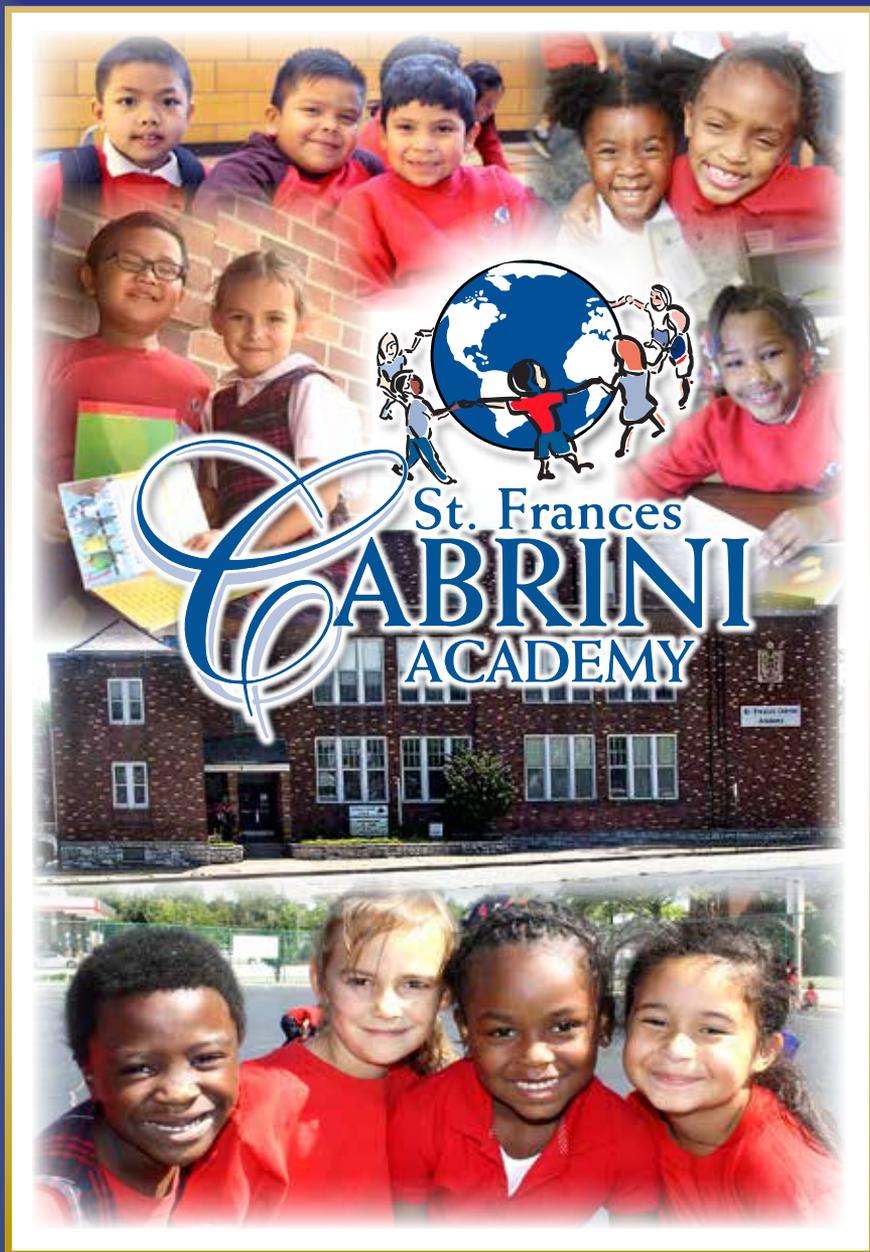


The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



SUMMER 2016

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

We all know the importance of family life in our own families, but all too well family life is challenged by what is happening in our society. Family values are being put down as secondary, and we wonder where it will all lead.

Pope Francis has provided us with a sure guidance for building up family life in his new document, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). There are no doctrinal changes; but, it is a pastoral letter that speaks warmly and tenderly about the essence of family life in its joys and beauty, as well as its sadness and difficulty in the world today.

He is reminding us of the dangers of redefining the family away from the biblical and humanly universal ideal of husband and wife working lovingly together to raise their common children.

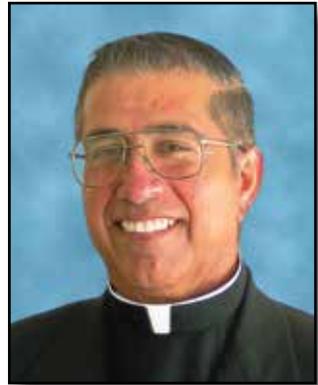
The family is the place where parents become their children's first teachers of the faith. This document is a rich resource from which to build, defend, and minister to families. Central to these efforts is our new initiative of working with the Apostolate for Family Consecration to consecrate all families to the Holy Family. Please visit their website at www.afc.org.

God bless your family!

Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am



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



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

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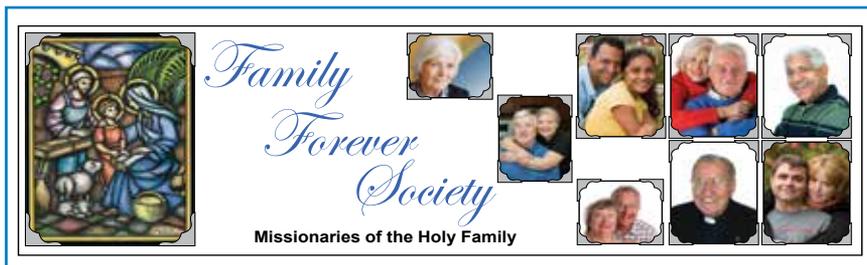
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Rev. James E. Wuerth, M.S.F.
Second Assistant

Rev. James Wasser, M.S.F.
Third Assistant



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 currently under funded.

Please consider joining our Family Forever Society. To receive a free booklet on preparing your will, please send your request to me using the envelope in the middle of this magazine, 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



UNITED IN CHRIST

Saint Frances Cabrini Academy

We are Many; We are One

by The School Staff

Editor's Note: *Saint Frances Cabrini Academy is on the campus of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri. Of all the parishes staffed by the Missionaries of the Holy Family in the North American Province, this is the only parish that has its own school. It is a consolidated school, but it is still very much our school; it is very much **your** school.*

Consider a diverse world with individuals who respect one another and work together toward common goals. Saint Frances Cabrini Academy, an urban grade school in South Saint Louis City, is already a model for a diverse world. Cabrini is a kindergarten through 8th grade school, and it has become an anchor in the community. It is a special place with families from countries such as Eritrea, Ivory Coast, Burma, and Vietnam. Cabrini believes that providing a quality, affordable Catholic education is the most effective way to create opportunities for our children and their families.

A Brief History of the School

In September 1936, Saint Wenceslaus built its parish school, which featured 10 rooms with an adjoining convent to accommodate 10 religious sisters. By 1948, the school was occupied by 525 students, nine sisters, and two lay teachers. By the end of 1954, the school was overcrowded, so classrooms and a complete cafeteria were added. In the 1960s, the number of parishioners and school-aged children started to decline due to people moving to the suburbs. In 1974, five parishes consolidated to



form Notre Dame Elementary. In 2003, Notre Dame Elementary consolidated further, and the school became Saint Frances Cabrini Academy.

The eight parishes supporting Cabrini Academy today are:

- Saint Wenceslaus
- Saint Pius V
- Saint Vincent de Paul
- Saints Peter and Paul
- Saint Anthony of Padua
- Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Basilica of Saint Louis, King
- Saint Agatha

education in a dynamic and vibrant faith community. It is a unique place where children of all backgrounds can easily feel at home. Prayer is an integral part of Saint



The 8th graders enjoy a Field Day.

Cabrini may be one of the most diverse Catholic schools in the city of Saint Louis. A walk into one of the classrooms reveals a dynamic mixture of African American, African, Asian, Caucasian, and Hispanic children. This patchwork of new immigrant families and born-and-raised Saint Louisans together creates a vibrant urban community! Cabrini provides religious instruction in all grade levels and offers an



Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F., Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, distributes Holy Communion at a School Mass.



Frances Cabrini Academy, and is highlighted by the celebration of Mass for the entire student body every Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. in Saint Wenceslaus Church.

A Family Scenario

Adjoa is a 7th grader who began attend-



Above: Students in the 1st grade experience interactive learning with a Smart Board.

ing Cabrini in kindergarten. Her older brother, Komlan, started in 4th grade. Their family emigrated from Ghana not long before they began at Cabrini. Adjoa and Komlan both spoke little English when they arrived. However, they participated in our English Tutoring Project and became proficient in English as a result. Thanks to the education and financial resources available, Komlan graduated 8th grade and was accepted at Saint Mary's High School, and Adjoa is a top student. Adjoa continues to be a recipient of the Cabrini Scholarship Fund, enabling her to continue her education at Cabrini. Without the scholarship assistance, Adjoa and Komlan would not have been able to attend the school

of their choice.

Sixty-four percent (64%) of families receive Cabrini scholarship monies, and many of them have stories similar to the family of Adjoa and Komlan.

The Saint Frances Cabrini faculty and staff believe that their students will make a difference in the world. The respect Cabrini students have for one another creates a faith-filled environment and prepares the students for a successful future.



Quiet! Scientists at work.

Making a Difference

We cannot do all of this without your support! If you would like to contribute to the Cabrini Scholarship Fund, please use the envelope in the middle of this magazine or call the Missionaries of the Holy Family toll-free at 1-888-484-9945. You can also make a gift through the school website at www.cabriniacademy.org.

Thank you and God bless your family!

+jMj+



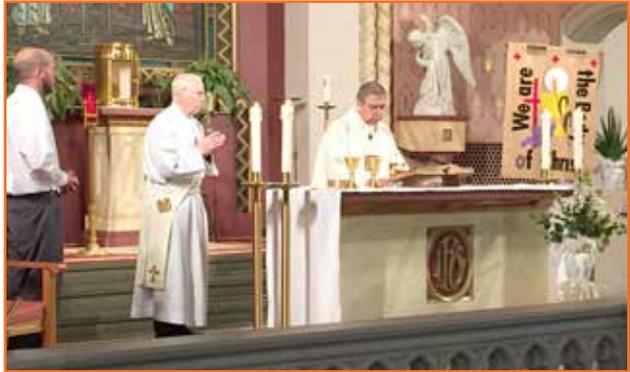
A Simple “Yes” can Change the World

by Dr. Peter M. Schroeder
Principal, Saint Frances Cabrini Academy

A simple “yes” can change the world. At least, it has changed mine. Five years ago, I said “yes” when I was offered the position of principal at Saint Frances Cabrini Academy. Little did I know how this would change my life! As a new principal, there was much to learn and a pretty steep learning curve to get past. As I *matured* in my role as principal, I came to realize what an incredible gift the school community of Saint Frances Cabrini Academy was to me.

Quickly, I recognized that I had found my home away from home. People understood life in similar ways that I did; they cherished the core values that I desired in a community where I was going to expend so much time, energy, and commitment. I discovered that I was immersed in a community where respect, compassion, and self-betterment through education was the most

common denominator in the members of our school community. It mattered little that we came from a variety of different races, ethnicities,



Dr. Peter "Pete" Schroeder (left) participates in the School Masses.

languages, religions, and socio-economic statuses. Cabrini Academy is home to African American, Caucasian, and Hispanic families, in addition to the students from nine different African countries and five different Asian countries. Regardless of our differences, we share an understanding in our common values. This is what home means to me. This is what family means to me.

Richard Jacobs (1996) describes what a Christian community is like in his

book, *The Vocation of the Catholic Educator*:

“The excellence of the Christian community is not discovered in the perfection of its individual members who draw attention to themselves and their achievements, setting themselves apart from other members of the community who do not possess similar gifts in abundance. Rather, the excellence of the Christian community is discovered when each of its members freely give their gifts to bring about the fulfillment of the community’s purpose (page 62).”

What, then, is the purpose of the Saint Frances Cabrini Academy community? It is to pursue excellence and love in all that we do to help our students become all that they can be. It is to overcome the difficulties of language, poverty, and ignorance together so that they can compete with their peers from across Saint Louis when they enter public and private high schools. All of this for the sake of our children.

I suppose this is what made the most sense to me when I came to know what Cabrini Academy was truly like. This is what made me feel at home.



Pete with his son Jonathan Murphy.

In the summer of 2014, though, I realized that God was not finished with me yet. During the quiet times of summer, when all the students and teachers have left for break, I was given the opportunity to welcome yet another life-changing decision. God decided that it was time to provide me with the “...good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.” **Luke 6:38**



Double the fun! Pete and his son with Mrs. Holdmeyer, Cabrini’s Director of Advancement, and her daughter.

I was given the possibility of a son, and I said, “Yes.” Through prayer and discernment of my life goals (and after looking over my financial situation), I decided to adopt my nephew upon birth. On 16 September 2014, I became a dad. A simple “yes” can change the world; it definitely changed mine.

“I never knew I could love another human being as deeply as I love my son,” I told a Cabrini dad when he asked how

my new found life of a single father was going. He smiled and nodded in a way that conveyed complete understanding for the profound gift that children are in our lives.

Once again, the learning curve of becoming a first-time parent was pretty large, but I reveled in the opportunity to bond with a child that I could call my own. Looking past the sleepless nights, the innumerable dirty diapers and bottles to wash, and the long days and short nights of being both a Catholic school principal and a single parent, I have found the best part of God's abundant grace in my relationship with my son. Truthfully, I have found the best part of who I am.

Over the last year and a half or so, the Saint Frances Cabrini Community has affirmed and celebrated Jonathan alongside me. In fact, the front sign of the school displaying our theme, "We

are Many; We are One," was promptly changed when Jonathan was born to "Welcome, Jonathan Murphy... We are Many; We are One More!"

In his short life, he has already attended numerous meetings and school events when I

haven't been able to secure baby-sitting. From marketing meetings, school plays, and family science nights, Jonathan has grown close to many parents who have taken the time to interact with him. He

has also become a daily topic of discussion with the 2nd graders when I am doing lunch duty.

My larger family at school embraced my new family at

home. What an incredible gift! I never knew that God could show such goodness in my life, and I am honored and grateful.

God bless your family, too. +jmj+



A school mom helps Jonathan with a refreshment.



Jonathan works the crowd in the school gym.

Around The Province...



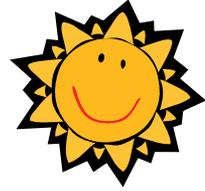
Saint Frances Cabrini Academy is on the campus of Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, and this parish has been served by the Missionaries of the Holy Family since 1960.

Father James Wasser, M.S.F., left, is the new pastor of Saint Wenceslaus, effective 1 July 2016. Welcome!

Father James Wuerth, M.S.F., right, served Saint Wenceslaus as pastor since 2001. He is so very proud of Cabrini Academy! A champion of Catholic education, Father Jim did everything he could, year in and year out, to help the school remain financially healthy, as well as to promote the school whenever possible. We wish Father Jim a blessed retirement. He is very much loved at the parish and at the school. Thank you and God bless you, Father Jim!

Thursday -
Sunday,
August 11 - 14,
2016

The Apostolate for
Family Consecration &
The Missionaries
of the Holy Family



Invite Your Family for a Family Fest Missouri Weekend
at Eagle Hurst Ranch!



Eagle Hurst Ranch ♦ 240 Eagle Hurst Road ♦ Steelville, MO 65565
www.eaglehurstranch.com

Daily Mass, Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet

~ Camp Pastor ~

Father James Wasser, M.S.F., of the
Missionaries of the Holy Family

~ Young Adult Ministry ~

Jamie Garza of
The New Catholic Evangelization



~ Family-Friendly Rates ~

- 1.) \$20 per adult (ages 16 & up) and \$5 per child (ages 3-15):
\$100 maximum family fee.
- 2.) **Meals:** Feel free to bring your own food and snacks. There is plenty of refrigeration space, however, cooking facilities are minimal. A large BBQ area is available. You may purchase buffet-style meals for \$8.50 per adult per meal and \$5 per child per meal.
- 3.) **Lodging:** Camping/RVs, etc. – no charge (no hookups available). Cabin rental is \$75 per night, and there are 30 air-conditioned cabins with refrigerator (1 or 2 bedroom cabins).



~ Family Activities ~

Playgrounds ♦ Tennis ♦ Ping Pong ♦ Sports Equipment
Shuffleboard ♦ Nature Trail ♦ Softball ♦ Volleyball
Large Swimming Pool & Patio (*modest suits, please!*)
Tubes for the River ♦ and much more
(Horseback riding not included; \$20 for an hour trail ride.)

For more information, call (636) 931-3503.

For reservations, call (314) 638-3382 or (800) 257-2624.

(No registration fees; donations accepted.)



Around The Province...



At the Vigil Mass on Saturday, 4 June 2016, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Deacon George Miller baptized his great-granddaughter at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri. This was also the eve of his celebration on the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a deacon. Congratulations, Deacon George!



On Pentecost Sunday, 15 May 2016, also at Saint Wenceslaus Church, a woman originally from Thailand, Pratin Dellinger (front, center), received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. Pratin met her late husband in the military, and he was a graduate of Saint Wenceslaus School, which is now Saint Frances Cabrini Academy.



YOUTHFUL OUTLOOK

A New Life

by Miss Elizabeth

My name is Elizabeth, and I am a rising senior at Rosati-Kain High School. I graduated from Saint Wenceslaus, we were introduced to Saint Frances Cabrini, which is where I learned to settle in and build a new life as well.



Miss Elizabeth at her Confirmation with Monsignor Mark Rivituso who is a graduate of Saint Wenceslaus School, now Saint Frances Cabrini Academy.

Frances Cabrini Academy in 2013, and I started attending Cabrini in kindergarten -- a total of nine whole years at Cabrini.

My family joined Saint Wenceslaus Church soon after our move from California to Missouri. From the very beginning, Saint Wenceslaus has been a home to my family and me. They welcomed us with open arms and really helped us settle into Saint Louis and build a new life. Thanks to Saint

Both Cabrini and Saint Wenceslaus are fundamental pillars to my family and me. Saint Wenceslaus pulled my family closer together with all the service and community events we participated in through the parish. For example, a big event in the parish is the Fall Festival, and my family is heavily involved. We go every year, and, for the past



Miss Elizabeth in between two friends.

few years, we've been running our own booth, the Christmas Booth. Setting up and running the booth provides the best opportunity for

my family to bond with each other and the parish community. Saint Wenceslaus was also where my little sister was baptized, my parents got married, my siblings and I



of the biggest leaders in community service, and she's involved in almost every club at Cabrini.

My brother, who was shy like my sister, is now in top honors at Saint Mary's High School and has been playing on their football team for a year. I am forever grateful to Saint Frances Cabrini Academy for building such strong, independent, and successful graduates. I can honestly say that Cabrini has given me the traits and gifts needed to succeed in high school and in life.

Everyone who's ever graduated from Cabrini has gone on to do amazing things. Nothing makes me happier than to know that my siblings and I are part of that special

received our First Communion, my brother and I graduated from Cabrini, and I had my Quinceañera Mass. Saint Wenceslaus is a pivotal and essential part of my family's history and our future, too.



Miss Elizabeth at her graduation from Cabrini Academy.

My sister and brother also attended Cabrini, my brother graduated in 2015, and my sister will graduate in 2018. Cabrini has helped shape the amazing people whom my siblings are turning out to be. My sister, who used to be shy and would rarely step out of her comfort zone, is one

community that's being poured out into the world. I know that with the foundation provided by Saint Frances Cabrini Academy and Saint Wenceslaus Church, I will be able to achieve and succeed at anything I put my mind to do. +JMj+

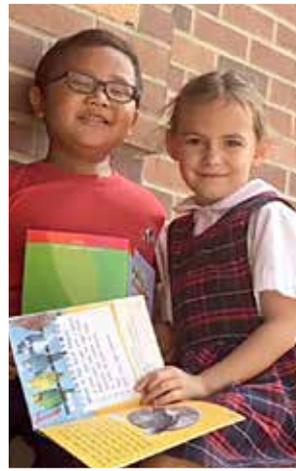
Saint Frances Cabrini Academy



**We are Many;
We are One**



Saint Frances Cabrini Academy



**We are Many;
We are One**





ETERNAL TRUTH

The Joy of Love or “Amoris Laetitia”

by Father Jim Beegan, M.S.F.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, issued an apostolic exhortation on love in the family in March 2016 titled *Amoris Laetitia*. An apostolic exhortation is a personal document from the Pope that does not introduce any new Catholic doctrine. It is primarily pastoral in nature.

This new exhortation comes after a two year agenda of meetings and discussions on marriage and the family. In *Amoris Laetitia*, the Holy Father deals with the most critical issues facing families today. Among these problems are divorce and remarriage, materialism, lack of incentives to marry, homosexuality, the rejection of children as a gift from God, and the use of artificial contraception.

In the first chapter, Pope Francis looks at the biblical roots of marriage and the family. He points to the *Book of Genesis* which tells us that God is the Creator of the human race, made up

of males and females. Genesis also affirms that human beings are made in God's very own image. We are told that God also commands humans to be fruitful and multiply.

Human families are thus ordinarily made up of a husband and his wife and children. This reality reflects the very nature of God Himself, for God is a Trinity of Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this Holy Trinity of the Godhead, each Person in the Trinity pours out His infinite love on the other two throughout all of eternity.

Just so, in the human family, the husband, wife, and children are to be caught up in a relationship of ongoing, mutual love.

Missionaries of the Holy Family

Pope Francis' new document has a special significance for the Missionaries of the Holy Family. We are a religious



Hope amid crisis.

community founded in 1895 by a French priest, Father John Berthier. The charism of our order is to minister to Catholic families and revitalize their identity in Christ. Father Berthier, now Servant of God, once wrote:

The true worshippers in spirit and in truth par excellence were Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It is from this family that God received homage of a much greater value than the whole heavens through praise, thanksgiving, and the atonement of Our Lord. This is the perfect model for any family and any religious community.

Indeed, Father Berthier's words are true. The greatest worship that we can offer God is to love Him with all our heart, mind, and soul. This love, if genuine, will overflow into love of others, and especially into love of the members of our families. Pope Francis writes:

Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Like the Magi, our families are invited to contemplate the Child and His Mother, to bow down and worship Him. Like Mary, they are asked to face their family's challenges with courage and serenity, in good times and bad, and to keep in their heart the great things which God has done.

The treasury of Mary's heart also

contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of these experiences and hear the message God wished to communicate through the life of our families.

Traditional Teaching

In his apostolic exhortation, Pope Francis does not seek in any way to change the traditional teaching of the church on marriage and the family. He firmly states that homosexual unions (contrary to the gross errors of our



The Return of the Prodigal Son by Jacques Joseph Tissot, 1836-1902.

current culture) are not even remotely analogous to true marriage.

Rather, he strives to make Church teachings more achievable and understandable in today's modern and rapidly changing society. He also calls on all Catholics, including the clergy, to minister to the needs of alienated Catholics and to be a healing balm for the wounds of our society. The Holy Father writes:

Christian families should never forget that faith does not remove us from the

world, but draws us more deeply into it. Families should not see themselves as a refuge from society, but instead go forth from their homes in a spirit of solidarity with others.

Need for Pastoral Mercy

Like Pope Saint John Paul II before him, and building on his legacy, Pope Francis will be remembered as a “Mercy Pope.” He calls on Christians to show mercy to others even while proclaiming the Gospel in all its fullness and vigor.

The Holy Father reminds us that we have all received the mercy of Christ through His sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Therefore, we cannot refuse mercy to others even if they do not live in full conformity to the demands of the Gospel. He encourages those in difficult moral situations to speak to their pastors or to other lay people whose lives are committed to the Lord so that they will:

... surely receive some light to help them better understand their situation and discover a path to spiritual growth.

Other members of the parish family are to show mercy to those who have been alienated from the Church. By their prayers, encouragement, and well-informed advice, they ought to help their estranged brothers and sisters

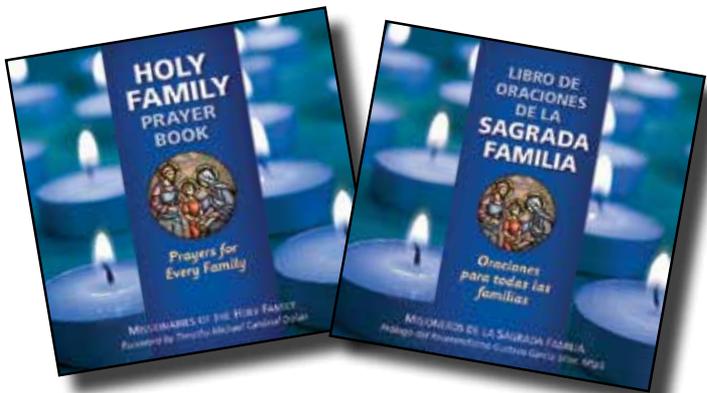
to draw as closely as possible to full communion with the Church.

Love in Marriage

In the chapter titled *Love in Marriage*, Pope Francis begins by quoting the famous words on love by Saint Paul in his *First Letter to the Corinthians* (chapter 13), in which we are reminded that true love does not insist on its own way. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. The call to love is for believers to be a people of compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and patient endurance.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Pope Francis concludes this document with a prayer to the Holy Family. As a member of the Missionaries of the Holy



Family, I am accustomed to praying many different prayers to the Holy Family. Many of these prayers can be found in our *Holy Family Prayer Book: Prayers for Every Family* published by Liguori Publications, and it is available for purchase in English or Spanish by calling **1-800-325-9521**. +JM+



This is Pope Francis' beautiful, simple prayer:

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel, and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience

violence, rejection, and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Men of God: Priests Forever

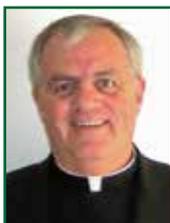
In this Year of Our Lord 2016, four priests of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.



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



Fr. James Wuerth, M.S.F.
45 years



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



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

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

Around The Province...



Holy Family Church in New Braunfels, Texas, celebrated Palm Sunday 2016 with the Blessing of Palms at the parish hall and continued with a procession to the church. Parishioners reenacted and commemorated the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The parishioners gathered, as the crowds did in Jerusalem, and greeted Father Francois Rakotoavoavy, M.S.F. who portrayed Jesus Christ riding on the donkey. With palm branches in hand, all shouted — *“Hosanna to the Son of David!”* and *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”*— just as the crowds in Jerusalem did to honor Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and King.



Around The Province...

Here are some recent activities at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seguin, Texas.





ANSWERING THE CALL

Evangelization uses the Power of the Media in the Third Millennium

by Father Eka Yuantoro, M.S.F.

In memory of Mother Angelica, founder of the EWTN Catholic media empire, Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI wrote an article, *Mother Angelica used power of media to evangelize*.¹ He explained that the Church used the term “social media” for the technology of communication. A document of the Second Vatican Council, *Inter Merifica*, uses the same term. Mother Angelica was called to use the media for evangelization. She did so to proclaim the Good News and share Catholic teachings in the modern era.

In his article, Archbishop ListECKI also discussed another important document that came after *Inter Merifica*. This year, we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the document, *Communio et Progresio*.² This document is an instruction on the pastoral use of the media to proclaim the Good News to the people in the

third millennium.

Blessed Pope Paul VI predicted that effective communication would be most important for Catholics in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Communication is the key word, to communicate and reach others in different places.



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People use television, radio, and the internet to get information. They spend their time listening and seeing what is going on around the

world. Mother Angelica had a vision about it, and she tried to respond to it with the Eternal Word Television Network: Global Catholic Network (EWTN). She launched this global network on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15 August 1981, or the 10th anniversary of the document *Communio et Progresio*.

EWTN has proven to be a wonderful network for evangelizing people. It is not just available in the United States,

but also in the South Pacific and most parts of the world. We can rely on EWTN to learn about what is going on in the Church and the world today.

Communication Era & Theology of Communication

Ever since Venerable Pope Pius XII used radio to proclaim the Good News when he gave a blessing for all people around the world, the Catholic Church has used modern media to communicate. Archbishop ListECKI said that the radio brought his message live to all students of Catholic schools. My family



lived in West Papua at the time when John Paul II was elected as our Pope. We heard the news of his election from a radio, and we were overjoyed!

The Church uses the instruments of social communication to proclaim the Good News. This is based on the theology of communication that Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh and dwells among us. This communication of truth has power which comes from the person of Christ. He is God's Word made flesh, and, through Him, God's own life is communicated to humanity by the Holy Spirit's action in our lives.

Cardinal Justin Rigali said that the activity of the Church is communication. This is based on the founder of the Catholic Church, Jesus Christ Himself, who told His disciples to communicate the Gospel. We know that the mission

of the Church is to evangelize, in season and out of season.

Regarding *Inter Merifica*, it has two parts. The first part identifies the norms for the right use of social communication. The second part tells us about the instruments of social communication and Catholic apostolates. Vatican II encouraged the bishops and the faithful to use all means of social communication.³

At the end of Vatican II, Blessed Pope Paul VI created a commission called the Pontifical Council for Social Communications which issued a Pastoral Instruction. The

council shared the idea of the mission of the Church and the theology of the Incarnation, when the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us to communicate with us (*Communio et Progressio*, No. 11). When the Church uses social communication, it permits men and women to know themselves better and to understand one another more easily.

The era of Pope Saint John Paul II brought in new ideas. He used social communication to evangelize people and to communicate in every corner of the world. He encouraged the Pontifical Council for Social Communication to create a program for evangelization. The resulting document, *Aetatis Novae*, is a Pastoral Instruction on social communication on the 20th anniversary of *Communio et Progressio*.

After he visited his home diocese in Poland, John Paul II promoted the New Evangelization. He said that the media and social communication can and should be instruments in the Church's program of re-evangelization and new evangelization in the contemporary world (*Aetatis Novae*, No. 11).

Father Franz-Josef Eilers, SVD, wrote an article, *Communication Theology: Some Considerations*.⁴ He explained the basic thought of the theology of communication after Vatican II. Communication theology does not start with the media or technical means, but rather with the center of theology, with God Himself. Cardinal Avery Dulles had the same idea about the theology of communication which is based on God's self-communication. He called it "symbolic communication."⁵

We know that Pope Saint John Paul II was concerned about using the media for the New Evangelization. On 3 June 2008, Carrie Gress had a conversation with the theologian Christine Anne Mugridge.⁶ She mentioned that the theology of communication is not merely Christianizing media-technology or scientific techniques, but rather an encounter with the living Christ. John Paul II taught us that we must first encounter the living Jesus Christ in order to enter into His mission. God revealed Himself in the Incarnate Word to communicate with His holy people.

MTV and Generation Z

In the beginning, Mother Angelica used television to promote the Good News because it was more powerful than any other instrument of social communication. She used this option as an opportunity to be a storyteller. Television became the "new tabernacle" for some people who spend many hours every day watching it.

E. Ann Kaplan devoted a book to the discussion of MTV and the MTV Generation.⁷ This phenomena is not just in North America, but is also powerful in Europe and Asia.⁸ Steven Connor's book, *Postmodernist Culture*, explains



how the multimedia is pushing us to use and consume what they provide.

The newest generation is called Generation Z⁹, and they are immersed in social communication. They were born with the internet and cell phones, and they are fluent in the use of communications for learning and conversing with friends all over the world.

When we look at the phenomena of technology, like mobile communication, it is growing like crazy and being used for many things: taking notes, storytelling, Facebook and Twitter interactions, taking pictures, playing video games, etc. Generation Z uses this technology with ease and to educate each other.

When they communicate, they often use a unique language that they have created. This language creates a new culture in society. Generation Z uses this language for building its own network systems. They have groups or memberships which connect with others in different locations.

We can use technology to share the joy of God's mercy and love to this young generation. This is our opportunity to use the media for giving love to people who are hungry and thirsty for God. In *Communio et Progressio* (chapter II, part 2), the modern media offers new ways of reaching people with the message of the Gospel and helping with Christian education to make it more interesting and effective.

The Catholic Church uses the power of social communication for two purposes. The first is to evangelize and educate so people can move closer to God and recognize Him more frequently in their lives. Second, we help them encounter Jesus Christ in a way that forms an intimate relationship. There are many different venues where the Catholic message can be effective: printed word, movies, radio, television, theater, telecommunications, internet, etc.

If we want to reach Generation Z, there needs to be pastoral planning. The Church must create programs that

truly help people to encounter Jesus Christ. In *Aetatis Novae*, it is referred to as a sense of urgency, and it contains a helpful guideline with the elements of a pastoral plan for social communication at the diocesan, community, and parish levels.

Conclusion

The late Mother Angelica and the EWTN Network has responded to the challenge of promoting the Good News in the modern era. We too, as the Mystical Body of Christ, are called to participate in some way of reaching people with the joy of the Gospel.



The Church tried to anticipate this with the concept of the theology of communication based on the Incarnation and the Cross of Jesus Christ. Pope Saint John Paul II started this effort in our Church to build a community of love by using various technology for the New Evangelization.

People are no longer far away, due to the blessing of technology. We can communicate with many people in different places at the same time. We can use the power of social communication to evangelize to those who are living in the shadow of death. If they can see and hear Jesus Christ (because they have the right to hear what God is proclaiming!), they may accept an invitation to salvation.

This mission means a great deal to the

faithful for the future of the Church. We must use this opportunity to approach Generation Z so that they fall in love with Jesus Christ. We need to commit our hearts to evangelize by using the technology available to us to create safety networks offering hope to a world lost in moral confusion.

References

¹ ListECKI, Jerome E., *Mother Angelica used power of media to evangelize*, Herald of Hope, 7 April 2016.

² Eilers, Franz-Josef, SVD, *Communio et Progressio 40 Years: Commemorating the “Magna Charta” of Church Communication in Asian Perspective*.

³ Rigali, Cardinal Justin, *Reliving Vatican II: It’s all about Jesus Christ*, LTP, Chicago, IL, 2006. In chapter IV, “The Instruments of Social Communication: Communicating God’s Love,” he explains that the Council had a concern about social communication and how its power can change the community. He said that the Council discussed it at the beginning, in the document *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

⁴ Op. Cit. Eilers, Franz-Josef, SVD.

⁵ Dulles, Cardinal Avery, *The Craft of Theology: From Symbol To System*, Crossroad Publishing Company, New York, 2001. In the second chapter, Cardinal Dulles explains the symbol of communication means that God wants to communicate with His people, which is a symbolic community. When the People of God gather as a community to worship Him, that is a symbol of dialogue and communication.

⁶ Gress, Carrie, *John Paul II’s Theology of Communication: Interview with Theologian Christine Anne Mugridge*, Zenit, 3 June 2008.

⁷ The MTV Generation is a popular term; it has also been referred to as Generation X or Generation Y (Millennials). This term was first used by the *New York Times* in 1990. MTV is a TV station in the USA that has programs for young people 24 hours a day: rock music, films, games, comedy programs, etc. It attracts young people and has become a lifestyle for them.

⁸ Umberto Eco saw that the world of neo-TV has so turned in upon itself that there is little space left for the real world. Jean Baudrillard has similarly described the media culture as consumed by what he calls “an effect of frantic self-referentiality,” but he goes further in exploring the implications of this effect. Umberto Eco and Jean Baudrillard did research about TV on post-modern thought. (See Glenn Ward, *Understanding Postmodernism*. In the section, “Welcome to Planet Baudrillard,” we see TV’s effect by creating a new culture in our society, pages 72-113.)

⁹ Frank Mercadante explained that Generation Z is called the Post-Millennial Generation. This generation heralds an impressive array of descriptive titles such as the “Good News Generation,” the “Sunshine Generation,” and the “Next Great Generation.” See his book, *Engaging a New Generation: A Vision for Reaching Catholic Teens*, pages 45-47. In the section on “Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry,” the positive aspects of this generation can work with the Church for a real encounter with Jesus Christ. 

Around The Province...



The Missionaries of the Holy Family, North American Province, held a Chapter Meeting in April 2016. Our honored guest, the Superior General from Rome, Very Reverend Edmund Michalski, M.S.F., attended the meeting. He is standing in the front row, third from the right.

*Thank You & God Bless You, to everyone who made a financial gift to date in 2016.
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THE POETRY CORNER



Life's Corridor

by Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F.

Why is there darkness? Why is there silence?
Why are my arms and legs as though they were not there?

Could it be that now is the time for me to rise from this earth, and
Ascend upward to where spirits and celestial beings know no bounds?

What's happening now?
I'm falling, falling at a rapid rate of speed.
Yet my heart is calm, and my mind at rest.
I should be afraid and trembling with fear.
I wonder now, is my final death really near?

Wait, wait. I feel something moving from within.
There is light. There is sound.
My heart is moving. It is beginning to pound.

Could it be true? Could it be real?
I am going to live. I am going to live.

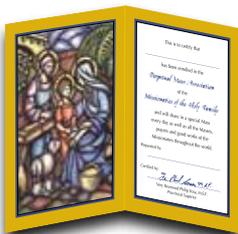
Praise God Almighty! He's given me life.
He's given me strength. He's given me Love.

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