

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Celebrating Life & Family Traditions



See page 3

WINTER 2019-2020

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

In this issue

<i>Provincial Perspective</i>	1
<i>Gregorian Masses Enrollment Form</i>	2
<i>Baptized in Tradition</i>	3
<i>Welcome, Father Angelot!</i>	5
<i>Bread Angels</i>	6
<i>Introducing Dr. Andrea Harper</i>	8
<i>Totally Happy in Serving the Lord</i>	10
<i>Party in Louisville</i>	14
<i>Encouraging Vocations</i>	16
<i>News from Rome</i>	18
<i>Jesus is Alive!</i>	20
<i>Around the Province in Pictures</i>	24
<i>Request a Perpetual Mass</i>	<i>Inside Back Cover</i>

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Copyright © 2020. *The Messenger* is published semi-annually and is owned and operated by the

Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF)

3014 Oregon Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63118-1412
Phone: 888.484.9945
www.MSF-America.org

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

Editor: Maurice Prater

Designer: Bill Herberholt,
Graphic Masters

Printer: Breese Printing & Publishing

Front Cover: A young, Catholic family from the USA.

Back Cover: Rev. James Wuerth, M.S.F.

Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

Finding ourselves living in difficult and challenging times, we long to find a little peace to refresh and renew our wearied minds and hearts. The beginning of another year makes us wonder what is in store for us. Looking forward in the New Year of 2020, as faithful witnesses of Jesus, we can make a difference by the way we live our lives.

Mary and Joseph lived out their lives by trusting and submitting to God's will. They questioned and feared what they could not understand. But their strong faith and trust in God helped them to overcome. When we look at ourselves, we no doubt share some of their experiences.

Mary and Joseph are the examples for us to keep a close relationship with our God by praying daily and by loving and serving others. With Jesus as the foundation of our lives, He brings us the gift of true peace, and He renews us in mind, body, and soul.

Please take advantage of opportunities that allow you to relax, and spend quiet time listening to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Meditating on the Word of God, through the reading of Sacred Scripture, is a practical way to give the Holy Spirit an invitation to guide you in fulfilling God's will for your life.

The Spirit whom Jesus promised to send still gives power to His Church and to each of her members. Once we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, positive changes will take place.

Wishing you and your family a joyful winter with many blessings, and thank you for everything!

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.

Apostolate Board

Mr. Ricardo Castañeda
Mr. Leon Frigillana
Dr. Andrea Harper, EdD
Lt. John Harper
Dr. Mark Hickman, MD
Mr. Ed Koeninger, Jr.
Mr. Walter Lukaszek
Mr. Stephen Lukaszek
Mr. Guy Parasch (emeritus)
Mr. Weldon Tieken
Miss Mary Wisniewski

Advisors

Mr. Martie Aboussie
Mr. Harry Fabick
Mr. Tom Kutis III

Advisory Committee

Robert & Gracie Mirabal
Dr. Terri Quebedeaux, MD





Missionaries of the
Holy Family

Family • Vocations • Missions

Gregorian Masses for Holy Souls in Purgatory

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! +JM+



JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE

Baptized in Tradition

by Brother Knight Baldy Bluett

My Grandpa Bill and Grandma Mary had four children, all girls. The oldest was born in April of 1910. Grandpa Bill's sister made a baptismal gown for the occasion. The gown is very elaborate with many layers, all cotton, and hand sewn.

All four of their daughters were baptized in that gown. All of the children of those four daughters were baptized in that gown. All of the grandchildren and many of the great grandchildren of the oldest three daughters were also baptized in that original gown. Until September 2019, the count stood at 34 baptisms in that gown.

I mentioned grandchildren and great grandchildren of the three oldest daughters of Grandpa Bill and Grandma Mary being baptized in that original gown. What about the grandchildren of the youngest daughter -- who happened to be my mom?

In 1976, for the birth of my mom's



Baldy in the original gown, 1951.



Mother of the twins in duplicate gown, 1987.

first grandchild, my mom had an exact duplicate of the original gown made. The original gown was returned to my cousin Bill. My mom was afraid the original gown might not hold up for more baptisms in the future.

Until September of 2019, the duplicate has been used for nine of her grandchildren, and nine of her great grandchildren.

What happened in September of 2019? One of my mom's granddaughters (my own daughter!) had identical twin girls that were baptized together in September.

The original and duplicate gowns were used. Now the original gown has been used 35 times and the duplicate has been used 19 times. (I have to give my sister lots of credit for helping me with the accurate counts.)

It might seem this is a story about gowns, but it really is not. It is a story about family traditions and how they help families



Getting dressed for Baptism.



Big sister with the twins.

keep in touch. The baptisms are a time for family members to get together. Most of my group of 27 attended the baptism ceremony of the twins. It was another family reunion of sorts.

It is never too late to begin a family tradition. Some may fizzle, but some could last for generations and help hold families together.

As a humorous side note about the gowns, there have been a lot of changes between 1910 and 2019. I'm sure my grandparents did not have a car. They walked to Saint Mary's back in 1910 with the child wearing the gown. There

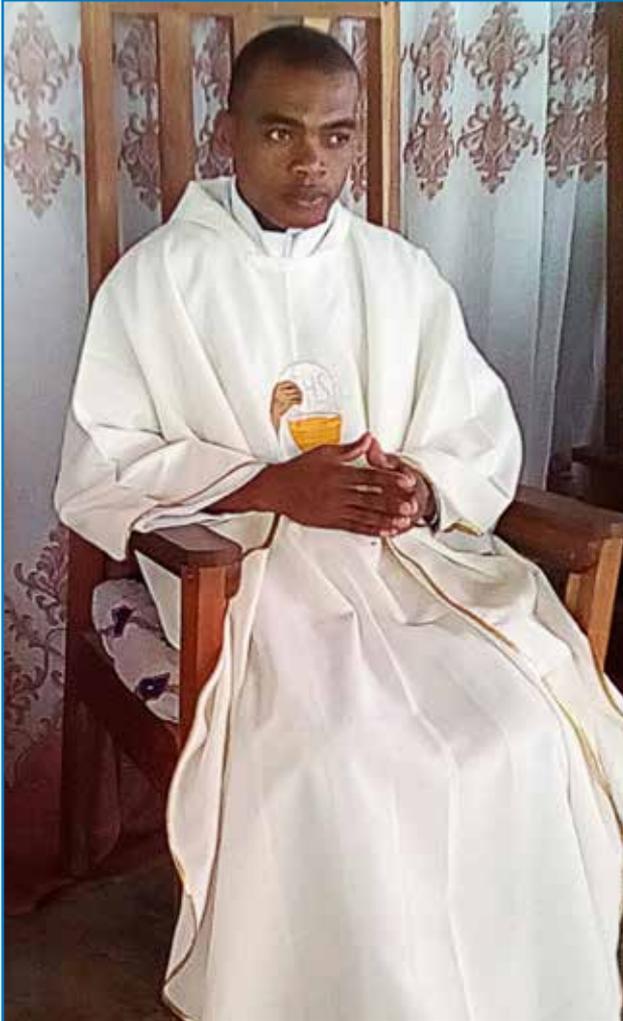
is no way the twins would have fit in their car seats wearing the gowns. We had to put the gowns on them at church.

Now I have to figure something out for the next "Bald Guy's Fishing School." Do I get the twins identical fishing rods and reels, or do I get them different rods and reels? If only all of life's dilemmas were so traditionally simple! God bless your family. +jMJ+



Mom and Dad with their children.

Around The Province...



Rev. Galson Angelot (“Father Angelot”) Andriamamitahina, M.S.F. is from our international province in Madagascar. He was ordained as a Priest of Jesus Christ on August 5, 2018. He arrived in the USA in September 2019, and he is studying English at the International Institute in Saint Louis, Missouri. He also assists the pastor, Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F., at Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis. Hopefully, Father Angelot will write an article for the summer 2020 issue of *The Messenger*. Father Angelot is a joy!

We are blessed to have him with us.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Bread Angels by R. Daniel Cavazos

The Bread Angels are busy folding clothes at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Donna, Texas. It's an early Friday evening, and they're discussing an upcoming delivery of food, clothing, and bread to colonias (slums) north of Donna near the Mexican border.

"We're doing what we hear about every Sunday," said Rene Cardenas, one of the leaders of the group. "We're helping others as Jesus would want us to do."

It was four years ago that a group of Saint Joseph's parishioners got the idea to form a band of volunteers to take donated goods to communities in need. They started with bread.

"Wheat bread, white bread, hot dog and hamburger buns, and cakes too," Cardenas said, ticking off the donations they would get from area stores. "We packed it up in bags and took it out to the colonias."

The Bread Angels were born, and



Father Eka and Tina Lukaszek.

Cardenas said the inspiration came from a priest at their church, Father Eka Yuantoro, M.S.F., a member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. The Bread Angels would come to have another nickname, thanks to Father Eka.

"Eka's Little Elves is what we are," Cardenas said. "He's the catalyst for all of this."

On a recent Friday, it meant turning piles of donated clothes into neat rows of folded shirts and pants. Amidst their work, there was talk of picking up canned goods and other items at a food bank in the City of Pharr. Those goods, too, will make their way back to Saint Joseph's, where they will be organized and packed in bags for a monthly delivery to one of Donna's rural colonias. It's not just about the deliveries and the good works. There's a message to be shared as well.

"We're evangelizing while we're out there," Haydee Lopez said. "We're

letting them know the church is there to help them.”

Residents in the colonias have signed up their children for CCD classes (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine), baptisms, weddings have been set, and new parishioners brought in to attend weekly Masses.

“It has had an impact,” Cardenas said of the contact and connections the group has made in the rural neighborhoods. “We let them know they’re welcome, no matter where they are from. The doors of the church are open to them.”

The Bread Angels are a group of about 12 Saint Joseph’s parishioners. Their camaraderie and Christian fellowship are evident as they go about their work folding clothes. They do so with abundant good cheer, putting their faith and beliefs into action with selfless good deeds.

“I had a police officer say, ‘You guys are going out there?’” Cardenas recalled as they were recently getting ready to make a rural delivery. “He said, ‘We request back-up when we go out there.’ I said, ‘Officer, we go out there for a different reason than you all do.’”

Voices rise and eyes light up when the Bread Angels talk about the reception they typically get as they make their way into the rural neighborhoods.

Children often come running out to greet them and their trucks filled with much-needed goods and provisions.

“The smiles on the kids’ faces,” Lopez said with her own face beaming. “They’re so appreciative. It makes everything we do worthwhile.”

The group is proud of its efforts in laying the groundwork for what will be Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Mile 13 Road in Donna. The church is to be built in the northern rural areas where the Bread Angels have been going for years, spreading word of the Gospel and their faith, along with

the deliveries. Cardenas said it has been vitally important for the church to have a presence in the rural areas.

“The areas we go out to are grow-

ing,” he said. “What are we doing as Catholics? If they don’t find a Catholic Church and its representatives, they will go where they are invited.”

The “elves” who double as the Bread Angels have made it clear there’s no need to go anywhere else. Their Church — and Faith — will always welcome them.

Reprinted with permission. © *The Valley Catholic*, official newspaper of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas. Original article by R. Daniel Cavazos was published in the September 2019 issue: www.cdob.org and (956) 784-5008. **+JM+**





YOUTHFUL OUTLOOK

Introducing Dr. Andrea Harper

by Lieutenant John Harper

Congratulations to a Lay Apostolate Board member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF), Andrea Harper, who graduated December 2019 from the University of Missouri-Saint Louis' doctoral program with a degree in Educational Practice (Ed.D.).

Her doctoral program, *Heritage Leadership for Sustainability, Social Justice, and Participatory Culture*, focused on collaborative studies and problem-solving within the topics of environmental sustainability, social justice, and the preservation of culture and heritage. Participating in a group dissertation project, her group's research focused on the role trust plays within community engagement.

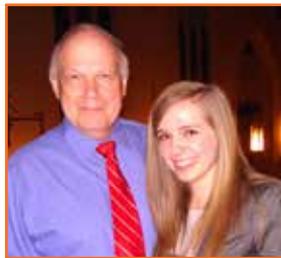
Andrea's concentration of study highlights social learning opportunities for young adults within the Saint Louis community and how opportunities to learn outside of the classroom supports teens. Prior to this graduate work, Andrea received



Dr. Andrea Harper, Ed.D.

Missouri.

Andrea and



Lt. John Harper (Dad) and Dr. Andrea Harper.

her Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication Studies from Webster University in 2011.

For the past five years, Andrea has been enjoying her full-time job of supervising 300+ volunteers as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Education Division at the Missouri Botanical Garden in Saint Louis,

her family are lifelong parishioners at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, and they are active in many ministries. In addition to Andrea being a former altar server and current choir member and cantor, her mom is an extraordinary minister, and her dad has been the church organist for almost 50 years!

Over the years, Andrea has enjoyed fellowship and friendship with the MSF priests serving Saint Wenceslaus. These relationships were motivators for Andrea to join the Lay Apostolate Board of the

Missionaries of the Holy Family. Andrea in her own words:

“My family and I are so fortunate to be part of Saint Wenceslaus and the MSF Family. Many MSF priests and staff members have been supportive and instrumental in our lives. We have been fortunate to have their love and support over the years at many family events and functions. I



Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.
with cantors Stephanie and Andrea.

was honored to be asked to join the MSF Lay Apostolate Board a few years ago to share some ideas and perspectives through my communication-based lens. I look forward to what lies ahead as I continue to serve Saint Wenceslaus Parish and the Missionaries of the Holy Family.”

So, yes, the doctor is in the house! God bless your family. +jMj+

Around The Province...



Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F. is the provincial superior of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. He is also the pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri. Saint Frances Cabrini Academy is a consolidated school on the Saint Wenceslaus campus. On the first day of school in August 2019, Father Phil blessed the faculty and students of Cabrini Academy, invoking God's loving protection for all school families.



JOYS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

Totally Happy in Serving the Lord

by Jessica Able

During four decades of ministry, Father James Wuerth spent many years serving families near the U.S. border with Mexico in south Texas. In a recent interview at Nazareth Home, Father Wuerth lamented the suffering of immigrant families at the border and described the situation as “so bad it’s beyond words.”

“We all have the dignity of God, not by the nature of our government, but by the nature of who we are as sons and daughters of Christ,” he said.

That inherent dignity and the sacred nature of the family are what initially attracted Father Wuerth more than 40 years ago to the Missionaries of the Holy Family. The international order has about 1,000 priests and brothers who provide pastoral care to families in 22 countries.

Now on what is his final mission, the 77-year-old Louisville native continues to be a witness for Christ and serves in a ministry of

prayer and presence at Nazareth Home.

As the oldest of seven children, the priest’s young life centered around family and parish life.

As the oldest of seven children, the priest’s young life centered around family and parish life. The Wuerth Family first attended the old Saint Ann Church and later Most Blessed Sacrament Church. From a young age, Father Wuerth — known simply as Jimmy by his siblings — said he felt a tug toward the priesthood.

“I had it in my mind ever since I was a little boy, God willing. Even through the ups and downs, the idea of serving as a priest never left,” he said. Along with his parents Eddie and Mary Ruth, Father Wuerth was deeply influenced by his mom’s sister — Sister of Charity of Nazareth Frances Albert Mackey.

“The sisters had a lot of influence

on us — all of the sisters,” he said, noting he and his siblings were educated by the Sisters of Charity.

He entered high school seminary at the old Saint Thomas Seminary, where many diocesan priests studied.

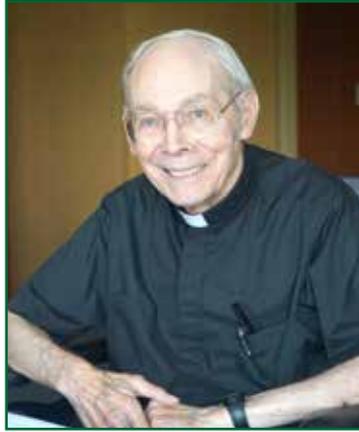
While he was happy in his studies at Saint Thomas, he had a pull to a religious community, he said,

particularly the Missionaries of the Holy Family. The community’s emphasis on the Holy Family as the model of holiness for all families drew him in, he said.

Soon he began studying at Holy Family Seminary in Saint Louis, where the U.S. province of the order is located. He was ordained June 13, 1971, which he said was the “happiest day of life.”

Following his ordination, he was assigned as associate pastor and hospital chaplain in Los Angeles. For the bulk of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, he moved between Missouri, south Texas, and California.

He even served for a brief time at his home parish of Most Blessed Sacrament.



Father Jim

Father Wuerth recalled the thousands of people he ministered to, noting with particular fondness the people of south Texas. He speaks Spanish and established connections with families there, he said. He also taught courses in

philosophy, theology, and liturgy at Holy Family Seminary; served his community in a variety of leadership roles; and worked as a hospice chaplain.

Father Wuerth is also a musician and often played the organ and piano and led choirs at various parishes.

Father Wuerth is also a musician and often played the organ and piano and led

choirs at various parishes. For much of his decades-long ministry, he moved every few years, sometimes every year — something common among missionary priests. Father Wuerth said he became used to the irregularity, and eventually grew to enjoy it.

“I went where I was needed,” he said. “I had a lot of family, so I’d

have visitors wherever I was every couple of months.”

In 2015, he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and made the difficult decision to retire as pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis where he served from 2000 - 2016. He lived for a time at Padua Place in San Antonio, Texas, a retirement community for priests and other religious. Earlier this year, he returned to Louisville and now lives at Nazareth.

Father Wuerth said he is grateful for his vocation. Almost a half

century after his ordination, he said he looks upon his ministry as a gift from God. “I’ve really enjoyed everything about it — everywhere I ministered,” he said with a wistful expression. “I’ve been totally happy in life.”

© *The Record*, official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, 2 July 2019. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved. Article by Jessica Able, reporter: www.therecordnewspaper.org and (502) 471-2125.

+JM+

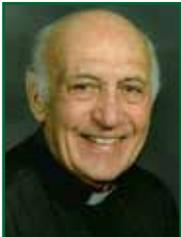
Around The Province...



Some members of the Missionaries of the Holy Family after Mass during their annual retreat in October 2019.

Thank You & God Bless You to everyone who made a financial gift in 2019. 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.

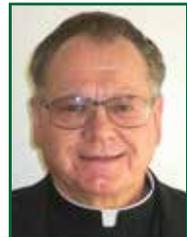
Men of God: Priests Forever



Fr. Leo Gariazzo, M.S.F.
55 years

In this Year of Our Lord 2020, four priests of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination.

We thank God for our priests and brothers, and we beseech Him to send us many more.



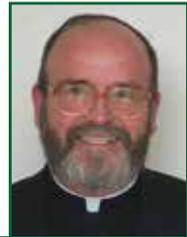
Fr. Richard Oberstar, M.S.F.
55 years



Fr. Francois Rakotovoavy, M.S.F.
20 years

If you would like to send a Tribute Gift in honor of one or more of these Men of God, please send it to 3014 Oregon Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63118.

Thank you and God bless your family!



Fr. Jim Beegan, M.S.F.
20 years

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	

My Contact Information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

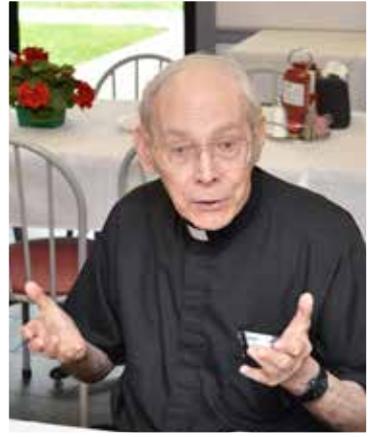
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

My Level of Joyful Giving per month: _____

Party in Louisville

In March 2019, Father Jim Wuerth, M.S.F. moved from a retirement home in San Antonio, Texas to one in Louisville, Kentucky to be closer to his family. In June 2019, Father Jim's family held a Welcome Home Party for him. Many of Father Jim's friends from Saint Louis, Missouri attended the party in honor of this beloved priest. We love you, Father Jim!



Party in Louisville





ENCOURAGING VOCATIONS

12 Years of History

by Mr. Walter Lukaszek
President, M.S.F. Apostolate Board

In 2005, the vocation director for the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF), Brother Robert DeLong, worked with the MSF Apostolate Board to participate in vocation awareness in all current and former MSF parishes.

I remember a note I had written as a member of the Apostolate Board in 2006: "Brother Robert DeLong, M.S.F. has been presenting vocation awareness talks at parishes where the Missionaries of the Holy Family are serving or have served in the Rio Grande Valley. As I listen to him share on this topic, I have been impressed with his ability to help people see vocation in a bigger picture, rather than the usual context and special roles of priests, brothers, and sisters in our communities. In my opinion,

he is much more in line with God's idea of vocation in the thoughts he shares. Prayer is very much a part of this work."



Father Robert DeLong, M.S.F.
with some faith formation students.

This note was the inspiration for a new program of sharing vocation talks with the youth attending Saint Joseph Church's faith formation

classes in Donna, Texas, beginning in 2008. Each year, religious sisters, brothers, priests, deacons, and married couples are invited to discuss their vocation journey. For many years, the film *Fishers of Men* was used to focus on this topic.

In more recent years, the participants shared about their vocation journey, with all the challenges and joys. Former vocation directors who participated in this annual vocation awareness program included the

late Father Mario Galindo, M.S.F. and the late Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F.

In 2019, the 12th year of this outreach at Saint Joseph's, there were presentations to the fourth and fifth graders and the junior high and high school students. Age appropriate presentations were delivered. The focus for the fourth and fifth graders was planting the seed, encouraging them to reflect on the talents that Jesus has shared with each, and dream how they will use those talents to make the world a better place through their vocation. Their call could be for the married state, or lives as single laypeople, religious, priests, or deacons.

For the junior high and high school students, Sister Maureen Crosby shared about her 57 years of service as a religious sister, the last 30 years as a sister of Saint Dorothy reaching out to the poor in Las Flores, Mexico. Her message was one of service in whatever assignment her religious order placed her.

As for myself, Walter Lukaszek, I shared about my dream at the age of 13 of being a priest. I pursued this dream for 12 years. One year before ordination to the priesthood, however, I made the decision to get married and to serve others as a social worker for the next 40 years.

My message was about listening to God speaking, not being afraid to follow what you hear, and letting God guide you through the years.

Father Robert Delong, M.S.F., told the story of his life journey from an itinerate preacher's family, to his conversion to the Catholic Church, his short vocation as a Franciscan brother candidate, his life as a nurse in Vietnam, work in public health services, and eventually joining the Missionaries of the Holy Family at the age of 50.

Father Robert's message was about never saying, "Never," because God has His ways, and Our Lady of Guadalupe is very persuasive about leading her children to what God has planned for their vocation. All three presenters explained how happy they are to be living out God's vocation for them: past, present, and future.

Each year, Father Robert asks high school students to try on his former Franciscan habit, his M.S.F. cassock, a deacon's liturgical Alb and stole, and the liturgical vestments of a priest. He explains the role of each, and he helps the youth to reflect on how they might embrace the vocation to religious life, should they choose this path with the guidance of Jesus Christ. 

Around The Province...

Our Chapter Meeting in Rome, September 2019



Mass in the chapel underneath the House of Loreto.



New superior general (left) and former superior general.



Pope Francis speaking with the superior general,
Very Rev. Agustinus Purnama, M.S.F.



An Invitation

The Family Forever Society

by Very Rev. 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, medical expenses will only increase as our members grow older.

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



JESUS & YOUNG PEOPLE

The Good News is that Jesus is Alive

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

Introduction to *Christus Vivit*

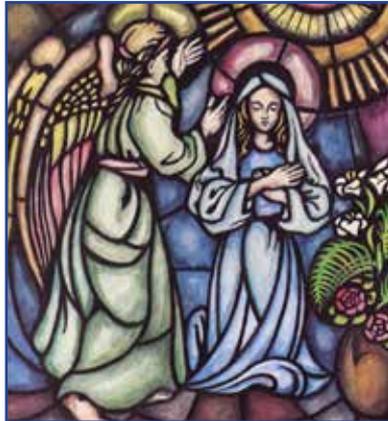
When the entire Catholic Church celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, March 25, 2019, Pope Francis gave us an apostolic exhortation, *Christus Vivit* (*Christ is Alive*). This document was written after the October 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.

The following is a summary of this exhortation from Pope Francis:

Mary, as a young girl, accepted the invitation from the angel of God to be the mother of Jesus Christ with a humble heart: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) This is the beginning of the mystery of the Incarnation, when the Word was made

flesh and lived among us. Christ is alive and lives within those who believe in His name.

The Church wants to listen to the



young generation, also known as the digital generation. The Church invites the young to be active and build up the mystical body of Christ in the world so that Jesus will reign in the universe. This

is a message of joy to be shared, and it is a new challenge on how to connect with young people today.

Young People in Sacred Scripture

If we read Sacred Scripture carefully, we find that God calls young people to do His will. He called young Samuel, although Samuel did not know God at that time, but by the direction of Eli the Priest, Samuel answered God's call (1 Samuel



3). When Samuel the Prophet was seeking the new king of Israel, he anointed young David to be king (1 Samuel 16).

Young Jeremiah answered God's call, even though he was young and did not know what he could do, but God promised to guide him in his mission (Jeremiah 1). He called young Daniel to be a prophet of Israel and to help his people to know the Word of God. Daniel and his friends became a sign of God's work (Daniel 1).

God chose Ruth to be faithful to the law of God, and she obeyed (Ruth 1). God also chose young Suzanna to be a sign of truth and fidelity (Daniel 13). God called a young lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, to be the mother of Jesus Christ, and she accepted the invitation (Luke 1).

Jesus called young people to be his disciples, for example John the son of Zebedee (Matthew 4). Jesus appeared to Saul on the journey to

Damascus, and Saul became Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11). Many young people worked with God to build a community of love (Acts of the Apostles 16).

Jesus, Himself eternally young, gives us hearts that are ever young. Jesus was about 30 years old when he began His ministry, then was sacrificed as high priest on the cross (Luke 3:23 and Hebrew 9:11). He gave His blood as an expiation for our sins.

Young people should be treated as brothers and sisters. Jesus no longer calls us as slaves, but He calls us as friends (John 15:14-15). He wants us to proclaim the Good News to the young people who are living in the shadow of death, so they can see the wonder of his mercy and love.

In the New Testament, Jesus was 12 years of age when He was lost in the temple in Jerusalem. When his parents finally found Him, He was obe-

dient to them (Luke 2:41-51). Jesus, even though He is God, teaches us to honor our parents (the Fourth Commandment, Deuteronomy 5).

is Christ alive? He is alive in His witnesses! The Holy Spirit is present and guides the Church today. God loves the young people who desire



Jesus does not teach young people, from afar or from without, He shares His own youth with you.

In the history of the Church, we have the stories of young and youthful saints and how they were called by God's love to share the joy of the Good News. Saint Tarcisius was martyred in bringing the Eucharist to condemned Christians in prison. Saint John Bosco dedicated his life to educating street children and juvenile delinquents. José Luis Sánchez del Río, died as a martyr in Mexico for refusing to renounce his faith in Jesus Christ.

Christ is Alive and it is True

The fundamental question is where

to seek Him with humble hearts, and He leads them as a Father. His love does not overwhelm or oppress, cast aside or reduce to silence, humiliate or dominate. The love of God does not make us slaves, but makes us free to see how the future can be.

In the New Testament, Saint John and Saint Paul talk about God's love. God sent Jesus Christ to save us, not to condemn us (John 13:1). Saint Paul originally tried to persecute Christians, but Jesus did not punish him. Rather, Saint Paul was chosen as a missionary of mercy to bring the Good News to the Gentiles. Saint Paul stressed this in his *Letter to the Galatians* (chapter 2).

Jesus called Saint Peter back, but He did not put him to shame. Saint Peter was embraced with mercy and love (John 21). In the same way, Jesus embraces us sinners with his mercy and love.

Christ is also alive today through the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live in a communion

of love. Saint Luke describes the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit inspired the disciples to proclaim the Good News without fear (Acts of the Apostles 2). Now we must bring the Good News to all the nations.

The Church is not just about teaching to young people, but listening to the cries of those who are wounded in the battlefield of daily life. Youth Ministry is an important part of education and faith formation for young people, to guide them and prepare them for the future. Formation is not just a time for gathering. It is an opportunity to form networks of experience to connect with Christ Jesus who is alive in their midst.

The first vocation of young people is their faith in being Catholic. The second vocation is at work or on the

job, because they are always a son or daughter of Christ, regardless of the circumstances. The third vocation is to seek Christ in special vocations as priests or religious brothers and sisters.

It is our duty as the Church to guide and direct them to find their vocation and to be fully alive in Christ.



Conclusion

Christ is alive today. He lives with us and His presence guides us, liberates us, heals us, and helps us overcome every evil and danger. God calls us to participation in building up the mystical body of Christ in the modern era. He will never let us perish. He brings us back to the original plan of salvation with all the angels and saints.

We can learn from the saints that God calls everyone to be a saint to experience the fullness of joy and happiness. God calls us, even mysteriously, to work with Him here and now. At the parish level, young people must be encouraged to participate in the mystical body of Christ. It is up to us to extend the invitation! [+JM+](#)



Around The Province...



Brother Rolland Kapsner, M.S.F. (right) received a blessing for his 80th birthday at Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas.

The pastor is Rev. David Tonary, M.S.F.

Brother Rolland's birthday falls on June 2 every year!

Around The Province...



Vacation Bible School 2019 (top) and Confirmation (bottom)
at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas.



Around The Province...



Sacrament of First Communion 2019 at
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas.



Missionaries of the Holy Family
www.MSF-America.org

Caring for Your Family Holy Family Prayers Explore Your Calling

Are you keeping your family in prayer?
Each year Jesus dies in our Pieta votive Mass Association to protect a Mass intention.

Learn More

Missionaries of the Holy Family have a mission of helping the poor. [LEARN MORE](#)

FERTILIZING MASS
SUPPORT A PIETA VOTIVE
LITURGICAL MUSIC
PROJECT ASSISTANCE

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube:   

Pieta Votive Candles



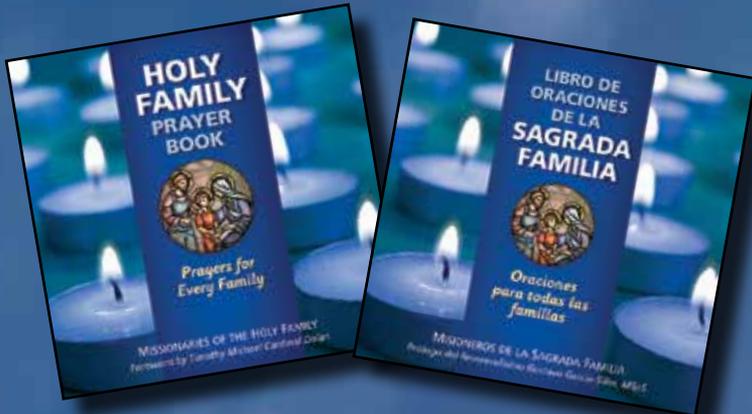
This beautiful Pieta statue is in Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, and in the rectory are the offices of the North American Province of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. If you would like a 7-day votive candle lit for your family and your intentions, contact us at 1-888-484-9945 or mprater@msf-america.org. Candles burn in a rack to the right of the statue. (The suggested donation is \$7.00.) Thank you and may God bless you.

Around The Province...



In the month of August 2019, dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, celebrated the First Saturday Devotion in honor of Our Blessed Mother.

A Great Gift for All Occasions!



 **Liguori**
PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry

Only \$8.99
Order today at 800-325-9521.



Missionaries of the
Holy Family
Family • Vocations • Missions

Perpetual Mass Association Enrollment

Provide your Family and Friends with daily spiritual support!
Enrollment in the **Perpetual Mass Association** is a beautiful gift
at special times in life and at the time of death.

- ◆ **Wedding**
- ◆ **Birth of Child**
- ◆ **Anniversary**
- ◆ **Baptism/Birthday**
- ◆ **Ordination/Vows**
- ◆ **New Job**
- ◆ **Graduation**
- ◆ **Souls in Purgatory**
- ◆ **Christmas & Easter**
- ◆ **Get Well**
- ◆ **Sympathy**
- ◆ **Repose of a Soul**

Please complete and return this form for enrollment.

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

PLEASE ENROLL: _____ Living
_____ Deceased
(PLEASE PRINT – Person or Family Name)

on the occasion of _____

ENROLLED BY: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____

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

**Suggested for family enrollment.*

Please make checks payable to: **Missionaries of the Holy Family**
Mail this enrollment to: 3014 Oregon Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412

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

*Perpetual Mass Enrollments are available immediately at our website,
www.MSF-America.org. You can also call our office at 1-888-484-9945.*

*A homecoming for a
beloved priest.
See page 14*



Missionaries of the
Holy Family

3014 Oregon Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63118

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 5818
ST. LOUIS, MO