

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

SEE PAGE 18

SUMMER 2024

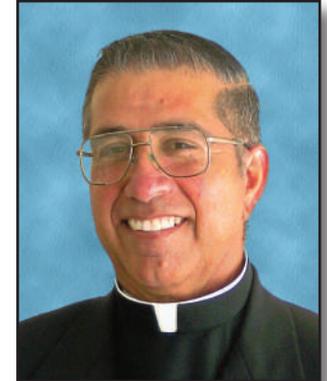
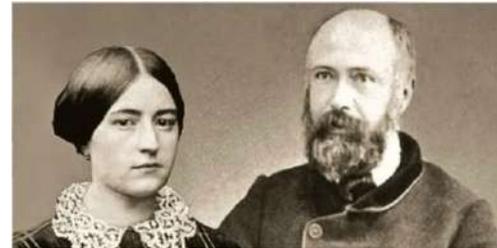
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Dear Family,

Saints Louis & Zelig Martin

Saints Louis & Zelig Martin are the first married couple to be canonized together.



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

Feast Day: JULY 12

- Parents of Saint Therese of Liseux
- Patron saints of marriage, parenting, widowers, and illness
- Beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008
- Canonized by Pope Francis in 2015

Prayer for Husbands & Wives

Help them together, Lord, to reexamine their commitment in the light of Your love – willingly, openly, and compassionately.

Help them together, Lord, to believe how fragile, yet powerful; how weak, yet strong; how impossible, yet attainable their love can be. Amen.

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The Catholic Devotional, excerpt from page 58.
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Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am

Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.

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

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RIP, BROTHER ROLLAND

He's My Brother in Christ Jesus

Brother Rolland Alois Kapsner, M.S.F.

June 2, 1939 – April 12, 2024

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Brother Rolland, a dedicated member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, entered eternal life on Friday, April 12, 2024, at the age of 84. He was born on June 2, 1939 in Lastrup (Pierz), Minnesota, to Alois Kapsner and Gertrude Stangl. He was one of seven brothers and one sister.

Before coming to Holy Family Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri, in 1966, he served in the National Guard Armed Forces, being an example to follow in devotion and service to God and others. His

dedication to both his military duty and spiritual calling exemplified his selfless nature.

As a Religious Brother candidate, he made his First Profession of Vows on August 15, 1968, and his Perpetual Profession of Vows in 1973. The following are assignments where he ministered as a Religious Brother, leaving behind a legacy of service and compassion, marked by an unwavering commitment to faith and community:

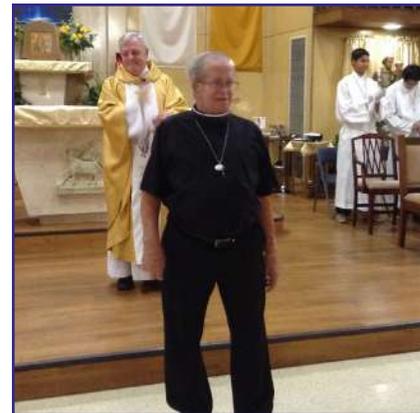
- Holy Family Church in Hillman, Minnesota, from August 1968 to June 1980.



Brother Rolland with the Guadalupanas Society in Seguin, Texas.

- Holy Family Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri, from June 1980 to September 1990.
- Holy Family Church in Edinburg, Texas, from September 1990 to June 1991.
- Berthier Formation House in San Antonio, Texas, from June 1991 to November 1993.
- Saint Joseph Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, from November 1993 to September 2002.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas, from September 2002 to April 2024.

He served as a trusted Catechist and RCIA Instructor in our parishes, including ministries in Communion for the Homebound, Baptism preparation classes, Knights of Columbus, parish fundraising, and leading Morning Prayer before Mass.



Brother Rolland at his 50th Anniversary Party celebrating his religious vows.

Brother Rolland will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched. His dedication to faith and community stands as a testament to a life well-lived and a heart well-loved. He died April 12, 2024, in Seguin, Texas, and he was the last remaining Religious Brother in our North American Province. Now the last becomes first, and may he rest in the eternal peace of Christ Jesus.

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

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



Brother Rolland with family members in 2018 at the 50th anniversary of his profession of vows as a religious brother.



WHAT'S COOKING?

Holy Family International Cookbook

For the first time ever, the Missionaries of the Holy Family are putting together a cookbook, the *Holy Family International Cookbook!*

Do you have any unique, favorite recipes that you would like to share with us? Please email your recipes to mprater@msf-america.org. Or, mail your recipes to us: Missionaries of the Holy Family, 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412.

We tentatively would like the first edition of our cookbook published by Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28, 2024. We will keep you posted as this project develops. If you submit a recipe, it means that you are giving us permission to publish it, and we will include your name along with the recipe, unless you wish to remain anonymous.

Also, recipes are not guaranteed to be included in the cookbook, but will be given every consideration. If you submit a recipe, you will be included in a drawing, and the winner will receive five (5) free copies of the cookbook to share with family and friends.

Submitting a recipe is fun and easy!

For example, just look at this one for *Potato Chip Cookies* (which sounds yummy) from Joyce Culin:

- 1 pound of butter or margarine
- 1 cup of sugar
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla
- 3 1/2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of finely crushed potato chips

Cream butter and sugar. Add flour, 1 cup at a time. Mix well. Add vanilla. Add potato chips. Mix well. Drop by teaspoon on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes until cookies are set and lightly browned on the edges.

Questions? Please call us at 1-888-484-9945. We look forward to hearing from you soon, and God bless you and your family. *Bon appétit!* 



Missionaries of the Holy Family

Enjoy Time with Your Family



Prayer before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Meals

We give thanks for all your benefits, Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer for the Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, may your example of family life enrich all Christian Homes. Give to fathers the strength of Joseph, tendered with his loving gentleness.

Give to mothers the serenity of Mary, centered on family peace and harmony.

Give to children the spirit of the Christ Child, united in love and joy.

May all these virtues unite to create in each household its own Holy Family as a force of love and peace reaching out to all places and to all people.

Amen.



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IMMACULATE MOTHERHOOD

Immaculate Motherhood of Mary

Modern scientific discoveries reinforce our ancient faith.

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Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Isn't it interesting when something we accept on faith is confirmed or verified by scientific or historical evidence? The Shroud of Turin, the tomb of Saint Peter, the existence of Pontius Pilate, scientific examinations of apparent miracles in beatifications and canonizations, and blood-analyses of Eucharistic miracles all strengthen and enrich our living faith in the ancient Catholic Faith. True faith and right reason do not contradict each other.

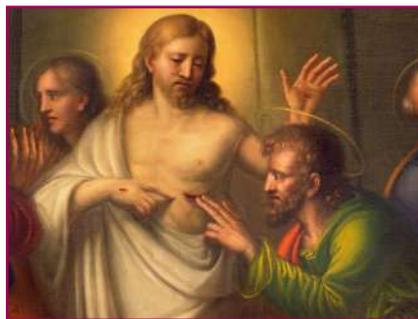
Yet, if everything were explained beyond doubt, what reason would we have for faith? If we can prove everything we believe, who needs belief?

In **John 20:24-29**, we read about Lord

Jesus and Doubting Thomas:

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail-marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Now, a week later, His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were locked, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and



Doubting Thomas.

put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Are we like Thomas, at least sometimes? Jesus lovingly guided Doubting Thomas toward becoming Believing Thomas.

Why do Catholics venerate the Mother of Jesus? What's special about Mary? *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: "Mary is truly 'Mother of God' since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself." (CCC #509)

The Catholic Church teaches also that Mary was sinless from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Anne – the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Why do Catholics believe this teaching? Trusting the Church, founded by Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we have always believed it as an article of faith.

Now, science is making discoveries pointing to the truth of the ancient teaching. Religion and science searching in harmony for truth, faith, and reason leading in the same direction – are these long-time hopes being fulfilled?

When two people have come to feel especially close to each other, they might say, "You have become a part

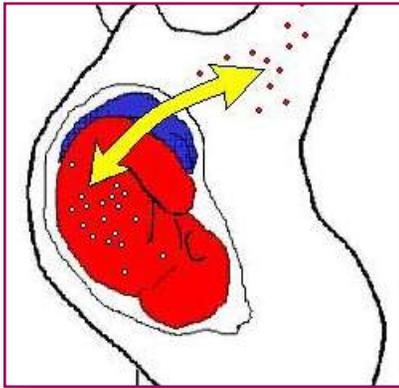


The Innocence - W. A. Bouguereau

of me." Between a mother and her child, it seems to be more than a mere expression.

For most of history, people have seen something special between mothers and their children. Poets, philosophers, and psychologists have written about mother love as a unique force. Today, scientists are discovering realities that, for thousands of years, were speculative.

In Greek mythology, a chimera was a grotesque beast – part lion, part goat, and part dragon or snake. In our time, scientists have discovered that one person's body may contain at least two different sets of DNA. Scientists call their discovery chimerism and microchimerism. *Scientific American*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Science News*, *Harvard Science Review*, and other scientific journals have published articles about it.



Microchimerism.

According to the article *Microchimerism: A New Concept* – featured online by the National Library of Medicine – “Microchimerism is the presence of cells from one individual in another genetically distinct individual. Pregnancy is the main cause of natural microchimerism through transplacental, bi-directional cell trafficking between mother and fetus.”

WHAT? Translation: During pregnancy, mother and child share some of their cells with each other.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary pulsated together. On the Church’s calendar, we celebrate their feasts together, two days in a row. The immaculate, sacred heart, and blood of the Son of God was beating and flowing in intimate union with the immaculate heart and blood of the Mother of God.

The blood of every pregnant mother circulates in inseparable union with the blood of her child or children growing in her womb, and the blood of

her child in her womb flows together and blends with the mother’s blood.

So intimate is the communion between mother and child that even birth does not biologically separate them completely. Cells of her newborn baby’s DNA remain within the mother’s body. Some scientists have reported children’s cells in their mothers’ bodies after decades, even after the mothers have died.

Think of your own biological mother. After she gave birth to you, she retained traces of your body in her own body. And scientists say we retain traces of our mothers’ bodies in ours. What a wondrous bond God designs between mother and child!

“Hail, Mary, full of grace... Holy Mary, Mother of God...” Ponder the wonder! If, after Mother Mary gave birth to Baby Jesus, DNA of the Son of God remained in Holy Mary’s body, then Mary’s heart must have been immaculate, right? Not divine, of course, but immaculate. How could it be otherwise?

Jesus Christ’s Divine Nature is pure holiness; His human nature is perfect and sinless and doesn’t mix with our fallen human nature, beginning with Original Sin and continuing with actual sins throughout our lives.

Mother Mary’s nature, though human, could not have been fallen in the way ours is fallen, prone to sin. Jesus redeemed her soul, as He redeems everyone’s soul, by sacrificing His Body and Blood. But, He redeemed His own Mother in a mysterious way

(pre-applying the merits of the actual crucifixion that took place in historical time) that kept her free of the stain of Original Sin and the taint of actual sin.

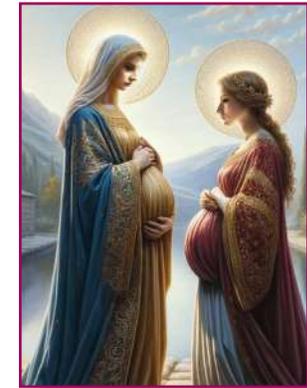
[Remember, Mary was not the only human being to come into existence without Original Sin. Adam and Eve did not have Original Sin either, until the fall from grace.]

With the Son of God’s DNA circulating in His Mother’s blood and remaining in her body after she gave birth to Emmanuel – God is with us – who could call Mary just another sinner like the rest of us? Who could refuse to honor Immaculate Mary, Mother of God? In light of such a great wonder, it’s a small wonder that the Church founded by her Son has always venerated Mary, the Mother of God.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly defined the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Just four years later, as if to confirm the dogma for doubters, Mary, appearing as Our Lady of Lourdes, said to little Saint Bernadette Soubirous, “**Je suis l’Immaculée Conception.**” (“**I am the Immaculate Conception.**”)



Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Mary and Elizabeth.

The Church’s ancient belief and perennial teaching that Mary was conceived free of Original Sin must be true

both naturally and super-naturally.

Many non-Catholic Christians, too, have recognized the unique, unblemished nature of Mary. English Protestant William Wordsworth, in his poem *The Virgin* (1822), described Mary as “our tainted nature’s solitary boast.”

Bishop William Stevens of the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in his sermon on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception years ago, called the Immaculate Conception “the most pure idea in the mind of God.”

The conception of Mary as immaculate in order to bear the Son of God – God embodied – for the redemption of sinners has had supernatural – scriptural and theological – appeal and power for 2,000 years. Modern science – reinforcing the ancient Church – adds natural evidence that the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, has a uniquely pure heart.

What would Doubting Thomas say?



Holy Family Seminary, Part 2

2500 Ashby Road, Overland, Missouri

by Weldon Tieken



Rev. James Lienert, MSF,
Graduation 1962.

In Part 1, we left off at the commencement exercise for the first seven graduates on May 26, 1961. They were from the freshman high school class of 1957.

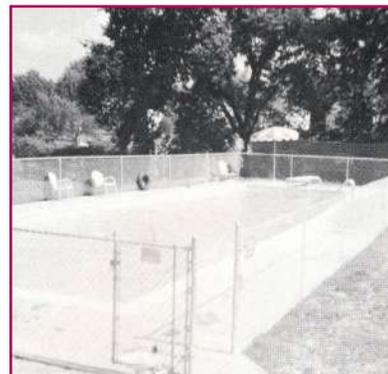
During the summer months of 1961, Rev. Lawrence Rindt, M.S.F. enclosed the backside of the bookstore, known as the canteen, and laid a patio inside. Work was also done on the roadway to the seminary by widening it, including the addition of an entrance and exit. A low wall with a pillar on each side was erected by Frater Richard Oberstar, M.S.F. On January 6, 1962, Rev. Edward

Matthews, M.S.F. was ordained by the Most Rev. Glennon P. Flavin, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. The ordination was the first one held in the chapel of Holy Family Seminary since it was built. February 4, 1962, was a great occasion for two of our priests to become teachers at the seminary, and both graduated from Saint Louis University. Rev. Herman Defler, M.S.F. received a Master in Education, and Rev. James Lienert, M.S.F. took his Master of Arts in Latin.

Rev. Edward Zaborowski, M.S.F., on January 6, 1963, was the second priest ordained in the



Rev. Herman Defler, MSF,
Graduation 1962.



Swimming Pool.

seminary chapel by Bishop Glennon Flavin.

Very Rev. John A. McDermott, M.S.F. was installed as rector in January 1963 by Rev. Henry Blistle, M.S.F., who was Superior General of the congregation and in Saint Louis from Rome on a canonical visit.

A swimming pool was added for recreational needs, along with a stone patio on the west side. The pool was used by the students and professed members of the congregation. It was also great to have the pool during the summer months because a few of the parishes from the area would have their altar boy picnics on the seminary grounds.

October 1966 saw the enlargement of the cemetery on the seminary grounds from the original plan of four graves to the availability for 70 graves. A statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was also placed in the center of the

new fenced in cemetery.

On December 12, 1966, the first Mass was celebrated in a chapel that was set up in the attic of the convent. There were five Spanish nuns of the Order of Oblates of Saint Martha residing in the convent, and their jobs were cooking and taking care of the laundry for the members of the congregation.

A tornado on Tuesday, January 24, 1967, struck in Saint Ann, Missouri. The school at Saint Kevin Parish was heavily damaged, and the seminary staff and students helped with some of the cleanup, including the salvaging of desks, books, and other teaching resources.

The seminary offered classrooms to Saint Kevin's pastor, Rev. James Flood, who willingly accepted. Six classrooms were set up. The gym was divided by a wall for two classrooms, the workshop had one classroom, the bookstore had



Gardener's House became the Convent.

two classrooms, and the college dormitory was also used for a classroom.

The Ritenour School District provided the additional classrooms. On May 27, 1967, a Mexican Fiesta was held on the seminary grounds. The Spanish nuns prepared a Mexican dinner which turned out to be a huge success. There were a variety of 29 booths, and the patrons of the seminary, seminarians, and other volunteers offered many hours of labor to make it a profitable event. Two other fiestas were held in 1968 and 1969.

On a historical note, the patrons of the seminary were always active in sponsoring events. They started out as a Mothers Club in 1959, but a few years later changed to a Patrons Club when people who didn't have students enrolled were also able to become members, including men. Their monetary contributions and service were greatly appreciated until the seminary closed.

In the summer of 1967, unused classrooms and dorms in the back building, known as Saint Mary's Hall, were transformed into private rooms. The third floor dorms in the main building underwent the same transformation.

Construction of Saint Joseph's Hall also began in the summer

of 1967, and it was completed in the spring of 1968. The building would be a combination workshop, garage, and storage area.

Romer Hall was a gymnasium, and construction of this facility also began in the summer of 1967. It would feature a basketball court, stage, kitchen, and several other rooms. The gym was named in honor of the Provincial of the Congregation at that time, Very Rev. Henry Romer, M.S.F., and it was blessed on May 30, 1968.

The gymnasium turned out to be a great addition to the campus, and it was used to have events inside when the weather was not favorable. Many social events, bingos, fiestas, dinners, patron sponsored events, and other celebrations were held there.

The summer of 1968 turned out to be a busy time with other projects too. All the existing



Back of Bookstore.

roads were repaved, including a new road around the lake to the cemetery and back to the main grounds. The gym received a new parking area, dusk to dawn lights were installed on the road to and around the lake, and an intercom system was added which connected the main building, gym, Saint Mary's Hall, workshop, and the bookstore.

February 1969 saw the completion of Lamping Hall, which was the enclosing of the swimming pool. The hall was named after

the contractor William Lamping who was hired for many other projects too, including the addition to the seminary in 1953, Saint Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Farmington, Missouri, the gymnasium, and Saint Joseph's Hall.

A grotto behind the convent in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes was completed in 1969. This was a special project by Frater Jerry Jekel which spanned a couple of years. +jMJ+

To be continued in the next issue.

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Pieta Votive Candles



This beautiful Pieta statue is in Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, and in the rectory are the offices of the North American Province of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. If you would like a 6-day votive candle lit for your family and your intentions, contact us at mprater@msf-america.org or 1-888-484-9945. Candles burn in a rack to the right of the statue. (The suggested donation is \$7.00.) Thank you and may God bless you.

Around the Province



Blessing the ground for a new water well.



Holy Week in New Braunfels.



Father Francois carries the cross.



Mary Martin and her exhibited wildflower quilt.



Around the Province

Mom and Dad of Father Joss celebrate 41 years of marriage.



Gifts for a newly ordained priest.



Artist spotlight: Lillian Ryan at her college art show.



Village of Andabizy finally has a clean water well!





JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE

Through the Eyes of Aunt Debbie

by Aunt Debbie

Greetings to the readers of *The Messenger!* My brother Baldy asked me to write this article for him. I'm the older sister, and although he is such a tease, he



Can we talk?

is still one of the joys of family life. *Did he pay me to say that?*

I can remember that since kindergarten, I wanted to get married and have kids. Well, that never happened. But in His infinite wisdom, God sent me nine nieces and nephews instead. So this is a look at family from an aunt's point of view. I have so many joys to celebrate!

Throughout my life, I felt like I was in heaven on earth when I

could spend time with my family, especially the kids. I was present for many special occasions like Baptism, First Holy Communion, weddings, Halloween, Easter, and Christmas. I also attended "The Bald Guy's Fishing School" and a couple of Eagle Scout ceremonies.

But mostly, I would just call and invite myself for a visit because I needed my family



Extended family (partially).

fix. We played games like spades, hand and foot, Tri-Ominos, King's Corner, Uno, Trivial Pursuit, and many more board games. We also spent time with my arts and



All Hallows' Eve!

crafts interests like painting china, scrapbooking, making jewelry, and rubber stamping. There were also food traditions at Aunt Debbie's: cinnamon rolls for Sunday breakfast and lasagna for Charles' birthday over the July 4th holiday visits.

I'm pretty sure the kids felt my love just as I felt theirs from an early age to the present day. I see that love passed onto the next generation as they are a close knit group who stay in touch. I find joy in seeing how the older cousins spend time with the younger ones. Seeing a young man over six feet tall spend one-on-one time with a four year old cousin warms my heart!

After spending time with them as children, my greatest joy, as an aunt, is to see my nieces and nephews in action as adults. Each one, in their own way, brings a gift to the family. It could be hosting Thanksgiving every year by opening the doors to over 28 family members for the entire weekend! It could be sending

one cousin across the country to spend time with his aunt and uncle and cousins in California. It could be offering a place for



Aunt Debbie with some characters.

the entire family to get together for a week so the siblings can catch up and the cousins can get closer and have fun together.

When the entire family gets together, each sibling brings food for several meals for the whole group. It could be a niece and her husband taking an old aunt out to lunch to celebrate her birthday. Or a nephew (or niece) and family would travel from Texas or Minnesota to visit that old aunt to enjoy quality time. These are just a few examples of the way this family brings joy into my life.

Life is short. Even if separated by distance, try to get together. Count your blessings, count on God in the difficult times, and thank Him for the good times. Take time to revel in the joys of family life, and God bless your family! 



EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

Holy Family Eucharistic Celebration

by John Torres (edits by Mario Ortiz)



The Eucharistic Jesus.

Holy Family Catholic Church in New Braunfels, Texas, held its Eucharistic Celebration on Friday, November 3, 2023. The event focused on the Eucharistic Jesus and the need to continue to grow and nurture our individual relationships with Our Eucharistic Lord.

This event began at the church where Father Francois -- accompanied by acolytes, altar servers, and select members of the Eucharistic Celebration Committee -- processed with the Blessed Sacrament from the church to the parish hall while singing "Bendito, Bendito" in Spanish ("Blessed, Blessed" in English).

The Eucharistic Celebration continued in the parish hall with

the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration of the Lord opened with traditional hymns in Latin, followed by music and prayers in Spanish led by the Holy Family Grupo Oración.

Adoration transitioned to English with a Litany of the Blessed Sacrament from the *Diary of Saint Faustina* and the Father Alphonsus Liguori Prayer to the Blessed Sacrament. This was followed with time for silent adoration.

The highlight of the program occurred when Father Francois carried the Blessed Sacrament in



Down in Adoration Falling.



The Divine Praises.

procession with the acolytes around the hall, while Gregorian Chants played in the background and two narrators offered prayers in both English and Spanish. Finally, Father Francois concluded adoration with the Divine Praises & Reposition, and then processed with the Blessed Sacrament back to the church.

An informal portion of the event included a welcome to all attendees and a summary of why the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requested the three-year celebration of the Eucharist. Additionally, we had a display featuring 20 Eucharistic Miracle Exhibits, 10 in Spanish and 10 in English.

The informal part of the Eucharistic Celebration offered attendees an opportunity to view the Eucharistic Miracle Exhibits prior to and after the Eucharistic Procession & Adoration. The evening concluded with light refreshments and fellowship.

"Can we have something like this again?"

"What a wonderful evening!"
"Estuvo muy bonito!" ("It was very beautiful!")

These are just some of the comments received from those who attended. The Eucharistic Celebration Committee did a wonderful job in preparing the bilingual event, and we received many compliments from those in attendance. About 130 people participated in the four-hour program. +jMj+



Taking Jesus to the streets.





WAIT FOR ME!

Real Love Waits

by Justine DiCarlo

"I'm saving myself for marriage." — Five words that have the potential to send a man running, or at least that's what I thought. Prior to meeting my husband, I often lacked the confidence to say these words aloud. I questioned how serious a relationship needed to be in order to share this part of myself, and at the same time, wondered if he would even desire me because of it.

The crazy part is that I've always believed that sex is meant for marriage, that it truly is special and worth the wait. But during college, I allowed the world and its lies to get inside my head. My advice? The sooner a person realizes how untrue these lies are, the easier the dating world will be. If a man cannot respect you and, more specifically, your morals, he isn't worth your time. And yes, it really is that simple.

I remember waking up one particular morning in college, and the guy I was currently dating had spent the night. We went out to the bars and partied the night before, we had done some physical things, and I'm not proud of it. I remember thinking:

what in the world am I doing? I was partaking in what the world designated as the hookup culture, and it wasn't something I really wanted.

Sleeping with the Enemy

What the amount of temptation sleeping in the same bed led to was so unnecessary, and honestly, quite avoidable. Lying in bed with someone you are attracted to can make for a very intimate setting, and it certainly won't make protecting your purity any easier and neither will partying. It didn't for me. I was essentially setting myself up for failure. And on top of that, I remember feeling such shame. My shame led me to tears, but at that time, I didn't understand why.

When we're physical with someone, we become attached. With the hookup culture, being



The Chastity Project.

physical comes first. There's no courting. No true dating. I didn't even truly know these men. We never discussed our faith, our morals, or anything of true significance. It was all superficial. And by participating in partying and the sleepovers, my actions weren't lining up with my beliefs. I would get attached to these men because I had shared myself in ways that were meant completely for my husband.

Needless to say, the relationship didn't work. And this type of relationship didn't happen just once for me. It happened multiple times. Over and over again. And each time I kept wondering why wasn't this working? Why aren't any of these men living up to the standards I desire? If we keep doing the same thing, we cannot expect something to change.

Living the Lie

I used to be late for work daily. I'd tell myself every morning I was going to be on time, but then 30 minutes into drinking my coffee, I would put off getting ready. This would lead to leaving my house later than planned, which would then result in my late arrival. Again. We have to make changes if we want things to change.

So, what was the shame I experienced throughout my college dating years? God wanted more for me. That guilt was His conviction, and through this conviction I learned He had a better plan for me. He knew this wasn't what I desired. It wasn't the type of relationship He had placed on my heart.

I was a girl who wanted to be sought after, to be treated respectfully, a girl who wanted acceptance. God loves us just the way we are, but too much to leave us there ... Can you believe that the Creator of the entire universe cared enough about me to point me in the right direction? And He can do the exact same for you. I thank God every day for picking me up off of the ground and saying, "NO," to the men I thought were worth dating.



Beauty of Marriage.

Lowering the Standards

I think it's important to mention that because of these past mistakes, the heartache induced by them took years to heal. That life never, ever made me genuinely happy. It not only lowered my self-esteem, but my standards for dating as well. And the more I lowered my standards, the more I settled for men who God did not want for me. Yes,

God can make good from all things, and He most certainly did for me, but that doesn't mean I don't have regrets.

I could have prevented so much heartache from happening. It took time for me to grasp that there were actually good men out there. I had to learn to say no to guys who didn't share or respect my morals. There were certainly moments of loneliness and times of doubt. It wasn't easy, but it was in these moments where I grew. I pressed on and held onto my faith. I knew God was calling me to marriage, and that He would get me there in time.

Here is what I'm certain of — if I'm a Christian girl, the man I'm dating should know this, which means there is no need to explain my virginity. If we are Christians, we follow what the Church teaches. We follow what His Word says. ***Sex is strictly bound for marriage between a husband and wife.***

We are to practice chastity. Do not allow yourself or anyone to put

your purity at risk. I promise you, when we remain faithful to our God, even when the world makes us feel rejected and undesirable because of it (and trust me, they will), God will reward us. He will give us the very best, His best, and it will be better than we ever imagined.

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Justine DiCarlo, a graduate from Indiana University, is a 20-something Catholic gal who lived through the hookup culture and made it to the other side. She has a passion for cleaning up the mess that is the world of dating by sharing her own heartbreaking experiences of her past single years. Her hope is for other women to avoid her same mistakes and to focus and center their lives on what God truly desires for His beloved daughters. She is the wife to a Catholic, God-loving man who inspires her to participate in the path of holiness to which we are called. +JM+

Thank You & God Bless You to everyone who made a financial gift to date in 2024. We, the priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, extend our deep gratitude to all our benefactors. You are remembered in our prayers.



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Five Demon Generals of Satan

According to Exorcist Father Chad Ripperger

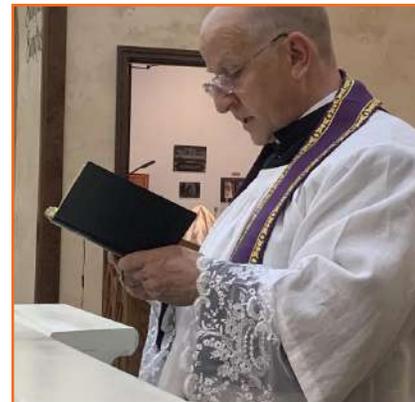
1. The first of the five generals is Baal, and he is the demon in charge of sexual impurity, fornication, and adultery.
2. The second general is Asmodeus, and he is the demon of sodomy and homosexuality in men.
3. The third general is Leviathan and this is the demon of lesbianism, but in its masculinized form (sometimes referred to as "Butch").
4. The fourth general is Lilith, the demon of lesbianism in its feminine form.
5. The fifth general is Baphomet, the demon of child sacrifice and abortion.

In the Bible, Saint Paul gives us a partial list of grave sins. *"Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor boy prostitutes, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God."*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Father Chad Ripperger is a priest and an exorcist of the Society of the Most Sorrowful Mother, known as the Doloran Fathers. The community is a semi-contemplative society of priests who work in cooperation with the local bishop to provide assistance to those in most spiritual need. For more information about the Doloran Fathers, please visit www.dolorans.org.

Photograph: © Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry. +JM+



Father Chad Ripperger.



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.

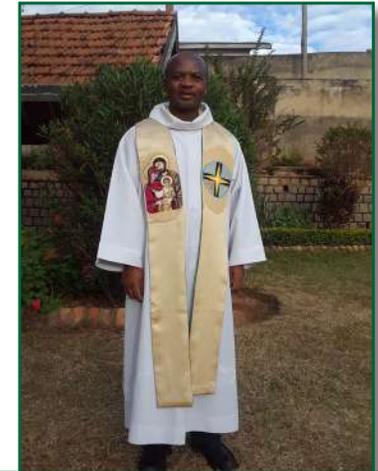
Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.
Provincial Superior, North American Province

Man of God: Priest Forever

In this Year of Our Lord 2024, Rev. Benoit "Father Ben" Fidele Ramanandraibe, M.S.F. celebrates his 20th anniversary of ordination as a Priest of Jesus Christ. We thank God for Father Ben and all of our priests and brothers, and we beseech Him to send us many more.

If you would like to send a Tribute Gift in honor of Father Ben, please send it to 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412.

Thank you and God bless your family!



Fr. Ben Ramanandraibe, M.S.F.
20 years



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God bless your family! +JM+



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See page 4.



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