like one, please mail a check or money order to: Missionaries of the Holy Family, c/o The Kitchen Crew, 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412. *Bon appétit!*

Around the Province



Katie Ryan took a break from the office and hiked to the top of Glacier View Mountain in Glacier National Park in August 2024.



Fabulous Four!



Family of Father Joss.



Father Joss and Archbishop Gustavo at the Knights of Columbus' Clergy Appreciation Dinner.



Around the Province

Father Phil and
Father Andre.



Flashback! The late
Father Jim Wuerth
playing the organ in
May 2013.

Little brother of
Father Joss.



Generation to
Generation!





JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE

Holiday or Holy Day?

by Brother Knight Baldy Bluett

I looked up the many definitions of holiday. Pretty much, no day is a holiday for parents, even though the government declares the day as a holiday. Holiday to the government means no work for them.

Pretty much, every day is a holiday when you read several definitions indicating that holiday has its roots in Holy Day.

No work on a holiday? Even an infant from birth to preschool is working on something at the moment: sight, touch, taste, and small and large motor skills. They work on each of those at different speeds and whatever interests them at the time.

I often say that I'm always busy, sometimes just busy taking a nap! I don't have holidays. Good luck naming all the holidays and Holy Days. By the way, Halloween and Valentine's Day are not considered to be official holidays, but we celebrate them as such.

Whether you think there are 365 holidays a year, or zero holidays a year, celebrate with family and friends, especially the Holy Days.

Call someone you haven't talked with for a while. The first calls go to people you know who are alone. These people would love to hear from you! Call and actually talk to them; don't send a text message. It's not the same.

In 2024, All Saints' Day, November 1st and a Holy Day of Obligation, was on a Friday. But many Catholic schools were still in session. Was it a workday for kids and adults? Yes. Was All Saints' Day celebrated by kids and adults? Yes. In reality, a holiday or a Holy Day?

One of the many joys of family life is to simply pick up your phone and call someone. Don't just send a text message. People want to hear your voice. People get older and the "unexpected" happens. If someone is on your mind, it's for a reason. You will not regret making that call, but you may if you don't. Tomorrow may never come. God bless your Family! **+jnj+**





All Hallows' Eve!

Sister Love on
the Blessing of
the Animals.



(Left to right) Saint Agnes,
Saint Rose of Viterbo, and
Mary Mother of God.

Christmas
Cheer!





TEA WITH THE SAINTS

by Celia Barragan



We are all called to be saints.

Catholics look to the saints as examples of lives well lived in the faith. Many shared the same struggles, sins, doubts, or hardships as we do. We pray to the saints because they are still members of the Body of Christ and have eternal life. Every Christian who has died in Christ is forever a member of the Body of Christ.

This is the doctrine which we call the Communion of Saints. Everyone in Christ Jesus, whether living or dead, belongs to the Body of Christ (for example, see **Hebrews, chapter 12**).

In an effort to bring about more awareness of the lives of the saints, the Guadalupanos of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Braunfels, Texas, introduced *Tea with the Saints* in the fall of 2023. The first saint featured was

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first American citizen saint, and because Angel Studios was preparing to release the movie, *Cabrini*.

The church hall was set up with long tables in an arched design. All who attended were welcomed with a variety of beautiful teacups and saucers, an assortment of tea flavors, and finger foods and desserts to snack on as they listened to the talk.

While enjoying fellowship, parishioners and guests learned about Mother Cabrini's life from her childhood to her struggles and determination to accomplish her missions. Mother Cabrini lived her life inspired by the words of Saint





Paul in his **Letter to the Philippians 4:13**: *"I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me."*

The goal of our *Tea with the Saints* is to build fellowship and awareness that we all have a purpose to fulfill. We need to seek out our purpose. Mother Cabrini is the patron saint of immigrants because of her efforts in helping immigrants around the world. Attendees learned more about Mother Cabrini and the process of beatification and canonization of saints.

During the spring of 2024, we featured Blessed Carlo Acutis who will be the first millennial saint (a person born between 1981 and 1996) and patron saint of the internet. Carlo Acutis, at a very young age, began documenting 187 Eucharistic Miracles that have occurred throughout the world. He developed a website to bring awareness to the world that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist.

Pope Francis announced that Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonized a saint on April 27,

2025, at the Vatican in Saint Peter's Square. He will be our "digital saint." Carlo was so inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi and his ministry that he asked to be laid to rest in Assisi, Italy. Two of Blessed Carlo's famous quotes are:

- "All people are born as originals, but many live as photocopies."
- "We are blessed to be living in these times where we do not have to venture out to see Jesus in a faraway land. He is with us in the tabernacle waiting for us to come see Him."

Two saints were the heart of our program for the fall of 2024: Saint Catherine Laboure and the Miraculous Medal, along with Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and the Divine Mercy.

Saint Catherine's visits from Our Blessed Mother brought about the design of the Miraculous Medal with the message, *"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."* Our Blessed Mother also said, *"Come to the foot of this altar. Here, graces will be given to all who ask for them with confidence and fervor."*

Saint Faustina's 14 apparitions of Jesus Christ brought the message of Divine Mercy for all. A famous quote from her as given by Jesus is: *"Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works*

of My hands are crowned with mercy." In her diary, Saint Faustina wrote about a promise given to her by Jesus: "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy."

Through the years, a Feast, an Image, a Novena, a Chaplet, and an Hour have been dedicated to the Divine Mercy of Jesus. We refer to this as F.I.N.C.H. to remember all that Jesus Christ offers us when we receive with confidence the mercy He offers.

As the Guadalupanos prepare for their spring 2025 tea sessions, a feeling of excitement fills the air in anticipation of which saints will be featured. Saints are persons in Heaven (officially canonized or not), who lived heroically virtuous

lives, offered their life for others, or were martyred for the faith, and who are worthy of imitation.

We are all called to be saints.

There are saints among us who are individuals who have dedicated themselves to the worship and service of the one true God as revealed through his Son, Jesus Christ. May we all strive to be ambassadors of Christ's vision to the world. **+jnj+**



Do You Want More Holy Priests?

Please join the *Holy Family Circle* and help foster vocations to the priesthood! Find your level of joyful giving below, complete the form, and mail it or a copy to 3014 Oregon Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118.

Giving Level	Associate	up to \$49 per month	Patriarch/Matriarch
Examples:	Samaritan	\$50 per month	\$10,000 annual gift
	Companion	\$100 per month	
	Disciple.....	\$300 per month	
	Apostle.....	\$600 per month	

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Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

My Level of Joyful Giving per month: _____

**Mass of Remembrance
Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, June 9, 2024**



*Fr. Phil & his
Madagascar posse.*



*Fr. Phil & Mr. Weldon,
Brothers in Christ.*



*Ladies of Mary
prepared a feast.*

*Ladies of Mary with
Men of God.*



*Marge working
the bar.*





RIP, FATHER JIM

Late but Still Great **Reverend James Joseph Beegan, M.S.F.** **November 20, 1940 - November 26, 2024**

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father Jim Beegan, a dedicated member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, entered eternal life on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at the age of 84. He was born on November 20, 1940, in New York, New York, to Michael Beegan and Mary Neary. He was an only child.

He was baptized and confirmed as a Roman Catholic, and he attended Catholic schools from grade school to college. He was a late vocation, ordained as a Priest of Jesus Christ a couple months before his 60th birthday.

Before deciding on a religious vocation, he worked at the American Stock Exchange as a Senior Financial Examiner. In different firms, he worked as an accountant, statistical clerk, postal clerk, and recreational supervisor. He served in the United States Army National Guard.

As a belated vocation, he applied to join the Missionaries of the Holy Family. He was accepted into the Formation Program in San Antonio, Texas, in June 1994. He began his two-year Novitiate on August 15, 1995, and his First Profession of Vows

was August 15, 1996. He attended the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, and on June 10, 2000, he was ordained as a priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF).

Father Jim Beegan served God and His Church in a variety of roles: Provincial Procurator of the MSF North American Province; Associate Pastor at Saint Joseph Church in Donna, Texas; Chaplain of the Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home in Saint Louis, Missouri; and Spiritual Director for the MSF Holy Family Prayer Association.


When the Little Sisters of the Poor closed their nursing home in July 2018, and due to his declining health, Father Beegan retired from active ministry. He moved into Padua Place Nursing Home for priests and religious brothers in San Antonio, Texas.

He suffered much during the end of his life, offering all up to Jesus Christ as a prayer for the salvation of souls. He died at peace on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. May God grant him the eternal life for which he longed. Regarding his religious vocation, he may have entered late, but he was still great.



Father Beegan at a Rosary Congress.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Contributions in memory of Father Beegan should be mailed to the Missionaries of the Holy Family at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412. Gifts can also be received through our website at www.msf-america.org. 



Flashback 2011: Some members of the Holy Family Prayer Association.

Men of God: Priests Forever

In the Year of Our Lord 2025, we thank God for all of 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 our priests, please send it to 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412.



+Fr. Leo Gariazzo, M.S.F.
60 years



+Fr. James Beegan, M.S.F.
25 years



Fr. Francois Rakotoavoavy, M.S.F.
25 years



Fr. Joss Mampandra, M.S.F.
5 years



An Invitation

The Family Forever Society

by Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.

What is the Family Forever Society? It's very simple! Members of this special society are people who have remembered the Missionaries of the Holy Family in their wills or estate plans. Their bequests are called Legacy Gifts.

While most Legacy Gifts are made with the intention of the Missionaries of the Holy Family receiving benefits in the future, some Legacy Gifts are realized in the present. Gifts of securities or stock, real estate, and other tangible property are usually transferred before December 31 of any year so the benefactor can realize tax breaks for charitable donations.

Most Legacy Gifts are used as principal for our Retirement Trust Fund. While we do have a modest trust fund to help cover the rising cost of healthcare needed by the elderly and disabled members of our religious community, it is always a struggle.

Please consider joining our Family Forever Society. To receive a free booklet on preparing your will, please send your request to me at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118, or call me at 1-888-484-9945. If you are remembering us in your will, please remember us as: *Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family - North American Province.*

Our Holy Family priests and brothers will always hold you and your loved ones in prayer. Isn't that what a Family is supposed to do? Thank you and God bless you... *forever.*



Forever Yours in the Holy Family,

Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.

Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.
Provincial Superior, North American Province



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Gregorian Masses are a set of 30 Masses celebrated on 30 consecutive days for the release of one Soul from Purgatory. Each set of 30 Masses is dedicated exclusively for one Soul. The minimum donation for a set of 30 Gregorian Masses is \$200.

Gregorian Mass Enrollments are available through
our website, **www.msf-america.org**,
or call our office toll-free: **1-888-484-9945**.

You may also enroll by mail using the form below.

Gregorian Masses for Holy Souls in Purgatory

Enrollment Form

Date: _____ Check here if you would like a Mass Card.

Please Enroll: _____
(Please print name of the deceased)

Your Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone with Area Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

*Make checks payable to, Missionaries of the Holy Family
and mail to: 3014 Oregon Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412*

Your gift to the Missionaries of the Holy Family is tax deductible.

God bless your family! +JMJ+



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Family • Vocations • Missions

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| ❖ Baptism/Birthday | ❖ Souls in Purgatory | ❖ Repose of a Soul |

Please complete and return this form for enrollment.

DATE: _____ Check here if you would like a Mass Card: _____

PLEASE

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(PLEASE PRINT – Person or Family Name)

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Deceased

on the occasion of _____

ENROLLED

BY: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____

GIFT: \$10 \$25* \$50 \$100 Other _____

**Suggested for family enrollment.*

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