



The PILGRIM

Vol. 12, No. 3 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

March 2001

MESSAGE of 2/25/2000

Dear Children! This is a time of grace. That is why pray, pray, pray until you comprehend God's love for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(A copy of a message claimed to be given by the Blessed Virgin Mary to Marija Pavlovic Lunetti on November 25, 2000. The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) upholds the final decision of the Catholic Church as to the authenticity of this Medjugorje message.)

A PRAYER



Dearest and sweetest Jesus! Here I am at the table of Eucharist. As I receive You Lord, You receive me in my littleness.

Take my mind that I may think as You do. Fill it with wisdom and understanding.

Take my body that it may reflect Your presence to others.

Take my heart that it may give Your love to every person I am near.

Take my hands that they may lay upon the sick and those needing Your healing touch.

Fill me with Your compassion that through me You may touch the deepest most part of another's life.

Fill me with forgiveness, that another will know Your gifts.

Fill me with Your forgiveness for all that I have failed in that I and others will know Your intense Mercy.

***That You may be in me and with me through Your Holy Spirit forever and ever, my Lord and my God,
AMEN.***

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

GO TO SAINT JOSEPH!

I am so fond of him I simply cannot start or finish my

day's work without my last word and my last thought being of him. Saint Joseph will remain my special patron throughout my life and when the time for reckoning sounds for me, I want him to be the first to lend me a helping hand.

(Pope John XXIII, THE MARYFAITHFUL, JULY - AUGUST 1988)

SAINT JOSEPH - PATRON of ADOPTIVE PARENTS and ADOPTED CHILDREN

Saint Joseph, chosen by God, became the spouse of Mary, Mother of Jesus, Son of the eternal father.

To Saint Joseph, Divine Providence entrusted the care of Mary's child, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Saint Joseph responded to the divine plan as provider and protector, guide and teacher of Jesus in his infancy and youth.

It is most fitting, then, to honor Saint Joseph, foster father of Jesus, as special guardian of every adoptive home. Saint Joseph is friend and patron of both adoptive parents and adopted children.

Prayer: Dear Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary and foster father of Jesus, we honor you as guardian of adoptive homes. Be present to each family at all times, especially in time of temporal or spiritual need. Let prudence and love rule every decision and action, for God's honor and glory and the benefit of the child (children) ___Insert Name (s)___ entrusted to us.

"The PILGRIM" for March 2001 is dedicated to "Our Lady of Calm Thoughts." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ."

Through your powerful intercession, dear Saint Joseph, may adoptive parents and adopted children grow in mutual love and in the imitation of Jesus, your foster Son.
Amen

(kindly given to us by a nun)

2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE – THANK YOU



The healing gifts of the Holy Spirit were at work during our 10th Annual Retreat Conference. We cannot thank the speakers, Father John Hampsch, CMF, Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, and Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, enough for allowing themselves to be used in such a powerful way.

All room reservations at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton were filled with spill over rooms taken at the Holiday Inn, Cherry Hill. Over 15 priests heard Confessions, and hundreds spent time before the Blessed Sacrament. So many healings occurred during this blessed weekend. We thank all who participated for their openness to the graces of this weekend and 3 day extension.

Father John McFadden blessed the facility and the participants, and spoke on the importance of the silence of the weekend. Father DeGrandis opened the events with Holy Mass and homily, as well as his talents in the seminars and workshops during the 3 day extension. Father Hampsch was the main celebrant for Holy Mass, a healing Holy Mass, on Saturday. Father Michael Semana sang a Healing Sunday Holy Mass. He also held a healing concert on Saturday night followed by laying on of hands for healing. Father Jim Sauchelli joined us to help keep things running smoothly.

Music for the weekend was again provided by “REFUGE” led by Pete Maszczak. Al Barbarino provided the music for the 3-day extension. Marty Rotella assisted with the Youth Tracks. Vinny Flynn assisted with leading the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

And, how can we not thank the nearly 120 volunteers

that helped to make this program possible. Their help to us cannot be measured by anything on this earth. We found ourselves praying for you all before, during and now after this wonderful event.

God bless you all, and the fruits of this conference will be your spiritual and personal affirmation.

Keith and Kathleen Werner, Co-directors

E-MAIL from FATHER HAMPSCH

Dear Keith and Kathleen,

This is meant to be just a quickie note by e-mail to tell you precious folks how overwhelmingly thankful I am to you and to the Lord for the privilege of having been allowed to participate as a speaker during the first three days of this year's conference-retreat at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. Sister Margaret and I were exhausted when we finally arrived back here in Los Angeles this morning (after spending most of the night sitting in the Philadelphia airport because of an unexpected plane delay). But the travel inconveniences were trivial when compared to the joy of witnessing such a remarkable outpouring of grace on the 800 people who attended the conference. (It was tragic that so many people from the overflow crowd had to be turned away for lack of room and because of fire department regulations.)

As you know, my itinerant preaching has brought me to hundreds of major events throughout the world (in 56 countries). But I can honestly say that this event was one of the most spiritually enriching events I have participated in during the 49 years of my priesthood.

It was inspiring to see the intense spiritual hunger of the attendees, with so many availing themselves of the opportunity of 24-hour-a-day adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The confessions were like tidal waves of awesome miracles of grace. It was inspiring to see persons praying in the confessional lines while waiting to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (I had penitents coming at 3:30 in the morning, after patiently waiting for hours to confess!). And the fervor that is so common among charismatics was patent at every turn during the weekend.

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the PFMC recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the alleged Marian apparitions, locutions and related messages at, and to the recipients from, Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as all other private revelations, rests with the Holy See, to whose judgment we willingly submit. We give total allegiance to our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and its Magisterium, particularly Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

While those presenters who work with the PFMC are selected for their personal qualifications and commitment to the Church, their comments and presentations are those of individual Catholics and no endorsement by ecclesiastical authority is to be presumed.

Thank you both for your generosity, for your zealous and indefatigable dedication in organizing the conference, and for inviting me to participate again next year as a speaker. I look forward with eager anticipation to that next conference. May the Lord bless you and your co-workers with his hundredfold reward. Be sure to thank your beloved Bishop Nicholas for his gracious support of this grace-flooded event.

Gratefully, prayerfully, and lovingly, in Jesus' Spirit,

**John H. Hampsch, C.M.F., Claretian Tape Ministry,
P. O. Box 19100, Los Angeles, CA 90019-0100**

2001 PILGRIMAGES



Have you ever wanted to go on a pilgrimage, and never treated yourself to a beautiful faith filled experience? This year is your year to spiritually grow through traveling with the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center. All of our pilgrimages are so blessed with a priest spiritual director, and a Center coordinator who allows the priest to fully be priest while traveling, and yet gives assurance and security to the pilgrims themselves.

Don't deny yourself any more. Call us. We will help you in every way. And once you have said "yes" to traveling with us, the joy of anticipation and preparation will surprise you.

All of our pilgrimages this year are very reasonably priced. We have worked very hard to assure you the very most in each itinerary for your money. Remember, we are not a travel agent...All of our work with pilgrimages is ministry for us.

The year 2001 will be an exciting time for PFMC pilgrimages as nearly every month has a new opportunity to see the world through the eyes of Our Lady. All pilgrim groups will leave from Philadelphia or Newark if at all possible.

Pilgrimage travel insurance is available for all PFMC coordinated pilgrimages. We always recommend that pilgrims carry travel insurance.

An English speaking guide will support every pilgrimage. Land transportation is in comfortable air-conditioned motor coaches. Unless otherwise noted, breakfast and supper is included so pilgrims do not have to worry about finding reasonably priced and nutritious meals.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEMINARS on the DEVELOPMENT and HISTORY of CHRIST'S CHURCH	6
THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP MEETING at EPIPHANY HOUSE, A NIGHT OF PRAYER, DAY of RETREAT with FATHER JAY BOWDEN – MARCH 22, 2001, CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOLING CURRICULUM and BOOK FAIR, FATHER DeGRANDIS, S.S.J. - RETREAT in TAMPA FLORIDA, WHO'S MINDING THE STORE?	6
OUR LADY of the MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT, ADORATION - TODAY'S BATTLEFRONT, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE and RESPOND - STAY on the MAILING LIST	8
WHERE ARE THE FAITHFUL? FOR the FAMILY - LEARN to LISTEN	8
DON'T DELAY IT - BAPTIZING BABY	10
IT'S A SECRET - TELL IT!	12
FRIENDSHIP, TAPESTRY of LIFE	13
CHAIN of GOLD, THE ONLY PATH to PEACE IS PARDON, FORGIVENESS	14
MEANING of BEATIFICATION	14
THE HAPPINESS of the SAINTS	16
THE ROCKS, VOCATION DEPARTMENT, SEMINARIANS and MARY	16
HOLY MASS TIMES	18
NAZARETH HOUSE, PRAYER to KNOW ONE'S VOCATION – K of C, PRAYER for VOCATIONS, WHO'S A WHO? ARE YOU?	18
CONTRACEPTION AND THE REJECTION OF GOD, WOODEN BOWL	20
A PRAYER for MY LIFE, A CHILD'S VIEW of GOD	21
BAPTISM and GODPARENTS - A SPIRITUAL FORCE	22
PILGRIMS OF FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC), RECURRING EVENTS HELD in the GREAT ROOM at EPIPHANY HOUSE of the PFMC:	23
BULLETIN NOTICES FOR PFMC AREA EVENTS	24
PRESS BULLETIN #159 – 2/26/01	25
REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 2/25/01 ERROR! BOOKM PRAYER to SAINT THERESE, THE LITTLE FLOWER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED	27
CALENDARS: AROUND the PFMC AREA, MARIAN SHRINE or PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATIONS, INTERNET	28

We hope that you will review the following destinations, dates, brief itineraries, and, especially, our very competitive prices.

We will be using regularly scheduled airlines. The only catch is that you are asked to sign up no later than 45 days ahead. Airlines try to recoup their seats at 60 days. They become very aggressive at 45 days. Seats without names generally have to be returned. Reservations after 45 days will be taken with full payment and attempts will be made to find seats with the pilgrimage group.

It is very important that pilgrims sign up as soon as the spark of your prayer leads you to go on a specific

pilgrimage. Travel or pilgrimage insurance will greatly assist in recovering costs if there is a problem that arises after initial sign-up.

FATIMA

APRIL 17 (Tuesday) to **APRIL 25** (Wednesday)



The PFMC Coordinator is Lynn Rudzenski. Father Jay Bowden of Epiphany Parish in Brick, NJ is Spiritual Director. We fly TAP from Newark to Lisbon with a day tour of Lisbon and its magnificent Cathedral on the way home. There will be a stop with Holy Mass at the shrine of the Eucharistic Miracle at Santarem. In Fatima, we will walk the Stations of the Cross where the angel brought

the children Eucharist, enjoy a tour of the village of Austral with Holy Mass at the little church where the children were baptized and see the candlelight procession at night.

There will be a one day pilgrimage to Coimbra where Sister Lucy lives in the Carmelite Convent. Holy Mass will be celebrated. There will also be a full day excursion to the walled city of Obidos, and on to Alcobaca and the magnificent Monastery of Batalha. Then on to the little ocean village of Nazare where the only original statue of Our Lady nursing the Baby Jesus can be viewed.

COST: \$1299 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

A TASTE of CENTRAL EUROPE

GERMANY/CZECH REPUBLIC/HUNGARY

MAY 22 (Tuesday) to **MAY 31** (Thursday)

Visit Berlin, Dresden, Prague (Holy Infant of Jesus: Sto. Nino), Prachatice (birthplace of Saint John Neumann), Budapest with a Danube River Cruise.

COST: \$2,150 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

IRISH TRADITION - IRELAND

JUNE 18 (Monday) to **JUNE 27** (Wednesday)

Visit Shannon, Cliffs of Moher, Burren County, Galway, Croagh Patrick, Our Lady of Knock, Dublin, Waterford, Killarney, Limerick and Clonmacnoise.

COST: \$2,175 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

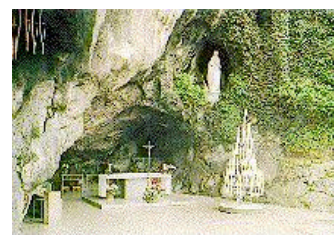
LOURDES, PARIS and NEVERS

JULY 13 (Friday) to **JULY 20** (Friday)



Fly with PFMC Pilgrimage Coordinators Vince and Livia Nocella and Spiritual Director, Father Jim McDonald from Bishop Eustice High School, on Air France to Paris and then to Pau, stay for three nights in Lourdes and then three nights in Paris. In Lourdes, visit the Miraculous Baths with Holy Mass at the Grotto where our Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette in 1858.

Tour Paris and visit the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal on Rue du Bac. This is where Saint Catherine Laboure lies incorrupt and where she received the Miraculous Medal. Visit the Eiffel Tower, Sacre Coeur (Basilica of the Sacred Heart), Notre Dame, and much more. There will be a day trip from Paris to the Convent of Saint Gildard in Nevers, France, where Saint Bernadette lies incorrupt.



COST: \$1899 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes. Single Supplement \$299

7 NIGHTS MEDJUGORJE, 2 NIGHTS on the ADRIATIC SEA, 1 NIGHT in ROME

AUGUST 8 (Wednesday) to **AUGUST 18** (Saturday)



Join PFMC Pilgrimage Coordinator Mike McColgan on this wonderful Summer pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. We will fly with either Alitalia or Swiss Air into Split, Croatia, and return via Dubrovnik, Croatia. This pilgrimage is ideal for teachers and families with children in school.

Stay in a very clean and comfortable private home very close to the Church of Saint James. After visiting Cross Mountain, Apparition Hill, and the visionaries, participating in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Oasis of Peace, and full rich 7 nights in Medjugorje, you will travel by bus to the sea town of Makarska. Spend two relaxing nights on this hidden Riviera of Europe. Swim all day in the Adriatic Sea.

Free time in Dubrovnik before departure for Rome.

Visit the Basilica of Saint Blaise and climb the ancient walls of the City. Shop in specialty shops or sit and enjoy a cup of coffee where sailboats visit.

1 night overnight in Rome – evening free

COST: \$2299 (Double Occupancy) including taxes.

Single supplement \$299

JUST MEDJUGORJE with OVERNIGHT in ROME

NOVEMBER 9 to NOVEMBER 18



Kathleen is the Pilgrimage Coordinator for this pilgrimage. Father Joseph Romanoski, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in South Amboy, NJ is the Spiritual Director. This is a pilgrimage for those who want the ultimate in spending quiet time just in Medjugorje. The family home and pilgrim house is one block from Saint James Church.

You will have an English speaking guide, private transfer bus, and a full spiritual experience. Your 7 days will be spent visiting the visionaries, daily Holy Mass, Confessions, climbing Apparition Hill, and climbing Cross Mountain. Because this is the more quiet time of the year in Medjugorje, you will find plenty of time to spend in quiet meditation, and enjoy the presence of Our Lady.

We will fly on Alitalia to and from Rome, Italy, and transfer to Croatian Air to and from Split, Croatia. Transfer to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina is by guided motor coach. On return you will fly out of Split on November 17 and spend the night in Rome. Supper will be in a local restaurant near the hotel. Free time in the evening will allow you to see Rome by night, and in the early morning.

All taxes, both Croatian and Italian, are included.

COST: \$1499 (Double Occupancy) INCLUSIVE

Kathleen Werner and Pilgrimage Volunteer Staff

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEMINARS on the DEVELOPMENT and HISTORY of CHRIST'S CHURCH

Dean Pulcini is leading Wednesday night seminars on "DEFENDING YOUR FAITH" in the Great Room of Epiphany House from 7 PM to 9 PM.

He offers a basic understanding of his Catholic faith in comparison to and contrasted with Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

These interactive seminars help students to grasp clearly what the Church authentically teaches and aid in dispelling misinformation, misunderstanding, and myths.

Persons of other faiths interested in learning about Catholicism are invited to attend as well.

With a Master's degree in Sacred Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Cromwell, CT. Scripture, Morality, and Liturgy Dean has plenty of background for these seminars.

On line, Dean hosts a chat room founded to address questions about the Catholic faith.

Active in music ministry, Dean leads the choral group VOYAGE. He has composed hundreds of pieces of music, some of them being accepted for publication. He has produced music albums on tape and CD.

Dean is certified as a Psychiatric Social Worker in the State of New Jersey. For nearly 12 years, he has worked in Camden County, NJ, with homeless persons suffering from mental illnesses.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

These seminars run from 7 PM to 9 PM on Wednesday nights. Free will offering baskets are out.

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President / Editor: Kathleen Werner,
Vice-President / Publisher: Keith Werner

Secretary: Fay Ramos, Treasurer: Dot Lyons
Communications – Bernadette Smutko,

Books and Religious Articles: Vince and Livia Nocella
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Eucharistic Adoration: Florence Mastercola, Pro-Life: Sam Berger
Typing Team: Sam Berger, Pat DiMaria and others

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Father Jim Sauchelli, Father Brendan Williams, Father John McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, Father Glenn Hartman, Father Joseph Szolack, as well as many of Mary's other beloved priests from the Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Camden, Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses. Father Hartman is reviewing every issue.

Father Joseph Szolack, szolack@camdendiocese.org, Vocations Director, Diocese of Camden, advises all who are discerning vocations.

PRINTERS: Jim Toudy, Brian James (856) 829-3787

OFFICE HELP, ASSEMBLY, LABELS and MAILING: Too many wonderful pilgrims and volunteers to mention them all by name.

Suggested offering is \$5 per night. The PFMC display room and library will be open.

If you plan to attend, please call (856) 768-9228. These seminars look at ethics, morality and the obligation of fidelity to Christ.

THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP MEETING at EPIPHANY HOUSE



A prayer group meets in the Epiphany House Great Room from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM on Thursdays. This prayer group focuses on Marian Prayer. It is Charismatic, and prays for Healing. All are most welcome.

A NIGHT OF PRAYER

JOIN TOGETHER and CONSECRATE YOURSELF to the SACRED HEART of JESUS and the IMMACULATE HEART of MARY

Starting on the First Friday of March, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Moorestown, NJ, there will be Holy Mass for the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9 PM. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Eucharistic procession and the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Confession and silent prayer, etc. until midnight.



After Midnight on First Friday and normally on First Saturday, there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Mass for the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Celebrant will normally be Father Casimir Milewski. Try to make this beautiful time with Our Lord and His Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary.

This routine will be continued on the First Friday and First Saturday of each month in coordination with The Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima.

DAY of RETREAT with FATHER JAY BOWDEN – MARCH 22, 2001

Father Jay Bowden, Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Brick, NJ, will hold another day of SILENT

The PILGRIM

RETREAT at the PFMC. It will begin at 9 AM and will end about 4 PM on Thursday, March 22, 2001.

Father has done days of retreat for us and has been active in the PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCES, as well as been a Spiritual Advisor since our first pilgrimage. Father loves Our Lady, and will be leading a pilgrimage to Fatima for us in April. This day of Silent Retreat and Prayer will give you a chance to step back and enter into silence and reflection during these first days of LENT. Father will offer the Sacrament of Penance / Reconciliation / Confession.

Please join us. The suggested donation or “Love Offering” for the day is \$10. A soup, bread and beverage lunch will be available. You may bring your own brown bag lunch if you prefer.

Call us at 856-768-9228 to make a reservation, send a reservation note by mail, or fax your reservation to 856-768-9428.

CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOLING CURRICULUM and BOOK FAIR

Date: Saturday, April 21st, 2001 - 10 AM to 4 PM

Place: Mater Ecclesiae Mission, 261 Cross Keys Road, Berlin, NJ.

Hosted by: “Chaplet” - A Catholic Home School Support Group. Booksellers Curriculum providers and Catholic Colleges represented, as well as interesting speakers.

Cost: \$15 per person at door - Reduced rate for couples. No children under 14 allowed.

Call: Diane Toler at (856) 4299-4893 or contact chaplet2@juno.com

FATHER DeGRANDIS, S.S.J. - RETREAT in TAMPA FLORIDA

Date: April 25, 2001

Place: Tampa Airport Hilton, Tampa, Florida

Call 813-877-6688 for all details and to register.

WHO'S MINDING the STORE?

I went to church the other day to free my soul from sin.

V. Pray for us, O Virgin Immaculate, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

R. That the Eucharistic Kingdom of Jesus Christ may come among us! (Saint Peter Julian Eymard)

(source: Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament)

ADORATION - TODAY'S BATTLEFRONT

Everyday seems to bring news of another catastrophe, most often man-made. In spite of all the hoopla about human rights, and about creating a new and better world, our problems seem to be getting bigger and bigger, and further removed from solution than ever before.

In the face of such human problems, it might seem futile, maybe even slightly stupid and infantile, to compare them with another deeper problem that never makes the headlines.

But I recently came across a man who does just that, with telling logic. In his fine book *God's Life In Us* Jean Danielou, Jesuit, Cardinal, and sound theologian, wrote: "Today, adoration has become one of the most urgent battlefronts."

Compared to the cryingly urgent necessity of combating the evils that surround us, the need to adore God does not seem urgent, nor for that matter even relevant. But in a world that tries to solve its problems without God, as ours is trying to do today, adoration lies at the very heart of the matter.

(by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen)

OUR LADY of the MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Virgin Immaculate, perfect lover of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we ask you to obtain for us the graces we need to become true adorers of our Eucharistic God. Grant us, we beg of you, to know Him better, to love Him more, and to center our lives around the Eucharist, that is, to make our whole life a constant prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Amen.

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE and RESPOND - STAY ON the MAILING LIST

We do need to hear from you in writing at least once a year in order to keep you on our mailing list. So, **if you haven't written us a note asking to stay on the list, please do so this month.**

There is no "subscription" fee. We do ask for free will donations to support "**The PILGRIM**" and the operations of the **PFMC**.

If you know someone who would enjoy the "**The PILGRIM**," please ask them to contact us at the address printed in the box on page 5 or near the mailing label on the last page.

<http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>

Cardinal Danielou writes: "If the planning of the human city fails to embody adoration, if the city is built without God, it will not merely be a religious city, but an inhuman city."

That makes a lot of sense. To the extent that God is given a place in human affairs, to that extent will we find deep and lasting solutions to our problems.

Father Charles Coulter, Columban Father, whose sharp editorial inspired this article writes: "The need to adore God arises from a deep realization of our complete dependence of Him, and an awareness of our inability to cope with life without Him."

(Newsletter, Issue No. 167, Nocturnal Adoration Society.)

WHERE ARE THE FAITHFUL?

I offer the viewpoint of a faithful Catholic who has known and observed many activist priests and the near-destruction of the Roman Catholic Church during the past ten years.

As the 1960's began, pews were packed every Sunday except for the very earliest Masses. Today, half-empty churches greet many Masses.

What happened?

Where did the faithful fly away to?

The intervening fact is the manner in which Vatican II was implemented. Activist priests took the lead in that implementation. A worship service that has provided a distinctly Catholic setting for profound mediation and intimate communion with God gave way to a poor imitation of a Protestant service.

Dignity, sometimes simple decency, went out the window. Untrained and usually not especially talented teen-agers strummed guitars and sang doggerel; the girls often wore miniskirts on the altar and when they sat down in front of the congregation sometimes made an even more distracting show of themselves.

Gregorian chant, Bach and other serious music considered by musicologists to be among man's most inspired musical offerings in worship of God were deemed no longer suited to the Catholic worship service.

Communicants lined up as they might in a cafeteria, no longer dropping to their knees to receive Our Lord.

Activist priests, heady on their triumphs, launched tirades from the pulpits that could have come right out

of speaker's manuals for liberal and radical political organizations. In fact, many were "canned" homilies.

Faithful Catholics, their worship service shattered, their beautiful moments of communion demolished by pathetic hymn-singing and guitar-twanging, and in many cases their political views denounced from the pulpit, started staying away from Mass in droves.

That is how we progressed from packed pews to half-empty churches. Father Day's prescription calls for more of the medicine that put the church in its present weakened condition.

The question Catholics face today is: Where do we go from here?

Father Day revealed his priorities when he wrote in contempt that "clearly progressive statements ... have fallen on deaf ears. Believers are so preoccupied with their personal salvations that they become annoyed when reminded of the social dimensions of their faith."

Attention to personal salvation is the first legitimate concern of Christians. If each of us seeking salvation improves our lives, elevating the quality by following Christian precepts, many of the goals sought by Father Day will be achieved.

Americans have historically shown great concern for the poor and oppressed, about whom Father Day agonizes. The Americans impulse to favor the underdog lives today. No more generous people exist on the face of the earth.

The trouble is that activist priests attempt to hitch this powerful engine of American sympathy for the poor and oppressed to a specific political bandwagon. These priests think they clutch the Holy Grail of political truth, and they attempt to force its contents down the gullets of the faithful.

(THE MARY FAITHFUL July-August, 1988)

FOR the FAMILY - LEARN to LISTEN

A STORY YOU WON'T FORGET

Midnight phone calls stir a mother's heart. We all know what it's like to get that phone call in the middle of the night. This night was no different. Jerking up to the ringing summons, I focused on the red, illuminated numbers of my clock. Midnight! Panicky thoughts filled my sleep-dazed mind as I grabbed the receiver.

“Hello?”

My heart pounded, I gripped the phone tighter and eyed my husband, who was now turning to face my side of the bed. “Mama?” The voice answered. I could hardly hear the whisper over the static. But my thoughts immediately went to my daughter. When the desperate sound of a young crying voice became clear on the line, I grabbed for my husband and squeezed his wrist. “Mama, I know it's late. But don't . . . don't say anything until I finish. And before you ask, yes I've been drinking. I nearly ran off the road a few miles back and . . .

“I drew in a sharp, shallow breath, released my husband and pressed my hand against my forehead. Sleep still fogged my mind, and I attempted to fight back the panic. Something wasn't right. “I got so scared. All I could think of was how it would hurt you if a policeman came to your door and said I'd been killed. I want . . . to come home. I know running away was wrong. I know you've been worried sick. I should have called you days ago but I was afraid . . . afraid . .

Staying on the line, sobs of deep-felt emotion flowed from the receiver and poured into my heart. Immediately I pictured my daughter's face in my mind, and my fogged senses seemed to clear, “I think.”

“No! Please let me finish! Please!” she pleaded, not so much in anger, but in desperation. I paused and tried to think what to say. Before I could go on, she continued. “I'm pregnant, Mama. I know I shouldn't be drinking now, especially now, but I'm scared, Mama. So scared!”

The voice broke again, and I bit into my lip, feeling my own eyes fill with moisture. I looked up at my husband, who sat silently mouthing, “Who is it?” I shook my head and when I didn't answer, he jumped up and left the room, returning seconds later with a portable phone held to his ear. She must have heard the click in the line because she asked,

“Are you still there? Please don't hang up on me! I need you. I feel so alone.”

I clutched the phone and stared at my husband, seeking guidance.

“I'm here, I wouldn't hang up,” I said. “I should have told you, Mama. I know I should have told you. But, when we talk, you just keep telling me what I should do. You read all those pamphlets on how to talk about sex and all, but all you do is talk. You don't listen to me. You never let me tell you how I feel. It is as if my feelings aren't important. Because you're my mother

you think you have all the answers. But sometimes I don't need answers. I just want someone to listen.” I swallowed the lump in my throat and stared at the how-to-talk-to-your-kids pamphlets scattered on my night stand.

“I'm listening,” I whispered.

“You know, back there on the road after I got the car under control, I started thinking about the baby and taking care of it. Then I saw this phone booth and it was as if I could hear you preaching to me about how people shouldn't drink and drive. So I called a taxi. I want to come home.”

“That's good honey,” I said, relief filling my chest. My husband came closer, sat down beside me and laced his fingers through mine.

“But you know, I think I can drive now.”

“No!” I snapped. My muscles stiffened and I tightened the clasp on my husband's hand. “Please, wait for the taxi. Don't hang up on me until the taxi gets there.”

“I just want to come home, Mama.”

“I know. But do this for your Mama. Wait for the taxi,

Learning to listen: I listened to the silence . . . fearing. When I didn't hear her answer, I bit into my lip and closed my eyes. Somehow I had to stop her from driving.

“There's the taxi, now.”

Only when I heard someone in the background asking about a Yellow Cab did I feel my tension easing.

“I'm coming home, Mama.” There was a click, and the phone went silent.

Moving from the bed, tears forming in my eyes, I walked out into the hall and went to stand in my 16-year-old daughter's room. My husband came from behind, wrapped his arms around me and rested his chin on the top of my head. I wiped the tears from my cheeks.

“We have to learn to listen,” I said to him.

He studied me for a second, then asked, “Do you think she'll ever know she dialed the wrong number?” I looked at our sleeping daughter, then back at him.

“Maybe it wasn't such a wrong number.”

“Mom, Dad, what are you doing?” The muffled voice came from under the covers. I walked over to my daughter, who now sat up staring into the darkness.

"We're practicing," I answered.

"Practicing what?" she mumbled and laid back on the mattress, but her eyes already closed in slumber.

"Listening," I whispered and brushed a hand over her cheek.

(IM4Jesus Inspirational - EmailSubscribe: Im4Jesus-subscribe@egroups.com)

DON'T DELAY IT - BAPTIZING BABY

Until he's been christened, baby is a little pagan and a prime candidate for limbo, so don't put it off too long. It's customary in this country to let ten or twelve days go by. Medical and nursing science have so far reduced the rate of infant mortality, but it would hardly be advisable to let the baptism go much longer. Accidents do happen --- convulsions, wrong medicine, strangulation.

In case of an emergency, of course, baby should be baptized privately. Any lay person can baptize by taking a cup of water and pouring it across the child's forehead or face with the words, "I baptize thee in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Then the pastor should be informed. He will enter the fact in the parish records and arrange to supply the ceremonies later at the church. This parish record, by the way,

Is of the greatest importance. It is regarded in civil law as definite evidence regarding the date of birth. When the child is to make his First Holy Communion and be confirmed, he will be told to get a baptismal certificate. When he gets married or if he is ordained, he will first have to produce a baptismal certificate; and then the fact of marriage or ordination will be entered in the margin of the baptismal certificates, -- You will, not however, be given a certificate on the day of the baby's baptism. Those are supplied on request whenever they are needed.

The Sponsors

The sponsors -- godfather and godmother -- must be good Catholics. The whole idea is that they are to keep an eye on the religious upbringing of their godchild, and step in if the parents die or are slack in their duties. So how could a lax Catholic serve as sponsor? If he is careless himself, one could hardly expect him to raise up a devout godchild. That

consideration would also rule out people living in a bad marriage.

Naturally, the sponsors must know what it's all about, so the Church has set the minimum age for godparents at fourteen. Father, mother, husband, or wife may not act as sponsors; neither may priests, deacons, subdeacons, nuns, or monks, without a very special permission.

Sponsorship by proxy is not at all unusual. I don't know why it is not used more often. Say a family has just moved from New York to California. All their relatives and friends are in the East. They don't know anyone in the West. They simply write to Uncle Frank and Aunt Hanna back in New York, asking them if they will sponsor the new baby. Each of the godparents invited writes back saying he will be glad to be a sponsor. The parents show these notes to the pastor, then anyone can hold the proxies at the font -- the priest's housekeeper and sexton if need be -- while Uncle Frank's and Aunt Hanna's names are entered in the book.

Choosing a Name

Take my advice and be leery of fads. How many people there are laboring under names like Dewey, Isabella, Victoria, Eglantine. In many cases, it's a dead giveaway as to age, recalling Admiral Dewey, Queen Victoria, tandem bicycles and handlebar mustaches.

Your child will carry his name through life. He may become a prominent statesman, a priest, a radio celebrity. Think of how his name would look on a ballot, or announced over TV. I once had to baptize a baby Benjamin Franklin Delano McGillicuddy!

First of all, the Church requires that the infant have a Christian name. The child is to imitate the virtues of its patron, and the saint will even up the score by looking after his protégé. So play cagey and pick a powerful patron for your baby!

The names in the Litany of the Saints have been music in the ears of the Church for centuries. They are good strong names with the power to survive respectably: John, Paul, James, Vincent, Mary, Agnes, Catherine, and so on.

I can't see any reason, either, for choosing a "Frenchified" name. Parents who wouldn't think of naming a child Giuseppe, Giovanni or Antonio, much less Janos, Istvan, or Ferencz, Gottlieb, Pancraz, or Wolfgang -- would nevertheless settle on Jeanne Michele, or Therese Denise, or something of the sort.

This is a malady known as “French fever” – the same impulse that leads Greek cooks to translate their menus into French, under the impression that somehow it makes the hamburgers taste better.

A friend of mine was given a booklet at the hospital during her confinement. It suggests 2,000 names for boys and girls. Alroy, Baxter, Dearborn, Pepita, Pollyanna, Yseult, Gypsy. --- Please!

However – as long as you have a Christian name somewhere in the lineup, the priest will accept it. So strictly speaking, you have a right to call your baby Maria Spaghetti Casey or Joseph Stupido Schwartz. But I’m only asking you to spare the child

At The Font

Now that you’ve decided on sponsors and a name, go to the parish house and let your pastor in on the good news. He will certainly want to check on the godparents and roll the name around on his tongue to see if it has a Christian savor. He will also ask if you have been married by a priest. If not, he may require that you make arrangements to be properly married before going ahead with the baptism. In any event, the fact of an invalid marriage must be entered in the baptismal register. Then he will tell you the hour of the baptism.

I’ve often wondered, too, why babies are brought to the font all buttoned and laced to the ears. The infant must be anointed on its bare breast and back, so the dress ought to be loose around the neck or at least easily unfastened.

There is a superstition that when a baby cries at its baptism, it’s a sign of good luck. The devil is being driven out. It’s no such thing. It’s a sign that the priest is going to get nervous and, perhaps, the sponsors are going to get self-conscious. The Germans used to bring along a little bag of sugar for the baby to suck if he started to cry. Nevertheless, I once found a baby squalling its lungs out, and a closer inspection found the godmother pinching the poor child” derriere to make it cry for luck!

Generally it’s the sponsors who leave the gratuity for the priest. The amount varies from place to place. But no matter who does the baptizing, the honoraria go to the pastor. So, at least, says Church Law.

The mother should not fail to ask about the blessing after childbirth. In many parishes this is given immediately after baptism. But if that is impracticable, the priest won’t mind if she stops by the sacristy some

weekday morning and asks to be churched. It’s a beautiful blessing and an act of thanksgiving to Almighty God for a safe delivery.

**(Father Richard Ginder THE MARYFAITHFUL -
July-August, 1988)**

IT'S A SECRET - TELL IT!

A woman named Frances once knew a young person at church named Debbie. Debbie always seemed effervescent and happy, although Frances knew she had faced struggles in her life. Her long-awaited marriage had quickly ended in divorce. She had struggled to get a grip on her single life. She hadn't chosen it, but she decided she would live it with utmost enjoyment and satisfaction. Debbie was active in Sunday school, in the choir, as a leader of the junior high girls' group, and in the church renewal movement. Frances enjoyed knowing Debbie. Debbie's whole face seemed to smile and she always greeted Frances with a hug.

One day Frances asked Debbie, “How is it that you are always so happy you have so much energy, and you never seem to get down?” With her eyes smiling, Debbie said, “I know the secret!” “What secret is that? What are you talking about?” Frances asked. Debbie replied, “I’ll tell you all about it, but you have to promise to share the 'secret' with others.” Frances agreed, “Okay, now what is it?”

The secret is this: I have learned there is little I can do in my life that will make me truly happy I must depend on God to make me happy and meet my needs. When a need arises in my life, I have to trust God to supply according to HIS riches. I have learned most of the time I don't need half of what I think I do. HE has never let me down. Since I learned that secret I am happy.

Frances' first thought was, that's too simple! But upon reflecting over her own life she recalled how she thought a bigger house would make her happy, but it didn't! She thought a better paying job would make her happy, but it hadn't. When did she realize her greatest happiness? Sitting on the floor with her grandchildren, eating pizza and watching a movie - a simple gift from God. Debbie knew the secret, Frances learned the secret, and now you too!

We can't depend on people to make us happy-only GOD in his wisdom can do that. Trust him. So pass it on! I'm a witness that the secret is true and now I pass the secret on to you!

So once you get it, whatcha gonna do? YOU have to tell someone the secret, too! That GOD in his wisdom will take care of you

(unknown – from internet)

FRIENDSHIP

Maybe God wants us to meet a few wrong people before meeting the right one so that when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.

When the door of happiness closes, another opens, but often times we look so long at the closed door that we don't see the one which has been opened for us.

The best kind of friend is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

It's true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it's also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives.

Giving someone all your love is never an assurance that they'll love you back. Don't expect love in return; just wait for it to grow in their heart but if it doesn't, be content it grew in yours.

It takes only a minute to get a crush on someone, an hour to like someone, and a day to love someone, but it takes a lifetime to forget someone.

Don't go for looks; they can deceive. Don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

There are moments in life when you miss someone so much that you just want to pick them from your dreams and hug them for real. Dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go; be what you want to be, because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, enough hope to make you happy.

Always put yourself in others' shoes. If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the other person, too. The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past, you can't go on well in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches. When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.

Live your life so that when you die, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

Please send this message to those people who mean something to you, to those who have touched your life in one way or another, to those who make you smile when you really need it, to those that make you see the brighter side of things when you are really down, to those who you want to let know that you appreciate their friendship.

(Bernadette – internet)

TAPESTRY of LIFE

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles. An angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares were. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all. I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My Angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been.

My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and death, and false accusations that took from me my world as I knew it. I had to start over many times.

I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer,

asking for help and guidance. In my life I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes. Then I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded through the many holes, creating an image. The face of Christ.

Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes.

He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14, 16 (NASB))

(Author Unknown)

CHAIN of GOLD

Friendship is a chain of gold
Shaped in God's all perfect mold
Each link a smile, a laugh, a tear
A grip of the hand, a word of cheer
Steadfast as the ages roll,
Binding closer soul to soul
No matter how far or heavy the load
Sweet is the journey on friendship's road.

<http://www.sendingfun.com/chainofgold>

THE ONLY PATH to PEACE IS PARDON

Holy Father asserts in his Lenten Message for 2001 Conversion is at the heart of the Holy Father's Lenten Message for 2001 that was written on January 7th and released Friday. We will carry the entire message on Ash Wednesday for more impact. He pointed out that the only way for the world to change, for the world to

achieve peace is through the conversion of hearts that begins with each one of us. The Pope reflected on the state of society today where the problems can be traced to a rejection of Christ and the consequences that follow. To change minds and behaviors, hearts must come first. Forgiveness is only way to peace, Pope says in Lenten message

(by John Norton, Catholic News Service)

FORGIVENESS

Pope John Paul II asked Christians to radically embrace the Gospel command to love one's enemy, saying forgiveness was the only way to peace between peoples and nations. "In our times, forgiveness appears more and more as a necessary dimension for an authentic social renewal and for the strengthening of peace in the world," he said in his annual message for Lent centered on the scriptural phrase, "Love is not resentful," was presented at a Vatican press conference February 9.

The Pope said Lent, a traditional time of reconciling with God, should prompt believers to re-examine whether their lives conform to Christ's command to "love your enemies (and) do good to those who hate you."

"They are words that, if taken seriously, demand a radical conversion," he said. In addition to asking forgiveness for wrongs committed, "the Christian must make peace even when feeling as the victim of one who has unjustly offended and struck," he said. He said only interior conversion and "humble obedience to the command of Jesus" could enable believers to resist "the psychological mechanisms of self-pity and

He particularly emphasized the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation, saying the experience of receiving God's forgiveness "encourages us to live in love, considering the other not as enemy but as a brother."

In addition to its spiritual fruits, forgiveness brings peace between peoples and opens individuals to the material needs of others, he said. Especially in places where conflict has left enduring animosity among peoples, accepting and offering forgiveness interrupts "the spiral of hatred and revenge, and breaks the chains of evil which bind the hearts of rivals," he said.

"For nations in search of reconciliation and for those hoping for peaceful coexistence among individuals and

peoples, there is no other way than forgiveness received and offered,” he said.

He said spiritual reconciliation also predisposes individuals to see and respond to the material needs of others, because “a heart reconciled with God and with neighbor is a generous heart.”

When done with a reconciled heart, the traditional Lenten practice of almsgiving “assumes a deeper meaning, because it is not just giving something from the surplus to relieve one’s conscience, but to truly take upon one’s self the misery present in the world,” he said

(POPE JOHN PAUL II, February 12, 2001 - Volume 12, No. 43 - News from ROME www.DailyCatholic.org)

MEANING of BEATIFICATION

On October 19, 1975, Mission Sunday, Pope Paul beatified four Servants of God, one of whom was Bishop Eugene deMazenod. Those who were able to participate in this moving ceremony or heard about it from afar, while thanking God for this special grace given to the Church, also probably asked themselves what was the exact meaning of this beatification ceremony. We would like to try and answer this question briefly.

What Is A Beatification?

When Pope Paul VI simplified the rules for the causes of beatification and canonization in 1969, he gave us an important clue: “While the Church strives to her utmost to foster holiness in all the faithful, he said, “she never fails to hold up before their eyes genuine models of holiness, namely the martyrs and other men and women who are outstanding in their practice of what is referred to as heroic virtue, and she labors greatly that the faithful may find in their lives good example, a place in their fellowship, and help through their intercession.”

The lengthy inquiry into this example of genuine holiness and virtue is known as a cause of process for beatification and canonization. The beatification, one of the last major steps before a person is formally declared a saint, is an act by which the Church, through a decree of the Holy Father, allows a specified diocese, region, or religious institute, to honour with public cult and prayers a person who has left behind a genuine reputation for holiness.

In other words, it may be said that beatification is a formal declaration by the Church that a person did practice heroic virtue, or suffered martyrdom, and after death worked true miracles. It is evident that a declaration of this importance can only be made after a long and careful inquiry into the life and works of the person in question.

How is a Person Beatified Today?

The Church did not always proceed as thoroughly as she does today when beatifying and canonizing saints. Indeed, the early Christians began invoking the martyrs to intercede for them before God so that they too, in turn, would receive the grace to imitate these heroic men and women in the complete and unquestioning profession of their faith in times of persecution.

In the fourth century, after the Roman persecutions were ended, Christians also began honoring those who did not die as martyrs, but who had defended the faith, taught it well, or lived outstanding lives. These saints were often called Confessors or Doctors of the Church.

According to the present rules, in most instances, a cause for canonization goes through a number of steps, often taking many years to complete. The Church acts with great prudence in these cases. After a preliminary inquiry, usually held in the diocese where the person to be canonized died, his writings are collected for examination. If all is acceptable, the cause is then formally introduced in Rome and the person is known henceforth as a “Servant of God.” (Bishop de Mazenod’s cause was formally introduced on January 15, 1936, by Pope Pius XI). After further successful inquiries on such matters as the heroic practice of the theological and moral virtues and the reputation for sanctity, a person is declared “Venerable.” (Bishop de Mazenod was declared Venerable on November 19, 1970). The next step consists in demanding a confirmation of the Christian virtues in the form of miracles. (The miracles presented for Bishop de Mazenod’s cause both took place in Canada; they were approved by Pope Paul VI on December 9, 1974).

After the beatification, if information is received about further miracles obtained through the intercession of the Blessed, the cause is resumed. Usually, two additional ones are required before a person is canonized. However, the Holy Father sometimes decides that one additional miracle is sufficient, as he

did in the case of Saint Elizabeth Seton who was canonized on September 14, 1975.

What Does a Beatification Mean?

The Holy See presents the new Blessed to the faithful as an example to imitate. However, the veneration is restricted to a certain region or group of persons. Usually, a special prayer, a Mass, and a proper Divine Office are authorized. As a point of interest, it could be mentioned that the Blessed are not portrayed with a halo, but only with separate rays of light around their head. Likewise, their relics may usually not be exposed publicly in all churches, but only in those for which their cult has been authorized.

When the Blessed are canonized, the Church then states officially that the acts of a specific person are in accord with its teaching.

A Lesson For Ourselves

What counts most for us is not the long and complicated procedures that are followed. Nor the ceremonies of the beatification itself. While these have their interest and importance, they are of little value if we do not derive a lesson from them. The Church is proposing to us a new model, a witness for our time. In this case, it is Blessed Eugene de Mazenod and his love of the Church and respect for the poor and underprivileged that are to be a guiding light for us. Otherwise, if we were not given a new model to follow, this beatification, and any beatification, would be meaningless.

As we strive to answer the call of the Lord to be holy as our Heavenly Father is holy, we can imitate the virtues of Blessed Eugene and, in turn, live our Christian life to the fullest, becoming models for others to follow. This is the true meaning of beatifications and canonizations today.

(Father Francis G. Morrissey, O.M.I. - THE MARY FAITHFUL - July-August 1988)

THE HAPPINESS of the SAINTS

“Come, ye blessed of My Father, possess ye the Kingdom prepared for ye from the foundation of the world.” (Saint Matthew XXV:34)

The Kingdom of Heaven is called the glory of Paradise. Nor is this wonderful (to be wondered at), for a kingdom is nothing other than the rule or government of a state. Moreover, whenever there is the best government or rule, nothing is found contrary

to the will of the ruler. But the will of God is the salvation of all mankind, “because He wishes all to be saved”; but salvation will be in Paradise, for there nothing will be found repugnant to the salvation of man. “The Son of Man shall send His angels, and they shall gather out of His Kingdom all scandals.” (Saint Matthew XIII:41) When, therefore, we pray “Thy Kingdom come,” we pray that we might share in the Kingdom of Heaven and in the glory of Paradise.

Indeed, that Heavenly Kingdom is most desirable on account of three things:

First, because of the highest justice which abounds there. “Thy people shall be just, and they shall inherit the land forever.” (Isaias LX:21) Here on earth, the good and the bad mingle, but in God’s Kingdom will be no evil and no sinner.

Secondly, the Heavenly Kingdom is most desirable because of its most perfect liberty. Here in this world there is no perfect liberty, although all naturally desire it, but there, in God’s Kingdom, will be every liberty which is contrary to every slavery. “The creature shall be delivered from the servitude of corruption, into the liberty of the glory of the children of God.” (Romans VIII:21) Not only will men be absolutely free there, but they will be kings. “Thou art worthy, O Lord—and hast redeemed us to God in Thy Blood, and hast made us to our God a kingdom.” (Apoc.V:10); because all in Heaven will be of the same will with God, and God will wish whatever the Saints will wish, and the Saints, whatever God wills. Hence, the Will of God will be the will of those in Heaven; and therefore all will rule, because the Lord will become the will of all and the crown of all.” In that day the Lord of hosts shall be a crown of glory, and a garland of joy to the residue of His people.” (Isaias XXVIII:5)

Third, the Kingdom of Heaven is most desirable because of its wonderful riches. “The eye hath not seen, O God, besides Thee, what things Thou has’t prepared for them to wait for Thee.” (Isaias LXIV:4), “Who satisfieth thy desire with good things.” (Psalm CII:5)

Observe, also, that man will find in God alone everything more excellent and more perfect than everything which he sought after in Him in this world. If you seek delight, you will find the greatest delight there, in God. “You will see and your heart will rejoice. Everlasting joy shall be upon your heads.” (Isaias LXVI:14) If you seek duration of joy, it will be there eternally. “The just shall enter into eternal life.” If you seek riches, there is God’s Kingdom you

will find an abundance of riches by reason of which riches exist, and so in regard to all other good things.

Wherefore Augustine says: "Whatever there is that thou, O holy soul, can desire, there thou wilt find it entirely in God." (The Lord's Prayer)

(The MARYFAITHFUL –Vol. XXVII, No.6 --
November-December 1995)

THE ROCKS

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, rocks about 2" in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full? They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the student again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The students laughed.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. "Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things -- your family, your partner, your health, your children -- anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal."

"Take care of the rocks first -- the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

(Internet)

VOCATION DEPARTMENT

SEMINARIANS and MARY

As a seminary rector on both college and theologate levels, I have struggled for some time as how best to inculcate in today's seminarian a good and balanced devotion to Mary.

Some seminarians have a spontaneous and facile devotion to Mary: e.g., Hispanic and Vietnamese students. At times, this prayer is overly dramatic and exaggerated. It is, however, authentic and culturally rooted as well as real and heartfelt.

Other seminarians have no real "feel" (the Ignatian *sentir*) for Mary. Many of them have been raised in certain Church experiences that did not give attention to Marian devotion and piety. Prayers to Mary for this group often ring of anachronism or misplaced piety.

Treasured moments... I personally treasured those moments in the seminary when time was set aside in the community day for the praying of the Rosary. I liked the moments of silence before lunch when we stopped to pray the Angelus (even if only to ask Mary for a decent meal!). I also have fond memories of October and May devotions.

How does one translate these good Marian experiences into today's seminary, which is so culturally and theologically pluralistic? This question brought me back to the sources of my own spirituality in the French and Sulpician tradition. What I found was very helpful.

In the 17th century, the founder of the Society of Saint Sulpice in Paris, Father Jean Jacques Olier, a disciple of Saint Vincent de Paul, and Father de Condren, wrote a letter to a recently ordained priest asserting:

"The state of the priesthood ... obliges you to have a quite particular love for this divine princess [Mary]. And it seems to me that all priests and all clerics have very demanding reasons for giving themselves to this devotion." Father Olier, himself profoundly emersed in the French school of spirituality, presented four compelling reasons to substantiate his claim to the recently ordained priest.

The love which Christ bore for Mary

The first is the love which Christ bore for Mary. The love of Jesus cannot be present in a person as dry and use-less; rather, it vivifies and animates a person's

heart with sentiments of love. We must honor Mary, then, because of the special love Our Lord bore for her - a most pressing and strong love, which animated her whole life.

The excessive love which Mary bore for Jesus

The second reason to honor Mary is the excessive love which she bore for Jesus. Her whole being and life were movements only for Him as she breathed, saw, spoke and worked interiorly and exteriorly only for her son.

Father Olier emphasizes that the priest must be overcome with this same power to bind himself to this interior devotion of Mary, to be well united to her, in order to feel, as she did, fully supported by her son, Jesus.

‘Lure’ of God

The third reason to honor Mary is the attraction which she has in herself, a powerful capacity to draw souls to Jesus. This is why many of the Fathers of the Church called her the “lure” and “bait” of God. Olier emphasized that God wishes to attract souls to His Son and uses the sweetness and the fragrance of Mary as a “hook” at the end of a line, in order to attract us by this sweetness. This attraction to Mary should engender in the life of a priest a desire to subsequently attract others to Jesus.

Quality of Mary’s Motherhood

The fourth reason to esteem Mary is the quality of her Motherhood, for as mother she sustains the fruitfulness to awaken in us a vibrant attraction to the Lord. A priest’s responsibility obliges him to form Jesus in others. Thus must he live continuously in Mary, in order to become a full participant in the power of God who makes Mary fruitful.

Extraordinary Insights

Olier concludes his letter by writing: “Continue to serve her as you have done up to the present, and, no matter what the world says about it, do not interrupt your little exercises and your customary devotions; for Our Lord, who is pleased with the love of His Mother and in the services which we render to her, in time will justify your conduct.”

These insights of Olier are quite extraordinary in light of the teaching of Vatican II’s Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*). This document urges priests to foster union with Christ in all the circumstances of their lives and specifically counsels: “They can always find a wondrous model of such docility in the Blessed Virgin Mary. Led by the Holy Spirit, she devoted herself entirely to the mystery of our redemption. With the devotion and veneration of sons, priests should lovingly honor this-mother of the supreme and eternal Priest, this Queen of the Apostles and protectress of their ministry” (no. 18).

This same point finds an echo in the Decree on Priestly Formation (*Optatam Totius*): “With the trust of a son, they [seminarians] should love and honor the most Blessed Virgin Mary, who was given as a mother to His disciple by Christ Jesus as He hung dying on the cross” (no. 8).

In 1974, Pope Paul VI spoke in *Marialis Cultus* of Mary as “exemplar of worship in the Church” (Part I, see II) and this point has been more fully elaborated by Pope John Paul II in *Redemptoris Mater* (1987). Here the Pope speaks of Mary “who first believed by accepting the Word of God revealed to her at the annunciation and by remaining faithful to that Word in all her trials even unto the cross. So, too, the Church becomes a mother when, accepting with fidelity the Word of God, ‘by her preaching and by baptism she brings forth to a new and immortal life children who are conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of God’” (no. 43).

Further explanation...The Pope further explains that the Church likewise learns from Mary’s motherhood, i.e., the Church . . . “recognizes the maternal dimension of her vocation ... in ‘contemplating Mary’s mysterious sanctity, imitating her charity and faithfully fulfilling the Father’s will.’ If the Church is the sign and instrument of intimate union with God, she is so by reason of her motherhood because, receiving from

HOLY MASS TIMES

If you ever think you will miss Holy Mass because you don’t know the times of Holy Mass in the area that you are located, call 1-800-MASS-TIMES or 1-800-627-7846.

If you have access to the Internet and don’t already have it book marked, type in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) www.masstimes.org in the white box near the top of your browser.

the spirit, she ‘generates’ sons and daughters of the human race to a new life in Christ. For, just as Mary is at the service of the mystery of the incarnation, so the Church is always at the service of the mystery of adoption to Sonship through grace” (no. 43).

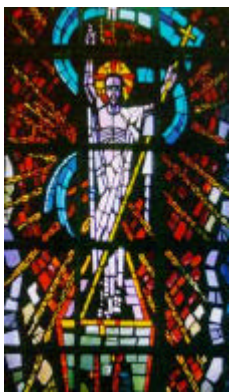
Consequently, the Pope concludes that “the Church also preserves the faith received from Christ. Following the example of Mary, who kept and pondered in her heart everything relating to her divine son . . . the Church is committed to preserving the Word of God and investigating its riches with discernment and prudence, in order to bear faithful witness to it before all mankind in every age” (no. 43).

Church documents thus present Mary in the mystery of the Church as a model for the Church herself and certainly for its ministers. Father Olier’s four points are thus still quite relevant and helpful in assisting all of us to properly situate the place of Mary in our own lives and in the life of the Church.

I find Olier’s points a wonderfully good compass that helps chart the sometimes difficult waters of giving Marian devotion and piety its proper and important place in our lives.

(Father Gerald D. Coleman, S.S. President/Rector of Saint Patrick’s Seminary, Menlo Park, California.)

NAZARETH HOUSE



A place of discernment and formation for men aspiring to priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, Nazareth House is located on the campus of Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill. The Diocese of Camden has begun a new formation program to help young men investigate whether God is calling them to priestly formation.

The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation. The staff will provide them with the foundation for seminary theologate formation, through a shared community life of prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Father Joseph Szolack, szolack@camdendiocese.org
Director of Vocations, Diocese of Camden
631 Market Street, Camden, NJ 08102
(856) 756-7900 ext. 5266.
or visit: <http://www.beapriest.org>

PRAYER to KNOW ONE’S VOCATION – K of C

Lord Jesus, up until now you have been quietly preparing me to be your disciple. Now the time of preparation is ending. I seem to hear you say to me as once to Peter: “Will you also go away?” You were saddened then by friends who failed you. But Peter did not fail. “Lord,” he said, “to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

I stand with Peter. Through prayer and counsel, show me, Lord, where it is in your vineyard that you want me to serve. Then give me strength to be faithful.

Mary, Mother and Model, help me to respond in generous love to the call of your Divine Son.

(Card 1874-a, Vocations Committee – Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus [K of C])

PRAYER for VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give those You have called to the married state and those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of Your Son so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Card 1874-a, Vocations Committee – Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus [K of C])

WHO’S A WHO? ARE YOU?

Carie and Tim were thrilled! They might finally become parents! Long dark years had preceded this triumph and any hope of Carie’s becoming pregnant again had almost been destroyed. Massive scar tissue – caused by her earlier abortions, sexually transmitted diseases, and the use of an IUD – had left her infertile. But thanks to the in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinic,

whos” come from defunct and academically indefensible bioethics theories. Philosophical theories of personhood that were laughed out of the academies centuries ago, have been dredged up and applied to current medical issues at the beginning and at the end of life. All of these passe theories contained what is called a “mind/body” split of some sort – very convenient for marking off whos from whats! But think. If the mind (or soul) is one thing, and the body is a different and separate thing, then how can there ever be any interaction between this “mind” and this

This is the hoax of the millennium, and the joke is not just on you, but on our entire culture. It’s a word-game, and the lengths to which bioethicists have gone to fool us defies the imagination. In order to “scientifically” rationalize and justify the use of these young vulnerable human persons in research, they have simply relabeled them to make us feel less guilty. Rather than acknowledge the hard cold scientific facts and use a concept of person that matches reality, bioethicists call them pre-embryos or just genetic individuals, and not developmental individuals; just biological individuals, but not ontological individuals; only transient natures, not stable human natures; only biologically integrated wholes, not psychologically integrated wholes; biological life only, not personal life; just unconscious biological life, not conscious personal life; no ones, rather than some ones; only possible or potential human beings or human persons; objects, not subjects; not members of the human species; unable to exercise rational attributes or sentience not selves; having no human cognition! Pretty inventive! The latest rendition in a current New York State case in a real scream: pre-zygotes! Imagine the court allowing such scientific fraud into the courtroom! None of these labels holds up under serious scientific or philosophical scrutiny – not one. The worst part of this joke is that it has worked.

What have we done?

The consequences are dark. Since IVF couples such as Carie and Tim are already parents, they already have the moral and legal obligations to protect their children from harm. This means they cannot allow any of their children to be eliminated because of some lab test, or abort them to make way for larger brother and sisters, freeze them down, or donate them for destructive experimentation for any reason, no matter how good it sounds. Evil may not be done that good may come of it. Nor can they really give a legally valid 'informed consent' for any of these procedures, since they have been given fraudulent human embryology and therefore prevented from knowing the objective truth.

Nevertheless, we now have "emergency contraception," all sorts of human embryo research, and drug companies wanting to use fetal tissue or screening new drugs. Legal precedents have been set for the disposition of frozen embryos and for regulating abortions. This scientific fraud has completely permeated our scientific and public policy institutions, and has been used in local, state, federal and international documents and policies. In fact, the IVF industry itself inherently depends on it. As related in a recent legal case, if these embryos had been recognized as legal persons, "such a decision would doubtless have had the effect of outlawing IVF programs." Reality check!

(Celebrate Life – January-February, 2000 by Dianne N. Irving, Ph.D. a former career-appointed N.I.H. bench researcher and Professor of Philosophy at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C.)

CONTRACEPTION and the REJECTION of GOD

At the origin of every human person there is a creative act of God. No man comes into existence by chance; he is always the object of God's creative love. From this fundamental truth of faith and reason it follows that the procreative capacity, inscribed in human sexuality is -- in its deepest truth -- a cooperation with God's creative power. And it also follows that man and woman are not the arbiters, are not the masters of this same capacity, called as they are, in it and through it, to be participants, in God's creative decision. When, therefore, through contraception, married couples remove from the exercise of their conjugal sexuality its potential procreative capacity, they claim

a power which belongs solely to God: the power to decide in a final analysis the coming into existence of a human person. They assume the qualification not of being cooperators in God's creative power, but the ultimate depositaries of the source of human life. In this perspective, contraception's to be judged objectively so profoundly unlawful as never to be, for any reason, justified. To think or to say the contrary is equal to maintaining that in human life situations may arise in which it is lawful not to recognize God as God.

**Pope John Paul II to a Study Seminar on "Responsible
September, 17, 1983.**

WOODEN BOWL

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor.

When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor. So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner.

There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every

meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently provide a happy home atmosphere for family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives. The wise parent realizes that every day the building blocks are being laid for the child's future.

Let's be wise builders and role models. Lord, we ask not that you move the mountains, but that You give us the strength to climb. "Life is about people connecting with people, and making a positive difference" Take care of yourself, and those you love, ... today, and everyday!

On a positive note, I've learned that, no matter what happens how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life." I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But, if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day, you should reach out and touch someone.

People love that human touch -holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that you should pass this on to everyone you care about. I just did. Sometimes they just need a little something to make them smile.

People will forget what you said ... people will forget what you did ... but people will never forget how you

made them feel.

(from Irene O'Connor)

A PRAYER for MY LIFE

Dear Lord, please give me...
A few friends who understand me
And yet remain my friends.
A work to do which has real value,
Without which the world
Would feel the poorer...
A mind unafraid to travel,
Even though the trail be not blazed
An understanding heart...
A sense of humor.
Time for quiet, silent meditation.
A feeling of the presence of God.
And the patience to wait
For the coming of these things,
With the wisdom to know them
When they come.

(W.R. Hunt)

A CHILD'S VIEW of GOD

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes these to put in place of the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn't make grownups. Just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. This way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that up to the mothers and fathers. I think it works out pretty good.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, as some people, like preachers and others, pray at other times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV on account of this. As He hears every thing, not only prayers, there must be a terrible lot of noise into His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your parents head and asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church. Jesus is God's

Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and doing miracles and trying to teach people about God who didn't want to learn. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK. His Dad (God) appreciated everything He had done and all His hard work on earth, so he told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in Heaven. So He did. And now He helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing which things are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take of Himself, without having to bother God with. Like a secretary only more important, of course. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they've got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to Sunday School because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip Sunday School to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. That's wrong! And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon, anyway. If you don't believe in God, besides an Atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you like to camp, but God can. It's good to know He's around when your scared of the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown in real deep water by the big kids. But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And that's why I believe in God.

(internet)

BAPTISM and GODPARENTS - A SPIRITUAL FORCE

Being a godparent--or choosing one--is a pretty big deal! Speaking from personal experience, it doesn't have to be person who promises to spend a lot of time with a child, although that's always nice. And it doesn't have to be someone who is prepared to "take the child if something happens to the parents," a notion held by many I years pat.

Many touchy or tough questions may surround the birth of a new baby, dealing with everything from diapers and discipline, to parenting essentials and, later, the child's education. But none is more

important than the child's spiritual welfare. After all, as parents our number one goal is not to provide for everything *here* but to guide them towards the *hereafter*!

Sometimes we tend to think of choosing a godparent as a special favor or prize demonstrating our closeness or affection. While there is nothing wrong with that, it is also essential to ask ourselves as new parents which of our family and friends would best help us pray for our child's spiritual well-being? And are they good role models for our child to look up to?

A godparent is a person who promises to demonstrate a "spiritual concern" for the one being baptized. Sounds easy at first but, according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized--child or adult--on the road of Christian life" (no. 1255; original emphasis).

The reason the sacrament of Baptism usually takes place during the Sunday liturgy is because it involves all of us. In fact, the Catechism reminds us that "[t]he whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism" (*ibid.*). What a wonderful thought for parents to know that not only the chosen godparents, but everyone in the community is praying for the spiritual well-being of their newly baptized baby!

When John and I became parents, we wanted the Baptism to be remembered as joyous and very special occasions. Our family looked forward to them with grate fanfare! (Some accuse me of having all these children just so we could have another party!)

Yep, I do like to party and we did celebrate. Yet, we never lost sight of the *real* meaning of the event. In fact, our parties merely accented the specialness and importance of the occasion.

It is also a great time to explain to the other children about the promises we made *for them* at their own Baptism and the meaning of the sacrament. Sometimes our kids need a little refresher!

"We have to get the baby baptized so she can live in America," our young adopted Vietnams son, Tony, once explained to his little sister. Another, trying to correct his error, piped in, "No, it's so's ya can vote!"

Obviously we hard some explaining to do.

The Catechism teaches that “[t]he faith required for Baptism is not a perfect and *mature faith*, but a beginning that is called to develop” (no. 1253, emphasis added). “To develop” parents and those wonderful godparents come in!

Godparents can’t always be present in a youngster’s life, but they can discipline themselves to act as spiritual guardians by remembering to pray *often* for their godchildren. They can ask their own guardian angels to stay close by their godchildren and protect them from harm.

My own godmother had a large family of her own and very little time or money to spare. Yet, she was there for my First Communion, Confirmation, graduations, and wedding. I received no fancy gifts over the years, but she did call me periodically and was genuinely interested in what I was doing. Kids remember that. More than that, she would end our conversation after asking her usual, “How are you?” “What’s new?” and “Any new boyfriends?” with “Now remember--Be good. I’m your godmother and you’re pretty special!”

Her call was always uplifting.

Kids today are inundated with temptations and adults who sell them short or offer them mixed and double messages, especially in the area of morality and faith. As parents, we want to remind them that we believe in them; that God loves them; and that He will give them the graces necessary to every situation. Godparents can help us do that.

And what about the family member or loved one who brings a baby into the world and has no intention of baptizing the infant or raising the child in the Faith? It’s happened in our family and, quite honestly, I am always tempted to grab the kid, run into the bathroom and dunk ‘em under the faucet, before anyone can stop me! “Wouldn’t that still count?” I painfully wrestle with myself.

Yet, I know I can’t take away the parents’ primary *right* to guide their child, even if I’m a sister, grandparent, or close relative or friend. What’s more I have no authority--to promise on the child’s behalf. This doesn’t mean I can’t talk to the parents, express my grave concern for the child, and pray and pray hard. And that’s just what I’m doing.

Because Baptism is the incorporation into Christ and the Christian community, it implies certain obligations, such as leading a Christian life and being faithful to the teachings of Christ and His Church. Yet, if one or both parents stubbornly abandon the Faith, the child’s

eternal vocation may not be realized. Perhaps in these instances we can be “spiritual godparents of desire” (I made this up), praying and pleading that the responsible parent or parents come back to the fold and baptize the child.

As a mom of many, I am grateful for the godparents who’ve been good role models and guides in my own children’s lives. Their willingness to be such a positive presence has made me realize all the more what a spiritual force godparents are meant to be!

(by Mary Ann Kuharski)

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a store. We operate like a church pamphlet or bookrack where you make selections and offer a donation based on value posted or received. See the four-page order form enclosed in past issues or loaded on the Internet Web Site, <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>, for a partial listing of items that can be obtained from the PFMC through donations. If you wish to order, please fill out your order request, make out a check or complete the information for use of a credit card and mail to PFMC, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4896.

If you do not have an order form, call us at 856-768-9228 with a FAX number or mailing address and we will send you an order form. If you know what you want and we carry it, you can order over the telephone using your credit card. We take DISCOVER (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (Cirrus) or VISA (PLUS) Charge Cards.

We want to keep the PFMC open from 10 AM to 5

RECURRING EVENTS HELD in the GREAT ROOM at EPIPHANY HOUSE of the PFMC:

**7 PM to 9 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT
SEMINARS on the HISTORY and
DEVELOPMENT of CHRIST’S
DIVINELY ESTABLISHED CHURCH
PRAYER GROUP every THURSDAY
from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM.**

PM daily. In order to do this we need a solid list of volunteers we can count on to meet these scheduled times. We need regular daily or weekly help and help once a month – whatever you can give. We will give you a good orientation, and make use of the gifts that God has given you.

Please come and see the new PFMC. We know you will enjoy what you see and find a way of helping out.

Thank you and God bless you,

Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff

COMPLETE ADDRESS — USE RETURN ADDRESS LABEL or STAMP!!!



Please complete your address on any order forms or with any letter order. We need to see your address clearly printed with the ZIP+4 that is supposed to speed the mail delivery.

We appreciate the communication once a year so that we can correct our mailing labels.

Consider ORDERING and SPONSORING “The PILGRIM” for your favorite religious or priest.

Please be considerate of those you ask us to add to the mailing list and speak to them about your intentions.

PHONES – PLEASE BE PATIENT, ALLOW 8-9 RINGS for a MESSAGE MACHINE



The PFMC phone system at Epiphany House has been set up so that all previously used numbers ring through Epiphany House. When no one is at Epiphany House (856) 768-9228 and (856) 753-9252 ring over to new phone lines at 129 Deerfield Avenue. When the ring through is active because no one is picking up before 4 rings at Epiphany House, some extra rings will be heard before the answering machine picks up and allows you to leave a message.

Please be patient and wait at least 8 or 9 rings.

PLEASE DON'T WRITE ORDERS ON DONATION SLIPS

When ordering books, tapes or oil, we kindly ask you to NOT place them on the donation slips, but rather use the order forms enclosed inside “The

The PILGRIM

PILGRIM” or write us a separate note.

The donation slips are noted and are then placed in a prayer basket in the Upper Room where we pray daily. They are then taken on pilgrimage with Kathleen or a volunteer coordinator, and are left in a religious place for further prayer. We often do not see the order on the slip as they do not go to our order section, and your order may get lost or not noticed.

BLESSED OIL

Bottles of oil blessed at Holy Mass in Saint James, Medjugorje and then carried to Vicka’s house to be present in the room during an alleged apparition are available from the PFMC. Oil from Medjugorje is a **sacramental** and should be handled as such. It is NOT the same as the oils blessed by the Bishop for official church ceremonies or during administration of the sacraments by a priest. People being blessed should not be misled into thinking that blessing by the laity in any way replaces blessing by a priest, whose Holy Hands are consecrated by the Bishop in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

We request a \$5 donation per small bottle. This covers \$3 for the bottle, packaging and special handling plus \$2 mailing or postage expense.

BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out one or more of following BULLETIN NOTICES and take them to your Pastor and / or Parish Bulletin Coordinator?

Please copy or cut out any one or more of the following BULLETIN NOTICES Ask your parish to publish these notices to support the events for which you have an interest. It does wonders when a parishioner asks for a bulletin notice as compared to the thousands of requests that come in from outside the parish.

Thanks for your assistance, we really need and appreciate it.

**7 PM to 9 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT
SEMINARS on the HISTORY and
DEVELOPMENT of CHRIST'S
DIVINELY ESTABLISHED CHURCH**

Dean Pulcini will be teaching a course called "DEFENDING YOUR FAITH" which will offer a basic Orthodox understanding of the Catholic faith in comparison to and contrasted with Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

The Wednesday evening programs from 7 PM to 9 PM will be held in the Great Room at Epiphany House of the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC).

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

PRAYER GROUP

Meets in the Great Room at Epiphany House of the PFMC every Thursday from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. All are invited.

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

Thanks again for your efforts with BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS on behalf of PFMC AREA EVENTS.

Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff

PRESS BULLETIN #159 – 2/26/01

**THE DIRECTION and the GOAL
(on the way of preparation for Easter)**

"It is enough to be naïve to choose any direction. The one who wants to keep the chosen direction needs a compass." (K. Steinbach) The one who does not know the right direction is more or less careless about the direction he is walking in. But the preparation for Easter has the same characteristics and so it also needs a clear direction and a visible goal. Without knowing one or the other, the preparation for Easter – the time of Lent – becomes a burden that brings nothing. The first step in the direction of Easter is to hear the word of the Scripture: "Come back to the Lord with your whole heart!" Listening to these words, we have to feel that this good news for us. Feeling that this is good news for us means to begin to have an Easter preparation and an Easter celebration. The Acts of the Apostles call Jesus the leader of the way into life. Jesus himself says: "I am the Way, the Truth and the

Life." He is the way towards the goal and is the compass. He leads us into life. To walk with Him means to walk towards life. This is why the call to conversion, manifested by ashes on Ash Wednesday, is joyfully, good news for us.

Fra Ivan Landeka

**NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and
NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS**

In the month of January, 35,000 Holy Communion were distributed and 568 priests concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

During the year 2000, in the parish of Medjugorje 1,084,000 Holy Communion had been distributed, and 24,258 priests from this country from abroad concelebrated Holy Mass.

**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of the
ASSOCIATION of GUIDES**

At the service of the pilgrims of Medjugorje, the Annual Assembly of the Guide Association, took place in the house of prayer "Domus Pacis." The spiritual guide of the meeting was Fr. Ljubo Kurtovic. The pastor, Dr. fra Ivan Sesar, listened to the Annual Report and to daily joys and concerns of guides in their service of pilgrims. They also gave some useful advice regarding their work. About 60 guides - qualified for this service – organize, receive and accompany the pilgrims around Medjugorje during their pilgrimage here. This year marks the 10th anniversary of The Guide Association existence and its service.

**COUPLES in the SCHOOL of the HOLY
FAMILY**

In Medjugorje, thanks to the initiative of fra Slavko Barbaric, the first international seminar "Couples in the School of the Holy Family" was held. [More information is available on-line or from the PFMC.]

**THE PARISH on PILGRIMAGE to
SAINT BLASE in DUBROVNIK**

Every year, on February 3rd, the parishioners of Medjugorje go to Dubrovnik for the feast of St. Blase, Patron Saint of the city. This year, there were about hundred parishioners. One of the pilgrims shared his reflection: "Every year, Dubrovnik solemnly celebrates

given to us for nearly twenty years. All the events around us are signs of the times, so also Our Lady's apparitions are one of the signs for the time we live in. Through each sign, God wants to tell us something. This is why we have to know how to read them. In our day, Our Lady appears and speaks to us through visionaries, calling us to choose the ways leading to life. God always called prophets who admonished the people and called them to conversion and to a change of life. Here, in Medjugorje, Our Lady presented Herself as the Queen of Peace, Mother of every human being, but She is also a Prophet of God through whom God is speaking. Prophets are not those who predict future events, but those who re-actualize the word of God. Through Her messages, Our Lady does not speak about future events, but – with Her Motherly heart – She wants to awaken the voice of God within us. She wants to tell us what God expects from us at this moment. In last month's message, She has already prepared us for this Lent, calling us to prayer and fasting. She puts into our hands these powerful means, with which we can stop wars of our incredulity, distrust and all that is frightening us.

This month's message is short, but inexhaustible in its content. It tells us that this time we live in is a given time of grace. Her apparitions and messages are a gift to each open heart that is ready to listen to Her Motherly voice and call. Our Mother cannot tire of us, Her children, because Her love impels Her to talk to us. We can be tired and stop, but She cannot. As there is a time of grace, there is a time when those moments of grace shall be taken from us. Let us benefit from these moments, let us fill our spirits and our hearts with strength, in order to be able to stand in time of temptation and the 'desert'. Let us live these moments of the presence of God through the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary, listening to Her words. The disciples of Jesus, His apostles, knew moments of the presence of Jesus, but also moments when they were deprived of His presence. It was the time of their denial, infidelity, time of abandoning the Master, time of betrayal, of fear and of desolation. Our Lady wants to nourish us, to fill us with faith, love and peace, so

that we may withstand all our personal and family temptations and the 'deserts' that can happen in life. Let us live these moments of the presence of Our Lady as a gift and as a task given by God. All the love of Our Lady is condensed in only one word: pray. This call seems like a cry of a mother for her children. It seems that She has nothing more important and more necessary to say in Her message than that. There is no other way to God, nor does God have another possibility to approach us except through prayer, in which we will give Him our lives and our families. God possesses everything except our love. Our love, He cannot obtain by force, if we do not allow Him, if we do not give it to Him. There is nothing more important and more necessary for us than the love of God, as the need of our body is for food. We cannot live without this precious experience. According to St Paul, science will pass, love only remains, love that has its source in God. We do not live from the knowledge that God loves us, but from the experience of the love of God. Our experience is the only thing that cannot be taken away from us. Just as a hungry person cannot survive only by knowing that food is good and necessary, but by eating it; we must taste this encounter of God's love and experience it. That is how in the life of faith we live - by "tasting" the love of God who makes us live free of fear, free of doubts, free of incredulity, free of illness and even free of death.

In his Lenten message, Forgiveness – the only way to peace, Pope John Paul II calls us to a fervent and trustful prayer to the Lord, so that every person may

have a new experience of His mercy. Only this gift can help us to accept and to live more and more joyfully the love of Christ that "is not quick-tempered, does not brood over injury, does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth." (1 Co 13,5-6)

Medjugorje, February 25, 2001 - Fra Ljubo Kurtoviae

<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>

PRAYER to SAINT THERESE, THE LITTLE FLOWER

Saint Therese, the Little Flower, please pick me a rose from the heavenly garden, and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favor I thee implore and tell Him I will love Him each day more and more!

5 Hail Mary's, 5 Our Fathers, 5 Glory

This is to be said for five days in succession and before 11 a.m. in the morning. Followed by the Hail Mary's, Our Fathers and Glory Be's. On or before the fifth day you will receive one single rose or more.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



We seem to be forever seeking loving souls to help us out at the PFMC Epiphany House on a regular basis. Please fill out the coupon below to be a regular volunteer.

I WANT to HELP OUR LADY and JESUS at the PFMC (EPIPHANY HOUSE)

Name: _____

Please sign me up as a volunteer in the following area(s):

Address: _____

OFFICE WORK:

City: _____

- _____ Answer phones and perform general office work
- _____ Accounting / Bookkeeping
- _____ Record Addresses / Religious Articles in Computer
- _____ Filing / Library Maintenance
- _____ Inventory and Ordering of Religious Articles

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____

AROUND EPIPHANY HOUSE:

Phone Number: (_____) _____

- _____ Gardening
- _____ Landscape Maintenance
- _____ Stations of the Cross
- _____ Rosary Garden
- _____ Our Lady's Grotto.

Please complete this form and send to:

**Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC),
61 Cooper Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963**

CALENDARS:

In *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND of the VIRGIN MARY (19)** and the **ANNUNCIATION of the LORD (25)**, the Memorials of **Saints Katherine Drexel (3), Perpetua and Felicity (7), John of God (8), Frances of Rome (9), Patrick (17), Cyril of Jerusalem (18)** and **Toribio de Mogrovejo (23)**.

In *April*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (8)**, and **EASTER SUNDAY (15)**, the Feast of **Saint Mark, Evangelist (25)**, the Memorials of **Saints Anselm (21), Adalbert (23), George, Martyr (23), Fidelis of Sigmaringen (24), Peter Chanel (28), Louis de Monfort (28), and Pius V, Pope (30)**. The **EASTER TRIDUUM** is **Holy Thursday (11), Good Friday (13)** and **Holy Saturday (14)**.

The **FEAST of DIVINE MERCY**, officially recognized by the **Magisterium** of the **Roman Catholic Church**, is celebrated by many churches as requested by Jesus in his Apparitions to **Blessed Faustina Kawalska** on the **SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (22)**. The **DIVINE MERCY NOVENA** starts on **Good Friday (4/13/2001)**.

MARIAN SHRINE or PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATIONS



Keith and Kathleen are always willing to schedule presentations to prayer group, Altar Rosary Society, Legion of Mary or other parish group meetings. The experiences and continuation of ministry for Our Lady in this time of graces and manifestation of Our Lord's Mercy are shared through videotape, witness and/or slide presentations followed by a question and answer session.

There is no charge. Free will offerings are accepted especially for books, tapes and religious articles which are made available at the presentation sites just like they are at the PFMC which operates like a church book.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Try to participate in daily Holy Mass or make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament during your travels to and from work or on errands.

For information, call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228. You may FAX your questions to (856)-768-9428.

INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:

<http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>

If you wish to see pictures of the twins or related Werner family information, visit:

<http://www.geocities.com/keithwerner>



The PILGRIM

Page 28

Volume 12, Number 3 – March 2001

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Keith and Kathleen Werner, Co-Directors

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963

(856) 768-9228 FAX: (856) 768-9428

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If there is no time to read it all now, please put it with other reading material in a place where you can read at least an article per day until the next issue arrives. We operate on divine providence and the kind donations of those who can afford to support us. **PRIESTS!** Please note that **HOMILY** ideas have come from priests reading articles in "The PILGRIM!"

