

# The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



**The Year of Saint Joseph**

SUMMER 2021

# The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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## The MESSENGER

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### **Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF)**

3014 Oregon Avenue  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63118-1412  
Phone: 888.484.9945  
[www.MSF-America.org](http://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: © Icon: Home of the Mother.  
Las Presillas, Cantabria (Spain)

Back Cover: Cecil Whittaker's Pizzeria,  
South St. Louis, Missouri.

# Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

We are in summertime when our schedules change from the ending of the school year to looking forward to vacation!

However, we still find ourselves living in difficult and challenging times due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has affected our whole world, and we wonder what kind of normalcy we will experience.

**This has been a slow recovery from day to day.** Sheltering at home has offered us more time to spend with our families and the opportunities to pray together and reflect on the gifts God has bestowed upon us.

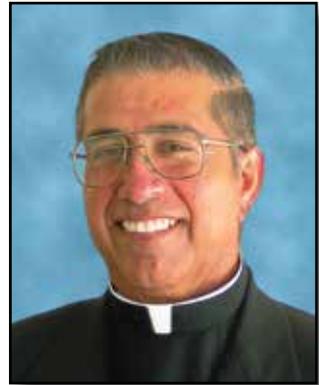
Remember, God promised to be with us always and that His Spirit in us makes Him present to others by our words and actions. This is a time to grow in our faith and trust in God.

Let us find unique ways to support each other in these trying times. Stay safe; stay healthy. Be patient and kind. Thank you for everything, and God bless you and your family.

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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## YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

# Saint Joseph the Genuine: Foster Father of God

by © J. P. Richardson, 2021

What is a man? What is a husband? What is a father? Have you ever seen a real man, a true husband, a no-imitation father? Pope Francis has given us a Year of Saint Joseph to see and to appreciate – and for boys and men to emulate – the genuine article.

God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of God the Son. God the Father in Heaven chose Saint Joseph to be the foster father in this world of His Son, Jesus Christ. God, we know, is perfect. God the Son, Jesus Christ, is Perfection personified. Holy Mary was preserved by God from sin for Perfection's sake, to become the Mother of God. Saint Joseph the

foster father of God the Son, must be as close to perfect as a man can get. Even God, Jesus Himself, needed a human father to complete the Holy Family.



Always, and in a special way this year, we ought to celebrate the virtues of Saint Joseph. Humility, for example. Saint Joseph has remained in the background, almost out of sight. We could say that he, as

a carpenter and builder, “built the stage” for the Holy Family to enact the greatest drama ever – the nativity, life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yet humble Saint Joseph might not call himself what we see him to be: the foster father of God. After more

than 2,000 years behind the scenes, Saint Joseph is getting a year in the spotlight.

On the stage of history, is anyone a better leading man than the God-man, Jesus Christ? Jesus became one of us in the womb of His Holy Mother Mary to save us from our sins by sacrificing Himself on the cross and leading us to Heaven. Is anyone a better leading lady than Our Lady? Jesus made His Mother our spiritual mother who leads us to Him. For best supporting actor, can anyone top the pillar of families, the head of the Holy Family – strong, silent Saint Joseph?

As with Mary's fiat, Joseph also had a fiat: Let thy will be done unto me. Joseph, like Mary, obeyed God. Jesus, in teaching us to pray, taught us to pray as His mother and foster father individually prayed: Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Father Donald Calloway, a scholar and promoter of the Year of Saint Joseph, notes that Saint Joseph is the savior of the Savior. He saved the

Child Jesus from mad King Herod who wanted to slay Him. If Saint Joseph protected Jesus and Mary, then he can protect us, too. Father Calloway offers good insights into Saint Joseph and reasons to admire him.

If we want to know what the genuine article looks like, we can pray the *Litany of Saint Joseph*: He is just, chaste, prudent, strong, obedient, faithful, patient, the glory of home life, terror of demons, protector of the Holy Church, and other virtuous things. Joseph is the patron saint of workers, immigrants, travelers, fathers, pregnant mothers and children in the womb, and a happy death. The Church honors him with feast days on March 19 and May 1 annually.

Saint Joseph did what a real man, a true husband, and a no-imitation father do: his duty. He was responsible to God. He took responsibility for his decisions and actions. He kept



his promises. Joseph was always with Mary, not independent, not out for himself. He protected his wife and Child, leading them and letting them feel safe, guided, guarded, cared for, and securely loved.

Saint Joseph was a teacher and encourager of his foster Son. From His foster father, Jesus learned to be a man, including self-sacrificial love.

We read in Luke 2:52: "And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man." When Jesus said to Peter, "Upon this rock I will build My Church" (Matthew 16:18), was He remembering what He learned from His foster father, the stonemason and carpenter?

The Holy Family is the model for families. The Holy Child is the model for children. Holy Mary is the model for mothers. Holy Joseph is the model for fathers. We can look up to Saint Joseph as God's exemplar of fathers. We can admire him for his manly virtues. He sets a good example for boys and men; he sets good standards for girls and women.



Some people do not see the differences between male and female as important. Some people do not see necessary distinctions between motherhood and fatherhood. They talk about parenting rather than mothering and fathering – yet a

mother is not a father, and a father is not a mother. The Child Jesus, by the perfect design of God, had both a mother and a foster father. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph together – as the Holy Family, with Joseph as the head and Mary as the heart – offer us God's idea, the divine plan for families.

When we think of good women – mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, saints, and others – what makes them good? Don't we see in them some of the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary? When we think of good men – fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, saints, and others – don't we see in them some of the virtues of Saint Joseph? What do other people see in us?

Let us keep in mind and heart the virtues of the holy parents of Jesus Christ. Let us always respect and try to imitate the virtues of Holy

Mary, the Mother of God, and Saint Joseph, the foster father of God.

Being a woman, being a wife, and being a mother are gifts from God – privileges. In this special Year of Saint Joseph and always, let us recognize

that being a man, being a husband, and being a father are also gifts from God – privileges. Let us thank Pope Francis for his gift of the Year of Saint Joseph. **+JMj+**

To learn more about Saint Joseph, read *Consecration to Saint Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* by Father Donald Calloway, M.I.C.

*Thank You & God Bless You to everyone who made a financial gift to date in 2021. 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.*

### **Around The Province...**



Brother Rolland and his Knights! (Our Lady of Guadalupe, Seguin, Texas)



## JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE

### What's in a Name?

by Brother Knight Baldy Bluett

What's in a name? That's pretty easy. Family is the answer.

Face it. You didn't pick your name, any more than you picked your parents, skin color, eye color, ancestors, and many other things.

Family is the answer to names. People change their names. Often with a bride changing her last name to her husband's last name. That is not a problem, but a blessing. Two families are united, regardless of the names.



Baldy's Mom and Dad (Dad has hair!) with Grandma Bluett.

Legally, you can change your name to anything. If you want a bit of humor, do a search on Ima Hogg. She didn't pick her first or last name. She kept her name and was quite a philanthropist.

I did not pick my name, but what could be a better name? I think I



Grandma Bluett with three of Baldy's kids and his beautiful wife.

know about the *Jerry* name, my real first name. It comes from an Army buddy of my Dad during World War II in Europe. I don't know any stories about why my Dad's first son would be named after an Army buddy, but that friend must have been a really good guy!



Baldy's Dad and Grandpa Bluett

My Dad never told any stories about WWII. My Mom, however, told me



"Hey, big sister, we want some of that too!"  
(some of Baldy's grandkids)

that my Dad once got into a fight "protecting the innocence" of some French girl. My dad was a good boxer. I suspect the girl's innocence was protected.

When all was said and done, my Dad needed stitches in his lip. He did say one day that the officers always got their stitches closer together. The enlisted soldiers got their stitches placed much farther apart. The perks of being an officer.



Baldy's little grand-fisherwoman.

I have six children, all married, four daughters and two sons. So I am included in many other last names as well. Actually, our family of 28 has five last names, all very closely tied to the name *Bluett*. Talk about a tight family, and we are always in contact with each other.

Family, regardless of name, is the important thing. God bless your family... and your name. [MJ]

## 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 1-888-484-9945 or [mprater@msf-america.org](mailto: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.



## TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

### God Cannot Bless Sin

**Full Text: Vatican doctrinal office's response to a question on the blessing of same-sex unions. © Catholic News Agency, March 15, 2021, 5:52 a.m. Mountain Time (CNA).**

*Here is the full text of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's response to a question on the blessing of same-sex unions, followed by an accompanying commentary, issued March 15, 2021:*

**Question Proposed:** Does the Church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the same sex?

**Response:** Negative.

#### Explanation

In some ecclesial contexts, plans and proposals for blessings of unions of persons of the same sex are being advanced. Such projects are not infrequently motivated by a sincere desire to welcome and accompany homosexual persons, to whom are proposed paths of growth in faith, "so that those who manifest a homosexual orientation can receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God's will in their lives." [1]

On such paths, listening to the Word of God, prayer, participation in ecclesial liturgical actions, and the exercise of charity can play an important role in sustaining the commitment to read one's own history and to adhere with freedom and responsibility to one's baptismal call, because "God loves every person

and the Church does the same" [2], rejecting all unjust discrimination.

Among the liturgical actions of the Church, the sacramentals have a singular importance: "These are sacred signs that resemble the Sacraments: they signify effects, particularly of a spiritual kind, which are obtained through the Church's intercession. By them, men are disposed to receive the chief effect of the Sacraments, and various occasions of life are sanctified." [3]

*Catechism of the Catholic Church* specifies, then, that "sacramentals do not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the way that the Sacraments do, but by the Church's prayer, they prepare us to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it." (#1670)

Blessings belong to the category of



the sacramentals, whereby the Church “calls us to praise God, encourages us to implore his protection, and exhorts us to seek his mercy by our holiness of life.” [4] In addition, they “have been established as a kind of imitation of the Sacraments, blessings are signs above all of spiritual effects that are achieved through the Church’s intercession.” [5]

Consequently, in order to conform with the nature of sacramentals, when a blessing is invoked on particular human relationships, in addition to the right intention of those who participate, it is necessary that what is blessed be

objectively and positively ordered to receive and express grace, according to the designs of God inscribed in creation, and fully revealed by Christ the Lord. Therefore, only those realities which are in themselves ordered to serve those ends are congruent with the essence of the blessing imparted by the Church.

For this reason, it is not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage (i.e., outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself

to the transmission of life), as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex.[6] The presence in such relationships of positive elements, which are in themselves to be valued and appreciated, cannot justify these relationships and render them legitimate objects of an ecclesial blessing, since the positive elements exist within the context of a union not ordered to the Creator's plan.

Furthermore, since blessings on persons are in relationship with the sacraments, the blessing of homosexual unions cannot be considered licit. This is because they would constitute a certain imitation or analogue of the nuptial blessing [7] invoked on the man and woman united in the Sacrament of Matrimony, while in fact "there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family." [8] The declaration of the unlawfulness of blessings of unions between persons of the same sex is not therefore, and is not intended to be, a form of unjust discrimination, but rather a reminder of the truth of the liturgical rite and of the very nature of the sacramentals, as the Church understands them.

The Christian community and its Pastors are called to welcome with respect and sensitivity persons with homosexual inclinations, and will know how to find the most appropriate ways, consistent with Church teaching, to proclaim to them the Gospel in its fullness. At the same time, they should recognize the

genuine nearness of the Church – which prays for them, accompanies them, and shares their journey of Christian faith [9] – and receive the teachings with sincere openness.

The answer to the proposed *dubium* does not preclude the blessings given to individual persons with homosexual inclinations [10], who manifest the will to live in fidelity to the revealed plans of God as proposed by Church teaching. Rather, it declares illicit any form of blessing that tends to acknowledge their unions as such. In this case, in fact, the blessing would manifest not the intention to entrust such individual persons to the protection and help of God, in the sense mentioned above, but to approve and encourage a choice and a way of life that cannot be recognized as objectively ordered to the revealed plans of God. [11]

At the same time, the Church recalls that God Himself never ceases to bless each of His pilgrim children in this world, because for Him "we are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit." [12] But He does not and cannot bless sin.

He blesses sinful man, so that he may recognize that he is part of His plan of love and allow himself to be changed by Him. He in fact "takes us as we are, but never leaves us as we are." [13]

For the above mentioned reasons, the Church does not have, and cannot have, the power to bless unions of persons of the same sex in the sense intended above. **+JM+**

*The Sovereign Pontiff Francis, at the Audience granted to the undersigned Secretary of this Congregation, was informed and gave his assent to the publication of the above-mentioned Responsum ad dubium, with the annexed Explanatory Note.*

*Rome, from the Offices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2021, Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle.*

*Luis F. Cardinal Ladaria, S.I., Prefect*

*Giacomo Morandi, Archbishop Titular of Cerveteri, Secretary*

- [1] FRANCIS, Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, 250.
- [2] SYNOD OF BISHOPS, Final Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly, 150.
- [3] SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 60.
- [4] RITUALE ROMANUM ex Decreto Sacrosancti Oecumenici Concilii Vaticani II instauratum auctoritate Ioannis Pauli PP. II promulgatum, De benedictionibus, Praenotanda Generalia, n. 9.
- [5] *Ibidem*, n. 10.
- [6] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2357.
- [7] In fact, the nuptial blessing refers back to the creation account, in which God's blessing on man and woman is related to their fruitful union (cf. Genesis 1:28) and their complementarity (cf. Genesis 2:18-24).
- [8] FRANCIS, Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, 251.
- [9] Cf. CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, Letter *Homosexualitatis problema, On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons*, 15.
- [10] *De benedictionibus in fact* presents an extended list of situations for which to invoke the blessing of the Lord.
- [11] CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, Letter *Homosexualitatis problema, On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons*, 7.
- [12] FRANCIS, General Audience of December 2, 2020, Catechesis on Prayer, the blessing.
- [13] *Ibidem*.

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## ALL IN THE FAMILY

# Caring for the Elderly

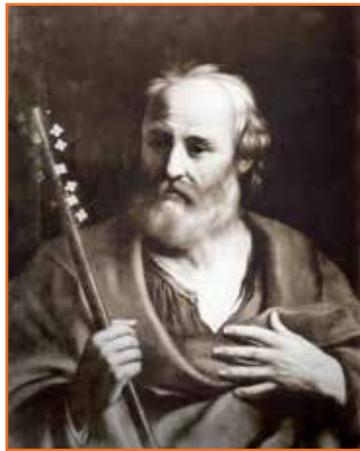
by Mary Wisniewski

Caring for the elderly during the final stages of their earthly life is, indeed, a sacred ministry. Between visiting the sick and burying the dead, this work is so important for the human family, but it is often overlooked and undervalued. This service requires an abundance of elements of love as found in Saint Paul's *First Letter to the Corinthians*, chapter 13: patience, kindness, and selflessness.

Every family must make decisions about how to care for the elderly. Healthy spouses and children are often the main caregivers. Large families can divide up the responsibilities, taking turns to care for the older person. Smaller families turn to securing senior daycare services or nursing homes. Often, the middle "sandwich generation" ends up taking care of both the young and older members of a family.

Around the world, people approach the situation differently. In many countries,

the elderly live together with their children and grandchildren in the same abode. Some people creatively carve out a private space for their elder family member in an attached room or floor of the home. Others live nearby and visit regularly.



Saint Joseph,  
Patron of a Happy Death

Many times, elderly people live alone. Their family members turn to today's technology with its wide variety of watches, buzzers, phones, and cameras to offer some element of oversight. Still, nothing can replace direct human contact and

compassionate care.

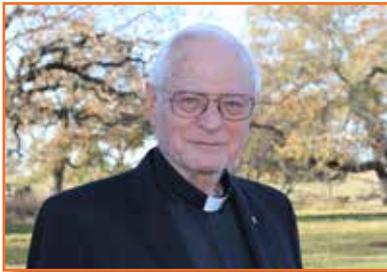
The work requires humble respect for the aging body. The caregiver must tend to the results of the elder systems slowing down. They must assist with the basic functions of life. They are on guard against falls and a host of digestive, circulatory, and respiratory events that can occur for the aging body.

The caregiver must also care for the emotions and the spirit. Bringing joy with smiles, uplifting conversation, a gentle touch, and encouragement are essential duties of doing the job well. Helping the person celebrate life through viewing photos, listening to favorite music, and recalling special moments is very important.

In the Catholic tradition, the spiritual element is addressed by visiting ministers who bring Holy Communion and offer prayers. Priests offer the

Founded by the Missionary Servants of Saint Anthony, this place has been home for the retired elderly priests for many years. Nurses, aides, cooks, and cleaning staff offer each priest the personal care, diet, and assistance needed.

In 2020, two Missionaries of the Holy Family lived out the end of their lives in the loving care at Padua Place. Currently, Father Simon Brzozowski, M.S.F. and Father Jim Beegan, M.S.F. call Padua Place their home. They gather



Father Simon Brzozowski, M.S.F.



Father Jim Beegan, M.S.F.

Sacrament of the Sick as a special blessing to guide people as they approach their transition into eternal life. Family, friends, neighbors, and church members can bring delightful support to someone during their final days of life on earth.

In religious orders, community members support each other at the end of life. They turn to places where the elderly can receive the proper nursing care needed.

For the Missionaries of the Holy Family, Padua Place Nursing Home in San Antonio, Texas, is one of these places.

daily with other retired priests for Mass, meals, and camaraderie. Greeting cards and well wishes can be sent to:

Padua Place Nursing Home  
100 Peter Baque Road  
San Antonio, TX 78209

During this Year of Saint Joseph, we can ask Saint Joseph for protection for our elderly and those who care for them. He guided Mary and Jesus safely to their homes in Bethlehem and Nazareth, and he is the Patron of a Happy Death, so we can confidently ask him to accompany everyone on the journey to their heavenly home. **+JM+**

**Celebrating  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
at Saint Wenceslaus  
Church in  
Saint Louis, Missouri.**



# Celebrating the Sacraments

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, New Braunfels, Texas



We were blessed to have Bishop Gary Janak, DD officiate the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 6, 2021. He was recently appointed as the newest auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Our classes were a little smaller this year, but *“so well prepared”* according to Bishop Janak.



Several CCD students (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on May 15, 2021 with Father Camillo Botello, M.S.F. officiating. Deacon Klaus Wilhelm (*far right, second row*), recently assigned to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, assisted at the Confirmation and First Communion Masses.



## HISTORY SERIES, PART 1

# Only the Beginning

by Weldon Tiekem

The history of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF) in the United States begins with a little background on the congregation's founder. Father John Baptist Berthier was born February 24, 1840 in Chatonnaise in the Province of Dauphine, France. His parents were Peter Berthier and Marie Poutoud. His family was very religious.

When he was 13 years old, he entered the Minor Seminary in Cote-St.-Andre in the Diocese of Grenoble. In 1857, he entered a preparatory seminary called Rondeau. In 1858, he entered the major seminary in Grenoble. He received Minor Orders in 1859, Subdiaconate on March 11, 1861, and Diaconate on April 5, 1862. After he became a deacon, he joined the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, and he was ordained a priest on September 20, 1862.

During his time as a priest of the La Salettes, he wrote several books and was a teacher. He also gave



Venerable John Berthier

mission talks and retreats. This was around the time when he began to see a need for belated vocations to the priesthood.

Considering the need for priests, he offered the idea to his superior general who gave his approval. Then he presented his plan to Cardinal

Langenieux of the Diocese of Rheims, France. The cardinal then presented it to Pope Leo XIII, and in 1894 Father Berthier was given permission to begin a new religious order, the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF).

Because of the unrest in France at the time, he decided to go to Holland to start his congregation. He found an old Army barracks in Grave, Holland. Preparing it took some effort, but it was finally opened on September 19, 1895, the Feast of Our Lady of La Salette. By 1900, there were 12 students. By 1908, there were 25 priests.

It was in 1903 that the names of Father Joseph Carl and Father Anton Trampe surfaced. Father Berthier considered that it was time to name his successor. Father Joseph Carl was named superior general in 1908 and served until 1919. Father Berthier died on October 16, 1908. Almost 110 years later, he was given the title of Venerable John Berthier by Pope Francis in May 2018.

In 1919, Father Anton Trampe succeeded Father Joseph Carl as superior general of the congregation. One of the students during the year of 1907 was Francis Schaefers, and he had become a close friend of Father Trampe. Francis also had the privilege to know Father Berthier. However in 1913, Francis left the congregation.

Francis Schaefers then came to the United States and arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 14, 1914. He had a cousin in Ferguson, Missouri, and he came to visit him on June 16, 1914. His intention was to enter the seminary again. The pastor of the parish in Ferguson suggested he apply at Kenrick Seminary in Saint Louis, and Francis entered the seminary in September 1914.

Father Francis Schaefers was ordained on May 27, 1917. He had already been promised a position by

Bishop James Davis in Davenport, Iowa because of the need for German speaking priests. He was eventually named pastor of Saint Boniface in Farmington, Iowa. In the meantime, in September 1922, Archbishop Jerome Drossaerts of the Archdiocese of San Antonio went to Grave, Holland. He contacted the Missionaries of the Holy Family because he had a shortage of priests.

In 1923, Father Schaefers saw in the newspaper, *Der Wanderer*, in Minnesota about brush land for sale. He went and purchased 84 acres of land in Crow Wing County, Minnesota for his brother to settle. At the same time, he purchased an additional 60 acres. Father Schaefers kept

up communication with Father Trampe in Grave, Holland, and knowing that Father Trampe wanted to open a mission house in the United States, Father Schaefers offered him the 60 acres.

Father Trampe arrived in the United States on July 1, 1924. He met Father Schaefers, and they traveled to Minnesota. After looking at the land, Father Trampe decided to buy another 100 acres which was the property on Bull Dog Lake.

His next step was to meet with Bishop Timothy McNicholas who was the bishop in the Diocese



Very Rev. Anton Trampe, M.S.F.

of Duluth. The two discussed plans, and Father Trampe promised to build a chapel within two years for the people in the area where he had bought the land. This would eventually lead to the building of a mission house and Holy Family Church.

Father Trampe then decided to travel to San Antonio to meet with Archbishop Arthur Drossaerts. During the meeting, Father Trampe promised to send priests. He and Archbishop Drossaerts traveled to New Braunfels, Texas where the archbishop offered him a parish. There was a growing need to serve the Spanish speaking people. Later, more parishes were offered, followed by parishes in the Dioceses of Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

Father Trampe's next stop was to



Archbishop  
Arthur Jerome Drossaerts

meet with Archbishop John Glennon in Saint Louis. The Missionaries of the Holy Family were allowed to establish a mission house in the archdiocese, but no parishes were offered at the time. After the mission house, a provincial house and seminary were established.

In 1959, missions were opened in Mexico. In 1974, a parish was given to MSF in the Archdiocese of Ottawa, Canada, and a residence was established. From 1965 through 1977, MSF priests were in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. From 1977 – 1984, MSF priests were in Granite City, Illinois within the Diocese of Springfield.

By the grace of God, this is how the Missionaries of the Holy Family ended up in the United States. +jMj+

## *Around The Province...*



Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F. with three of his brother priests.



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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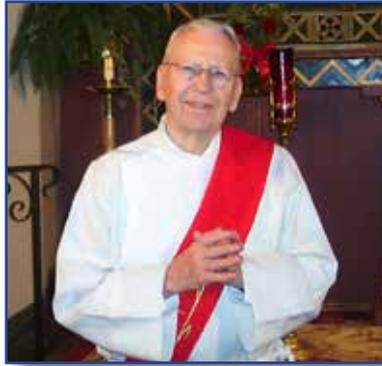
**God bless your family! +JMJ+**



## PROFILE IN SERVICE

### Serve the Lord with Gladness

- Psalm 100:2



**Deacon George Walter Miller**  
**March 14, 1930 – April 12, 2021**

**F**ortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Deacon George passed away peacefully into eternal life on Monday, April 12, 2021, the day after Divine Mercy Sunday, at his residence after a brief illness. Among many other things, Deacon George served the Missionaries of the Holy Family and the people of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, for many years.

#### **A Wonderful Life**

Deacon George was the beloved husband of the late Charlotte Kroupa Miller; dear father of Gwendolyn (Cainer) Hall, Joris (Ursula) Miller, Ceci Miller-Byram and Charlotte (Jeff) Lee; dear brother of Joann (John) Rupert and

Rosemarie Spray and the late Don and Larry Miller; dear grandfather of 11; and dear great-grandfather of 13.

He was the former Director of the Diaconate of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, taught at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #453. Deacon George was a retired executive of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P), and he was a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Deacon George's life was one of service to God, his family, the Catholic Church, and his country. A preacher who trusted in God's divine providence, he was

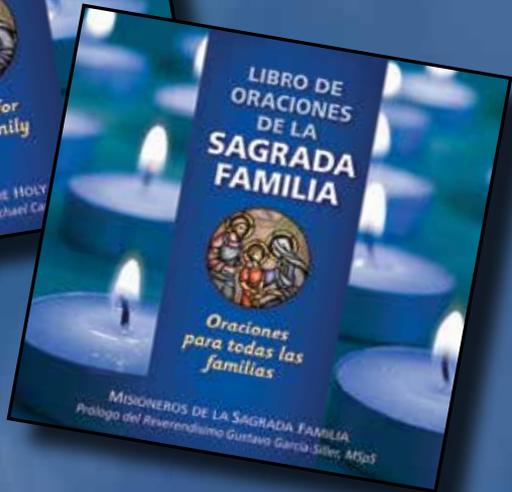
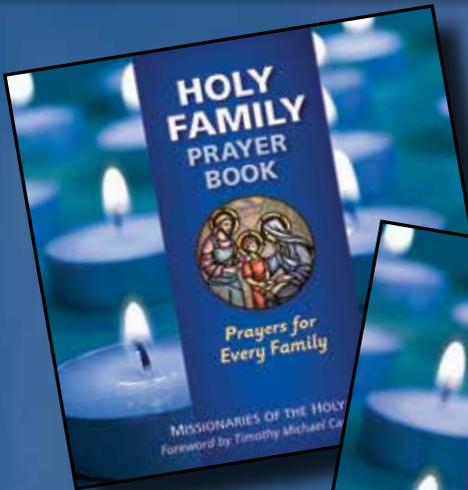
always reliable and deeply loyal, a man who was an inspiration to others.

Contributions in memory of Deacon George are greatly appreciated. Please mail your gift to Saint Wenceslaus Church at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118. Donations can also be received through the parish website at [www.stwenceslaus.website](http://www.stwenceslaus.website).

Thank you and God bless your family. And God bless you, too, Deacon George! You are our hero.

For a novena prayer invoking the intercession of the patron saint, Saint George, please visit [www.novenaprayer.com/st-george-novena](http://www.novenaprayer.com/st-george-novena). [+jMJ+](#)

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## OUT OF EGYPT

### “Out of Egypt, I have called my Son.”

- Matthew 2:15

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

**Editor's Note:** Father Eka and the parishioners of Saint Joseph's in Donna, Texas, are in the national news. Here are links to two articles about the border crisis:

- [cruxnow.com/church-in-the-usa/2021/04/border-priest-says-migrant-children-need-protection-assistance](https://www.cruxnow.com/church-in-the-usa/2021/04/border-priest-says-migrant-children-need-protection-assistance)
- [cruxnow.com/church-in-the-usa/2021/05/however-humble-colonia-feels-like-home-for-these-migrants](https://www.cruxnow.com/church-in-the-usa/2021/05/however-humble-colonia-feels-like-home-for-these-migrants)

We hear and see from the news that we have a large number of children who come to this country across the Mexican border. Right now in Donna, Texas, there is a camp to place the children. The federal government is running this program to try to help the children find their families in the United States.

Migrants and refugees have been an issue forever. If we look back into the history of salvation, we can recognize that migration is constant. People move from one place to the other for many reasons: natural disaster, war, violence and internal conflict, employment, etc. God is trying to bring salvation to all. Pope Francis, in his message for the World Day of Migrants & Refugees, based his reflection on the *Book of Genesis*



Rio Grande Valley from 1990s, copyright Dr. James Hayes-Bohanan, Bridgewater State University.

where God made male and female in His own image.

#### An Ever Wider “We”

Pope Francis, for the 107<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants & Refugees, wrote on the topic of *Towards an Ever Wider “We.”* In our common journey in the world, we are the Church, and we are called to proclaim the Word of God and reach out to people who are in need or in dangerous situations.

God created us to be fruitful and to multiply, to be people of peace. Pope

Francis explained that “we” means no more walls to separate us from one another. We are living together under the same roof of God’s love. The word Catholic means we are the Church of the Body of Christ.

Pope Francis discusses Saint Paul’s letter to the community in Ephesus: “There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Ephesians 4:4-5). We are the Body of Christ and we are the Church, and we are alive in Christ Jesus as Our Savior and Lord.

The Church is called to go out into the streets to heal wounds and to seek out the straying, without prejudice or fear, ready to widen her tent to embrace everyone. We have to approach the people who are in trouble, the stranger and the oppressed, the marginalized, including migrants and refugees. The Church should open the door so everyone can encounter Christ Jesus as Savior of the world. This is our mission. The Church was persecuted during the early days of Christianity, and the persecution continues throughout the ages.

### Salvation History

God sent Jesus, His only Son, to purchase us from the slavery of sin to new life. We can see from the *Gospel of Matthew* that Jesus and his family

had to flee to Egypt, because Herod wanted to kill Him (Matthew 2:13-15). Even before this, when Pharaoh wanted to kill the children of Israel, Moses was the one saved by the love of God. Today, many children are the victims of violence and war, and the Church is called to save children from danger.

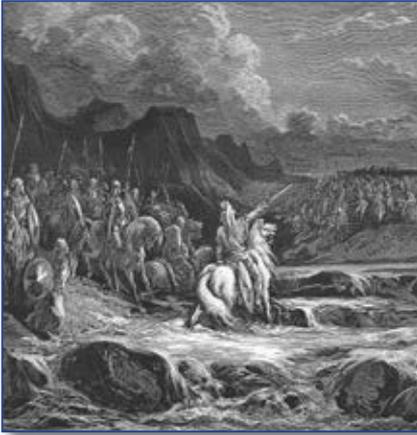
Called by God, Abraham moved from the land of Ur to Palestine. It was not easy for him and his family, but Abraham had the faith to see the Promised Land (Genesis 12:1-16). The migration of Abraham and his family is part of our history of salvation. Also in the *Book of Genesis* is the migration of Jacob’s family to Egypt because of the drought (chapter 46). They moved to Egypt to find food and survive.

In the *Book of Exodus*, God called Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt into the land of Canaan as promised by God to Abraham. God showed mercy to His people so they could worship Him with joy and love.

In the *Second Book of Kings*, Israel became divided into two parts. In the north, the capitol city was in Samaria, and in the south the capitol was Jerusalem. After Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, destroyed the Temple of God, the Israelites went into exile and lived in a foreign country for 70 years.



The Flight into Egypt



Judas Maccabeus fights for freedom.

In the two *Books of Maccabees*, Israel was occupied by Greece. Some of the Israelites fled and escaped the persecution in their homeland, and they became known as the diaspora community.

Migration is part of our history of salvation. Being an immigrant in a foreign country is not easy. It is hard and often dangerous because they are strangers in a land that does not know them.

### Light a Candle

Hearing the stories of refugees from different countries bring varied reactions. Above all, we must have compassion. What can we do to respond to this reality? Why are parents letting their children travel far away from their country? What are the underlying problems causing this crisis? Whatever the case, children are often the victims.

In the movie *Colombiana*, we see the issue of gangs and drug dealers. This is a reality with roots

in poverty. *Romero* is a movie about Saint Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, who was assassinated for trying to



Saint Oscar Romero

fight injustices, political and social, that kept many people locked in poverty and suffering.

In the world today, many countries are fighting the same battles: Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, the Middle East, Myanmar, etc. Many innocent people become victims of conflict. What can we do?

The corporal works of mercy are central to welcoming the stranger in need. In his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis invites all Christians to open their hearts to welcome the stranger just as God loves us. It is not easy, but it is the way to show the mercy of God.

We are called to be a light in the world, so we have to enlighten the world with a candle of God's love that comes to us through the person of Jesus Christ. There are problems that we cannot ignore. Complaining is not the answer. We are on a mission as People of God in the culture of our times. +JM+



## 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



## ESCAPE FROM MADAGASCAR



Father Angelot, M.S.F.



Father Ben, M.S.F.

Two of our international priests from Madagascar have new assignments:

In May 2021, Father Angelot transitioned from priest in residence at Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, to parochial vicar (associate pastor) of Saint Joseph Parish in Donna, Texas. Father Angelot arrived in Saint

Louis in September 2019, and he studied English at the International Institute.

Father Ben arrived in Saint Louis in March 2021. He is the priest in residence at Saint Wenceslaus Parish, and he is studying English at the International Institute. God bless you, Father Angelot and Father Ben! We are happy that you are with us. +JM+



### *Annual Worldwide Family Holy Hour*

**Thursday, October 7, 2021  
Feast Day of  
Our Lady of the Rosary**

For details, please contact Connie Schneider at [info@childrenoftheeucharist.org](mailto:info@childrenoftheeucharist.org) or (651) 776-0363.  
Website: [www.childrenoftheeucharist.org](http://www.childrenoftheeucharist.org)

# Men of God: Priests Forever



Fr. Ernesto Perez, M.S.F.  
50 years



Fr. David Tonary, M.S.F.  
40 years



Fr. Robert DeLong, M.S.F.  
10 years

In this Year of Our Lord 2021, three 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.

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!

## 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.

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| ◆ <b>Anniversary</b>      | ◆ <b>Graduation</b>         | ◆ <b>Sympathy</b>               |
| ◆ <b>Baptism/Birthday</b> | ◆ <b>Souls in Purgatory</b> | ◆ <b>Repose of a Soul</b>       |

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*The Year of Saint Joseph!*  
*See page 2.*



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