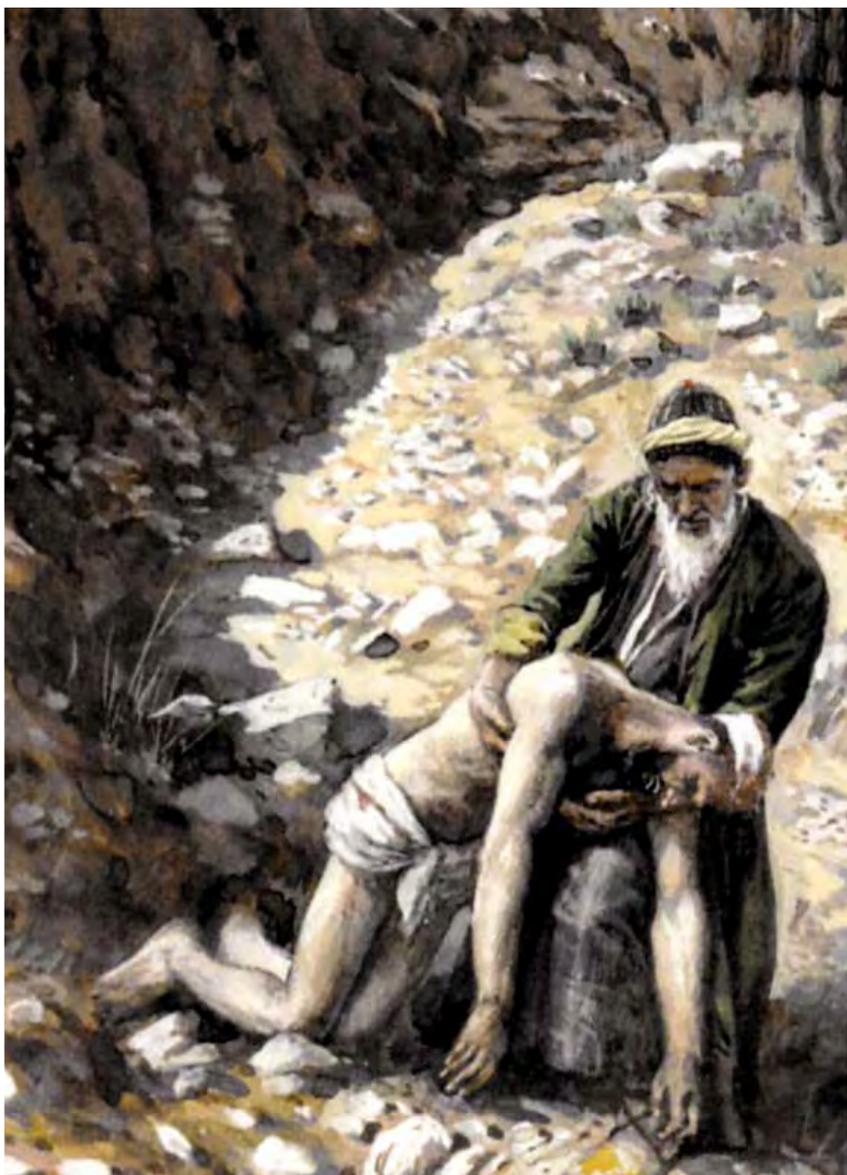


The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



A Pilgrimage of Mercy: see page 3

WINTER 2015-2016

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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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

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

Editor: Maurice Prater

Designer: Bill Herberholt,
Graphic Masters

Printer: Universal Printing Company

Front Cover: *The Good Samaritan*
by Jacques Joseph Tissot,
1836 - 1902.

Back Cover: Background art from
The Good Samaritan
by Jacques Joseph Tissot,
1836 - 1902.

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 hearts and minds.

Leaving one year and beginning another, we wonder: What is in store for us?

Overlapping the Year of Consecrated Life which ends on February 2, 2016, we are now in a very special year, the **Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy!**

As faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ, we can make a difference by the way we live. Mary and Joseph lived out their lives by submitting to God's will. They questioned and feared what they could not understand. But their strong faith and trust in God's mercy helped them in every trial and tribulation.

When we look at ourselves, no doubt we share some of the Holy Family's experiences. They are the example for us on how to keep a close relationship with God by praying daily and by loving and serving others, by being merciful.

Making Jesus the very foundation of our lives will bring us the gift of true peace.

(John 14:27)

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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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



Our Pilgrimage to See the Holy Father

by Miss Mary Therese

In September 2015, my family and I took a trip to see Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. Our experience there was unforgettable, and I am so blessed to have been able to see the Holy Father in America!

First, we flew from Illinois to Philly, and we arrived there on September 21. The next day, we picked up all of our World Meeting of Families gear and headed to the Pennsylvania Convention Center where we familiarized ourselves with the layout. Excitement was building! It was super cool looking around the city and seeing what was all set up for the week.

The next day, we attended a wonderful dinner with the staff of the Apostolate for Family Consecration and some of the staff of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, and that evening we

walked over to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul to pray the Rosary. Following this, we stopped by to see the beautiful Grotto of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. At the grotto, there



Miss Mary Therese (second from right) with family members and Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F.

were thousands of ribbons that had prayer intentions written on them by visitors and pilgrims.



Outside the Grotto of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots.

The following day, we went to an awesome talk by Jason & Crystalina Evert at the convention center about purity and trust in God. Afterwards, we saw a big poster board with Pope Francis' face that had hundreds of



Hundreds of pilgrims from all over the world signed a poster portrait of Pope Francis.

signatures from people all over the world who were there for the World Meeting of Families.

That night, we went to Mass in the chapel of Saint John the Evangelist Church. It was a very special Mass because Saint Maria Goretti's remains were there, and we heard a presentation on her incredible life. Her body was traveling all over America, and it just happened to be there when we were in Philly, which was amazing! The actual body was covered with a wax coating, but all her incorruptible bones were inside of it.

After Mass, we walked back to our hotel, and I went up to our room. I then received a text from my Mom telling me to come to the restaurant

next door to the hotel. I went inside and found her and my Dad dining with a homeless man. I introduced myself to him, and his name was Jute. He then started talking about how he got to Philly and how he became homeless.

I told Jute a little bit about myself and why I was in Philadelphia. My Mom and I started to discuss Church and God with him, and he got very emotional. I asked him why, and he told me that he used to sing in the choir at a Baptist Church before his mother died, and he missed it. We told him he should go back to church, and he said he will try.



Jute and Miss Mary Therese.

I asked him if I could take a picture with him and he said, *"I can't smile! I ain't got no teeth!"* I laughed so hard! He was such a genuinely happy person, and it was amazing to share the love of God with him.

On Friday, September 25, all the streets around us were closed for security purposes because Pope Francis was arriving that day. We did slip in a little

fun as my brother got our football and volleyball, and we started playing in the street. My brother and Dad were playing catch in the street, and then a nun came up to them and asked if she could play, too.



The Sisters took football (and Jesus) to the streets of Philadelphia!

They started throwing the ball around, and eventually it became a scene. Newscasters, photographers, and groups of people gathered around mesmerized by the reality of a nun playing football. Different people were interviewing my brother and the religious sister. That was the first time (and most likely the last) that I can ever say I've played sports in the city streets!



Miss Mary Therese and Tasha.

Shortly after that, my friend Maria and I started walking down the street, and we met a homeless woman named Tasha. She said that she hadn't eaten in two days, so I told her to come with me. I took her to my parents who began talking with her. Tasha shared how she became homeless, and she was so sweet.

We bought her some lunch, and we noticed she had a Rosary around her neck. She said a Catholic pilgrim gave her the Rosary, along with some money. I took off my Scapular and put it on her neck, and told her to never take it off. It was so amazing to see the face of God through Tasha!

On Saturday, September 26, the Pope arrived in Philadelphia. The city was jam packed with people, and the security was crazy. Everywhere I looked I saw a police officer or a security guard. Pope Francis was scheduled to drive by Benjamin Franklin Parkway,



Miss Mary Therese with family and friends waiting for Pope Francis to greet the crowds.

so we started to walk there. We finally made it after walking through crowds for at least an hour.

After waiting for five hours, just as twilight set in and the street lights were coming on, we saw security cars and police motorcycles driving by, and we heard people screaming from far away. I got on my brothers shoulders and started taking a video. Pope Francis started getting closer and closer, and he waved to us! It was absolutely

incredible seeing him so close, and I will never forget it.

Seeing so many Catholics in one place united with our Pontiff, seeing the face of Jesus in the homeless, and watching Pope Francis drive by and waving to me was absolutely unforgettable! God has blessed me in so many ways, and I am grateful to Him that I had the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to see the Holy Father in America. 

*Thank You & God Bless You,
to everyone who made a financial gift in 2015.
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.*

Do You Want More Holy Priests?

Join the *Holy Family Circle* and help foster vocations to the priesthood and brotherhood. Find your level of joyful giving below, complete the contact information, and mail this form, or a copy of it, in the envelope in the middle of the magazine. Thank you and God bless you!

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	
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ETERNAL TRUTH

The Synod on the Family

by Father Jim Beegan, M.S.F.

Editor's Note: *This is a summary of the final report by the Synod Bishops given to Pope Francis in October 2015. Pope Francis is expected to follow up on this report with his own apostolic exhortation. When his exhortation becomes available, everyone is encouraged to read it.*

Report by the Synod of Bishops

A church synod is an assembly of bishops and other invited persons. Such an assembly seeks to define certain Church doctrines and practices. The Synod of Bishops on the Family issued its final report in October 2015.

There had been proposals in some quarters to recognize the second marriages of divorced persons (civil marriages without annulments) and to allow them to receive Holy Communion. There were also some appeals for the acceptance of homosexual unions or so called "marriages."

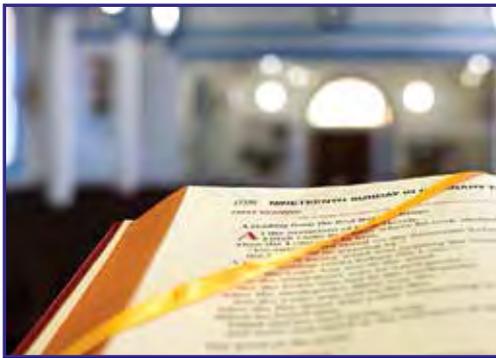
The synod's final report rejected both

of these proposals and upheld the traditional Church teachings on marriage, family, and human sexuality. The bishops, however, did promise to give pastoral help to remarried divorcees and to help them to find the will of God in their lives.

Illicit Sexuality

The synod lamented the trend of living together before marriage, which is cohabitation without the intent to marry. It also declared that civil legislation which permits divorce with freedom to remarry undermines the institution of marriage.

It is important to be aware that these judgments by the synod have not been



created by Church legislation. Instead, they are firmly rooted in Holy Scriptures and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Both Scriptures and the *Catechism*

contain God's revelation on moral issues.

The Scriptures are those documents in

the Old and New Testaments which are infallibly inspired by the Holy Spirit. The *Catechism* is a compendium of the teachings that God has given to His Church and to humanity at large.

Holy Scripture: The Word of God

The first book of the Bible, the *Book of Genesis*, tells us that when God created the first man, Adam, He did not intend for Adam to be alone. The Lord God did not only create Adam, but He also created from Adam's own body a helpmate and companion for him. This first woman was called Eve which means mother of all the living. (**Genesis 2:18-25**)

From the beginning, God designed marriage as an unbreakable union of one man and one woman. In the first chapter of *Genesis*, Adam and Eve are told by God to be fruitful, to bear offspring, to begin the population of the earth. Thus, in the very first book of the Bible, we are given the two purposes or ends of marriage, companionship and reproduction.

Dr. Scott Hahn notes that "...from the beginning, marriage was designed as a monogamous union of one male and one female." He also points out in his *Catholic Bible Dictionary* that in ancient times "...when a family welcomed new members through marriage or some other alliance, both parties – the new members and the established tribe – would seal the covenant bond, usually by solemnly swearing a sacred oath, sharing a common meal, and offering a sacrifice."

The sanctity and permanence of marriage were generally honored in ancient Jewish society. But Moses did allow divorce among the Jews in certain cases because of the hardness of their hearts. With the coming of Jesus, however, God's teachings on marriage were restored to their original purity and vigor.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Marriage

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* faithfully echoes the teaching of Scripture on the indissolubility of marriage. In reference #1650, it states: "Today there are numerous Catholics in many countries who have recourse to civil divorce and contract new civil unions."

"In fidelity to the words of Jesus Christ

-- *'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'*"

(Mark 10:11-12) --

If the divorced are remarried civilly, they find themselves in a situation that objectively violates God's law. Consequently, they cannot receive Eucharistic Communion as long as this situation persists."

Homosexuality

On the issue of homosexuality, the *Catechism* states in reference #2358: "The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes

for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives, and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition. By prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection."

Abortion and Euthanasia

The synod fathers affirmed that life is a gift from God, and that abortion, euthanasia, and sterilization are immoral. Contraception or artificial birth control is a violation of God's plan for procreation. They also declared that "...the

presence of large families is a blessing for the Christian community and society."

The final report also deplored the involvement of governments in the promotion of sterilization, contraception, abortion, and gender ideology.

Conclusion

All in all, the synod document is a stirring affirmation of traditional Christian teaching on human sexuality. Like a voice crying out in the wilderness, the Church calls its members to repentance, to faith in Christ, and to reject the tidal wave of immorality sweeping through our society. [+jMj+](#)

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!



HOLY FAMILY LIFE

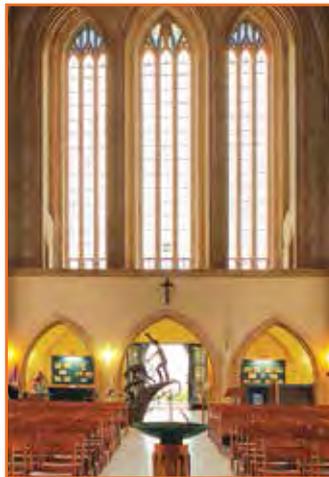
Grace Builds on... Oil? Naturally!

by Libby Dupont

My children have wonderful imaginations. Broom handles become wizard staffs. Legos become bath toys. While this is probably wonderful for some sort of developmental task, it creates problems. When someone goes to sweep, they can't find the broom head. The plumber is called to retrieve small plastic blocks from the drain.

Our lives would run a little smoother if our things were used for the purpose for which they were designed. This is also true with the human person. The human person was made by Love and for love. When we act against our true nature, we cause problems.

As my husband and I have worked with engaged couples the past four years, we have found this idea of working together with one's nature



particularly helpful in explaining difficult Church teachings on such topics as premarital sex, cohabitation, and contraception.

The doctor who gives our Natural Family Planning (NFP) presentations speaks very little about the Catholic faith, even though she is a very faith-filled woman who loves the Church and Her teachings. She speaks from a purely human perspective since she is speaking to mostly secular-minded people on their own terms.

She spends time talking about how NFP fosters the qualities that non-religious, positive psychologists have determined

cause people to be happy. Would you be surprised to learn that these look a lot like the cardinal virtues?

She talks about how periodic abstinence resets the dopamine receptors in the brain so that a couple stays attracted to one another. Lastly, she talks about how hormonal birth control disrupts the normal function of a woman's body and, therefore, how it can be linked to a myriad of health conditions in the woman.

Unfortunately, and for many reasons, a large portion of our engaged couples are disconnected from their faith. But, I have to tell you that the majority of them leave our NFP nights at least considering the idea. Why? It has been explained to them in a way that makes sense. They can plainly see that taking a healthy body function and disrupting it so that it no longer works properly is a bad idea.

My husband and I decided to use Natural Family Planning simply because that is what the Church taught. Of course, as we learned more about Pope Saint John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, we came to appreciate the Church's teaching on a much deeper and richer level.

What we had not considered before we began working with the NFP presentations, however, is how much more authentically human we are by choosing not to use contraception. Our choice for NFP allows my body to

function as it is designed to function.

Last year, our family faced some health issues that would have been treated by long-term medication in the standard medical world. Our work with NFP made me step back and wonder if there weren't ways we might work with the body to restore natural function rather than to introduce something foreign. I figured it was at least worth trying!

Our year was filled with the adventure of allergen-free cooking, chiropractors, nutritional supplements, and exercises designed to make neurological connections. It may have seemed

weird, but we were getting results. So when a friend of mine invited me to an essential oils class, I figured it was worth a try.

Essential oils are compounds extracted from plants that protect and repair the plants. They have been used for thousands of years (think frankincense for Baby Jesus), and are powerful because they are more easily recognizable to our bodies than synthetic drugs. While they do not specifically treat any disease, they do support the body in amazing ways. We have started using them for all kinds of things like immunity, better sleep, improving mood, head tension, and tummy troubles.

We have also been able to replace some of the chemical cleaners in our



home with essential oils. While we have a great respect for traditional Western medicine and do use it when needed, it has been very liberating to be able to work physically in conjunction with our nature.

One of the greatest joys for me in discovering essential oils has been the



people I have met. My husband and I, since we originally served as missionaries, have a network of friends who are very Catholic. Through my new work with essential oils, I have met people I would have never known through the regular routine in my life!

There are plenty of suburban moms like me, but also women much different in looks and beliefs: women with dread locks, yoga instructors, organic farmers, and new-age crystal lovers. For the first time in my life, I have common ground with these folks. This common ground has enabled me to get to know a beauty in them I would not have seen before now. All of us are just trying to live more according to our nature.

In our work with couples, we have

found that the choice to try NFP, even if made for “secular” reasons, opens up space in the heart for those couples to be more open to life and God. One decision to work in accordance with nature leads to more decisions to put their lives back in real order, since grace builds on nature.

We live in a world where the natural order is being ignored, to the detriment of families and society. Natural health, an area so attractive to many secular people, has become for our family a point of entry. If I can help people live in accordance with

nature for their health, there is no telling where God may lead them next!

Libby DuPont works with her husband Brad in the Office of Marriage & Family Life for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. She is also a Wellness Advocate with doTERRA Essential Oils. Libby can be reached at (651) 315-4691 or braddupont@ymail.com. Her website is www.mydoterra.com/little-flowerEO. +JM+

Speaking of nature, the encyclical by Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home* or *Laudato Si*, is available for reading directly from the Vatican website under the category of Encyclicals.



THE HOLY SACRAMENTS

Fifty Years of Marriage Bliss

Tony and Bertha Renteria celebrated 50 years of marriage in October 2015 at Holy Family Church in New Braunfels, Texas. Their secret for a happy marriage? Daily Mass whenever possible!





WORLD
MEETING OF
FAMILIES
2015 Philadelphia

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2015 Philadelphia





HONORING OUR PARENTS

Rosemary's Garden

by Mary Pichler

Rosemary's Garden, at Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, was established in the mid-1990s, but the vision for this garden began many, many years ago with the planting of just a few seeds.



The Pichler Family in 2002.

My parents, Frank, Sr. and Rosemary Pichler, planted many seeds: the gift of life to their nine children – Barb, Diane, Frank, Jr., Mary, Roe, Laurie, Tony, Therese, and Eric; our love for God and our Catholic faith; our love and respect for one another – the family unit, the domestic church.

Dad was the breadwinner (54 years with Anheuser-Busch), and Mom was the homemaker. Mom's days were strategically planned. There were many mouths to feed, diapers to change, clothes to sew and wash, floors to scrub, etc. I don't ever recall seeing Mom take a break! Every waking moment of her day was accounted for before she got out of bed. She didn't drive, so even the grocery shopping was on a schedule, which was on payday, twice a month,

when Dad came home from work. Needless to say, she probably never gave a thought to having a hobby... until one spring day.

A neighbor friend came to visit and brought some seeds she had har-

vested from plants grown the previous year. She helped Mom select the best spot in the yard where the flowers would thrive and be protected from little trampling feet. The flowers gloriously bloomed, and Mom's gardening adventure and our weekend family projects began.

As we outgrew the swing set, slide, and galvanized pool, our play area was transformed into perennial gardens outlining the perimeter of the yard, a vegetable garden, and several apricot trees strategically planted for cross-fertilization. In the mid-1980s, my parents purchased the neighboring house, which was inhabited by several of my siblings over the ensuing years. Both yards were combined into one continuous garden. For the finishing touch, Mom recruited

all of us (and our extended family) to build a pond with a lighted waterfall, lily pods, and goldfish. The project entailed mini-field trips to scope out areas of highways where rock had been blasted, and hauling home the tons of perfect rock to build the waterfall and grace the edges of the pond. Once all of the materials were collected, the groundbreaking ceremony was held. With shovels in hand, we took turns digging the plot and hauling the dirt.

The project took several weeks to complete, and the end result was magnificent. Tony had a street sign made, "Pichler Place," and Eric purchased an arbor on display at the grocery store he managed. The arbor was erected in front of the pond and a wooden swing hung, graced with the sign, ***Peace and Tranquility.***

My parents would spend many serene hours together swinging on that bench and feeding the fish. It was Mom's little paradise, and she won first place with the Carondelet Gardening Association. Soon her garden expanded to the front of the house, and the

parkway across the street was used for the transplanting of overgrown perennials (it was frowned upon to discard anything that was not considered a weed). Mom would spend hours weeding, watering, and tending to the gardens.

Once she read an article that the City Forestry Department was shredding leaves and limbs from trees to produce mulch, and there were mounds located in the city parks, all free for the taking. Well, how could she pass up the opportunity? After

all, spreading several inches of mulch around the plants is supposed to help eliminate a lot of the weed growth. Once again, she rounded up the troops.

Mom collected large trash cans, empty paint pails, and shovels, and we'd load up the trunks of our cars and head to the park for our mulch expedition. Same routine every week – shovel and dump, shovel and dump. After a couple seasons of doing this, Mom bit the bullet and had wood chip mulch delivered from the local nursery.

When my parents joined Saint Wenc-



Evelyn Reichert and Mary Pichler (right) in Rosemary's Garden.



Mary Pichler and Evelyn Reichert in the Grotto of Our Blessed Mother.

eslaus Parish in the 1990s, Mom almost immediately volunteered to help tend the garden area of the church grounds, and that is where you would find her every morning after Mass. A new family project was about to evolve.

With the permission of the late pastor, Father Joe Roelke, M.S.F., Mom enlisted Diane (a horticulturalist and landscaper) to help lay the plan to revitalize the landscape in front of the church and rectory. Old bushes and shrubs were removed, nutrients were added to the soil, and holly bushes, trees, and perennials were planted.

In 2002, Frank, Jr. and his son Frank III were given permission by Father Jim Wuerth, M.S.F. and the late Father John Lombardi, M.S.F. to lay the groundwork for redesigning the Grotto of Our Blessed Mother on the north side of the church as part of Frank III's Eagle Scout project. Spiraea bushes were planted in front of the grotto, dogwood trees lined both sides of the sidewalk, and a bench installed on either side to create a shaded and peaceful area for prayer and meditation.

In 2007, Frank, Jr.'s son Collin, as part of

his Eagle Scout project, redesigned the landscaping in front of Saint Frances Cabrini Academy, the parish school. A watering system was installed and small bushes, perennials, and annuals were planted.

Dad passed away in 2009, and Mom had to resign from the garden due to deteriorating health, but she taught us everything we needed to know. My sister Therese and I were able to continue the gardening in her honor, and Rosemary's Garden continues to flourish today!

Many thanks to my fellow parishioner volunteers: Frank Brettle who devotedly attends to the daily watering, and Evelyn Reichert who joins me in the garden most Saturday mornings crawling in the dirt, pulling weeds, trimming, planting, and mulching.

The seeds my parents planted in us have been sown in our own children. Rosemary's Garden is an extension of my family – a labor of love, surrounded by God's beauty, to provide

a setting that will draw people in and make them feel welcomed and comfortable. Please feel free to spend some time with God in Rosemary's Garden. [+jMj+](#)



Mary's Moonflowers next to the ramp from the parking lot to Saint Wenceslaus Church.



Mary Pichler received her certificate as a Permanent Member of the Holy Family Prayer Association at a Mass in July 2015 in Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri.



UNITED IN CHRIST

Nazareth House Resale Shop

by Barry & Rosalinda Robinson

There is a new store in town, and parishioners at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas see it every time they go to Mass, as well as anyone who travels on Guadalupe Street.

The Nazareth House Resale Shop opened in July 2015 on the campus of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It features merchandise for children – infants through 14 years of age. Inventory includes clothing, shoes, books, toys, and children's accessories. It is open three days a week: Monday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Our pastor, Father David Tonary, M.S.F., began working on this project several years ago. Thanks to the generosity of the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation, as well as +Patrick &



Rose Patek, the store was built on Guadalupe Street.

Parishioner Josie Guerrero, a retired manager at Marshall's and Big Lots, volunteered

to organize the store from scratch. She and other volunteers had merchandise washed, priced, and displayed. The Grand Opening was on July 10, 2015.

"We will be forever grateful to the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation and the Patek Family for their kindness," said Father David. *"Josie and the volunteers*

do a fantastic job as well."

"The response from the community has been great," says store manager Josie. *"We receive donations just*

about every day we are open. Many customers have complimented us on the store being so clean, organized,



and well-stocked.”

Since the store is only six months old, new customers arrive every week, but there’s also a high percentage of repeat customers.

“Father David wanted a store that offered very reasonable prices so families without a lot of money could afford to buy new or gently-used clothes for their children. The store would also help fund our religious education program. We are doing both,” Josie says.

Josie says that she is fortunate to have



Some of the many volunteers who support the Nazareth House Resale Shop.

numerous other ladies in the parish on her team of volunteers. She relies on Irma Gonzales as assistant manager, as well as Angie Acuna, Elisa Briseno, Corrine Crockett, Amanda Gonzales, Herminia Pacheco, Guadalupe Rangel, Rosalinda Robinson, Mary Rodriguez, Micala Saldua, and Maria Sanchez.

The name Nazareth House was chosen because it was the place Jesus grew up before starting his journey to proclaim the Good News. Many Seguin parents are now proclaiming the good news of Nazareth House because they can buy their children a complete outfit for as little as \$5.00 each.

“Our basics (socks, underwear) are 4 for \$1.00, shirts and pants are \$1.00, coats are \$2.00 to \$5.00,” said Josie. *“Toys start at 50 cents.”*

Nazareth House Resale Shop is located at 708 North Guadalupe Street, and the telephone number is (830) 433-4205.

Welcome to our little Nazareth House. God bless your family! 

Around The Province...

Some recent activities at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seguin, TX and Saint Joseph Mission in Redwood, TX.





ANSWERING THE CALL

For A Greater Purpose

An Interview with Mr. Zip Rzeppa

Before anyone ever heard of ESPN's Top Ten Sports Bloopers, there were the wildly popular, weekly compilations of Zip Rzeppa's Zippo Awards: "The best, the worst, and the weirdest moments in professional sports!"



An entertaining and innovative sportscaster, Zip's career stretches from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Saginaw, Michigan to Cincinnati, Boston, and finally Saint Louis where he was a regular TV personality from 1984 – 2001.

Some of his most cherished professional moments are writing the song, *Ballad of the Bengals*, for the Cincinnati Bengals football team who made it to the Super Bowl in 1981, and covering the 1985 and 1987 World Series with the Saint Louis Cardinals.

Always a practicing Catholic, Zip's faith deepened when he began door-to-door evangelization with the Society of Our Mother of Peace in the most dangerous neighborhoods of Saint Louis. He was also deeply involved in the Metropolitan Employment & Rehabilitation Service (MERS) to help people with mental and physical disabilities. MERS and

Missouri Goodwill merged in 2001.

Zip has penned a new book about his life, *For A Greater Purpose*. It is published by Mater Media, a publishing house he founded. Mater (Mah-tair) is the Latin word

for Mother. As Mater Dei means "The Mother of God," Mater Media means "The Mother of Media." The apostolate of Mater Media is consecrated to the Mother of God, Our Blessed Mother.



This is the beautiful **Mater Media Prayer** that he co-authored: *Blessed Virgin Mary, I cover myself with your protection. Defend me and all your children, from everything that would harm our souls! Mary, Mother of Media, please ask your son, Jesus, to fill me with the light of His love to overcome the darkness in our world. Amen.*

This excerpt from the book's back cover cuts to the chase:

In an amazing true story, Zip Rzeppa's life connects with media superstars Bill O'Reilly—and Howard Stern—and Joe Buck—before any of them ever appear on TV. Grit and determination

bring Zip his own fame as he becomes the wackiest local TV sports-caster in America.

Longing for love, Zip ricochets from redheads to reporters to runners, from friends to flings to fiancées until he finally finds the woman who shows him every moment matters.

Inspired, Zip drops the microphone and rolls up his sleeves to serve those in sheltered workshops, inner city dwellings, and foster homes. Finally, a miracle from Our Lady of Guadalupe delivers Zip a new calling to use his media savvy to feed today's spiritually-starved souls.

With echoes of St. Augustine's *The Confessions* and Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain*, *For A Greater Purpose* is the heartbreaking and triumphant saga of a dynamic 21st century man who discovers that the purpose of life is written in the Palm of God's Hand.

That miracle from Our Lady of Guadalupe? Long story short, for Angels' Arms, a collection of foster homes for children, Zip raised \$700,000 in 15 days through the intercession of Our Lady. It's absolutely true, but the full

story is just too good to give away!

However, speaking of giveaways, here is another story too good to be true. To receive a FREE copy of *For A Greater Purpose*, no strings attached, send in your request online through the Mater Media website, www.matermedia.org/free-book. Or, simply call (314)



807-8591.

Written for adults in general, men in particular will appreciate this book because Zip speaks honestly about two addictions that plague the lives of many men, gambling and pornography.

The antidote to pornography, by the way, is Pope Saint John Paul II's classic teaching on the sacred beauty of human sexuality popularly known as the *Theology of the Body*.

When Zip was asked if he could reach the world, in one sentence, what would the message be?

His response was quick and sincere: *"To receive God's love and return it to Him with all that we are, is what life is all about."*

Spoken like a man with a greater purpose. God bless you, Zip! +JMj+





JUBILEE OF MERCY

Missionaries of Mercy

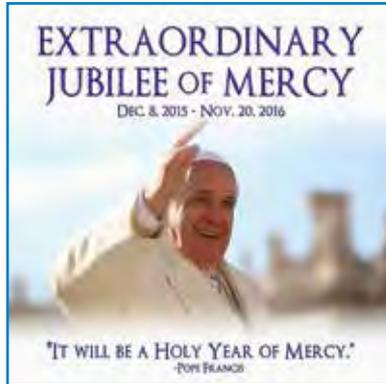
by Father Eka Yuantoro, M.S.F.

The Year of Mercy

Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of Mercy beginning on December 8, 2015, which is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This special year began on this day because "... the liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind..." The Jubilee of Mercy will close on the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 20, 2016.

In his *Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*, Pope Francis said that he will send out missionaries of mercy.¹ Who are the missionaries of mercy? They are priests who are skilled confessors and preachers. These missionaries have the task of bringing people back from the slavery of sin into the one flock of Jesus Christ, Shepherd and King of the Universe.

All priests, however, must take the time to listen to the cries of the people who want to come back home and receive the mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They are



called to be heralds of mercy and forgiveness so people can see the wonder of God's love. May no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy.²

People who are willing to come home to the Church for forgiveness

will taste the love of God, including indulgences. People who ask for God's mercy with a contrite heart will be freed, in full or in part, from the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. By the death and resurrection of Christ, God shows His mercy to those who believe in Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of the World.³ **We should celebrate the jubilee of mercy with joy!**

In the recent past, Pope Saint John Paul II proclaimed a year of mercy on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 1980, *Dives in Misericordia* (God who is rich in Mercy). John Paul II tried to promote reconciliation between the East and the West and to end the Cold War.

Now Pope Francis wants reconciliation

and relationship with the people who are marginalized, oppressed, and poor. Poverty is not just economic. There are educational, social, and moral types of poverty.

The New Image of the Church of Mercy

Pope Francis has drawn from *Dei Verbum*, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation promulgated by Blessed Pope Paul VI. Jesus of Nazareth, by His words, His actions, and His entire person, reveals the mercy of God. This idea about God's mercy is similar to the writings of Pope Saint John Paul II. Jesus Christ is the splendor of the Father. **(John 14:9)**

Adam fell and sinned against the love of God. Our Heavenly Father, however, is always inviting us to work with Him and to build up His Kingdom. Jesus has shown us the mercy of God – in word, action, and deed – through the mystery of His death and resurrection, which saved us from our sins by His own blood. In his writings, Saint John the Apostle explains that God is love (1 John 4:7-21)⁴ because He so loved the world that He gave His only Son (John 3:16-21).⁵

In Psalm 136, we see the history of God's revelation. Pope Francis sees this dimension of salvation when we celebrate God's mercy in the liturgy of the Church because "His mercy endures

forever." When Jesus and His disciples went out to the Mount of Olives, they sang and spoke of mercy. **(see Matthew 26)**

Pope Francis has placed a special emphasis on the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized.⁶ The Church, as the mystical body of Christ, is a tangible symbol of the love and mercy of God. The Church is an institution, but it is also a community. Jesus is a liberator to people who are living in the shadow of death. Through the Church, everyone



should see the light and redeemer of the world, Jesus Christ, who wants to lead sinners back safely into His Kingdom.

The Church of Mercy

After he was elected to the papacy, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J. chose the name Pope Francis. Like Saint Francis of Assisi, he wants to humbly bring peace, justice, and love to the people of our day and renew the Church. As a cardinal, he was already doing this as he worked with the poor people of Buenos Aires in Argentina. Pope Francis said that all of us are called to be both missionaries and disciples in his apostolic letter, *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*.⁷

The Church has one mission, which is to evangelize – to bring people into one communion with Jesus Christ.⁸ The

mission of the Church has always been to share our faith in Jesus Christ who is “the source of authentic personal fulfillment.” Everyone must participate in this mission. So why do we need a New Evangelization? The reason is because people are living in a new worldview where God is not a priority. We need to promote the dignity of the Catholic Faith to people in a postmodern world of skepticism.⁹

For example, regarding homosexuality, Pope Francis once said, “*Who am I to judge?*” He opens the door of salvation to those who are hoping to come back into the Church. He welcomes them, even though the Church cannot embrace any immoral lifestyle or a redefinition of marriage against the Word of God. Yet, they can come and draw near to Jesus. One day, they may repent and convert. Is it possible for the Church to be grounded in the Truth and welcoming at the same time? Yes, absolutely!

Pope Francis is the Vicar of Christ, and he has the authority to act on behalf of Jesus. Even though he is the pope, in humility he lets Christ judge and rule

the world. In this way, he does not hinder the Holy Spirit who works through the Church and sinners for the salvation of all. **The doors of mercy are open!**



The Lateran Basilica in Rome, the mother church of our faith, is open to the public, as many pilgrims will make their way there in this year of mercy. The cathedral in every diocese has a designated holy door for pilgrims to enter and receive indulgences, under the usual condi-

tions, just as if they were pilgrims to the Eternal City passing through Saint Peter’s holy door.

Priests are encouraged to give more time for Confession to welcome the sinner into the Church. They are the missionaries of mercy who are facilitators of divinity encountering humanity, sources of liberation, and avenues for overcoming obstacles so that the new life of baptism can blossom again. Everyone is invited to embrace the mission and call



to mercy.

Also, Pope Francis amended the procedure of marriage annulments, hoping that people in difficult situations can

experience a process that is deliberate without being burdensome.



Conclusion

First, let us open our hearts to the salvation and mercy of Jesus Christ and share this joy with others.

Second -- since we are called by the Sacraments of Initiation to become priests, prophets, and kings -- it is our mission and vocation to embrace a life of love and mercy.

Third, actively practice the virtue of forgiveness. If we do, the Holy Spirit will work miracles through us and make us holy in the process.

Lord, have mercy!

References

- ¹ Pope Francis, *Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*, Rome, Italy, April 11, 2015, no. 18.
- ² *Ibid*, no. 19.
- ³ *Ibid*, no. 22.
- ⁴ *Ibid*, no. 8.
- ⁵ Bruce Vawter, C.M. explained that Johannine Theology focuses on the love of God and divine compassion so we shall ever have the gift of eternal life (from: Brown, Raymond E., *The Jerome Biblical Commentary*, in the part of the New Testament, page 430).

⁶ Sobrino, Jon, *No Salvation Outside the Poor: Prophetic Utopian Essays*, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York. He explains a concept of the crucified people living in suffering and injustice. Ellacuria, his friend who was murdered with seven Jesuits in El Salvador, used the term crucified people in comparison with the suffering servant in the *Book of Isaiah*. Jurgen Moltmann used the term "the Crucified God."

⁷ Sri, Edward, *Rediscovering the Heart of a Disciple*, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Huntington, Indiana, 2014, pages 20-21. Edward Sri explains the subtitle, *Missionary Disciples*, based on the apostolic letter from Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*. Sri said that *The Joy of the Gospel* is about recovering the heart of discipleship, or, in the words of Pope Francis, rediscovering how to be missionary disciples.

⁸ *Ibid*, pages 27-28.

⁹ *Ibid*, pages 28-31. Edward Sri explains that, in the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, the new evangelization consists of re-proposing the Gospel to people in regions of secularization. Frank Mercadante, in *Engaging a New Generation*, explains that this is our opportunity to promote the Good News to teenagers in the postmodern era. Daniel G. Groody calls this a challenge to promote a new evangelization within globalization and an opportunity to share the justice and peace of Christ Jesus. [+JM+](#)



THE PRAYER CORNER



My Morning Offering for Priests

**Immaculate Conception Church in Denham Springs, Louisiana ([website](#))
and shared by Elizabeth Cavallaro**

Holy Blessed Trinity, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day. No matter what little thing I do, I offer it to You in reparation:

- For holy priests,
- For the conversion of priests,
- For more priests,
- For the return of priests who have left the priesthood,
- For the priests still in Purgatory, and especially
- For those priests most in need.

I offer myself this day as an offering for holy priests in union with the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus -- and in union with the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus consecrated daily on all the altars of the world by Your holy priests. I make this offering freely, trusting that You will take care of all my needs, spiritual and temporal, for the state in life to which You have called me.

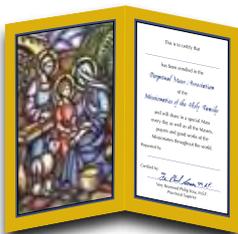
I make this offering through the Immaculate Hands & Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Love, that she might take this imperfect prayer and present it to Her Son, that through His Sacred Heart, He might perfect it and present it to Our Father by the power of the Holy Spirit. I ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(with ecclesiastical approbation)



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- Clothe the naked.*
- Shelter the homeless.*
- Visit the sick.*
- Visit the imprisoned.*
- Bury the dead.*



The spiritual works of mercy:

- Admonish the sinner.*
- Instruct the ignorant.*
- Counsel the doubtful.*
- Comfort the sorrowful.*
- Bear wrongs patiently.*
- Forgive offenses.*
- Pray for the living and the dead.*



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