

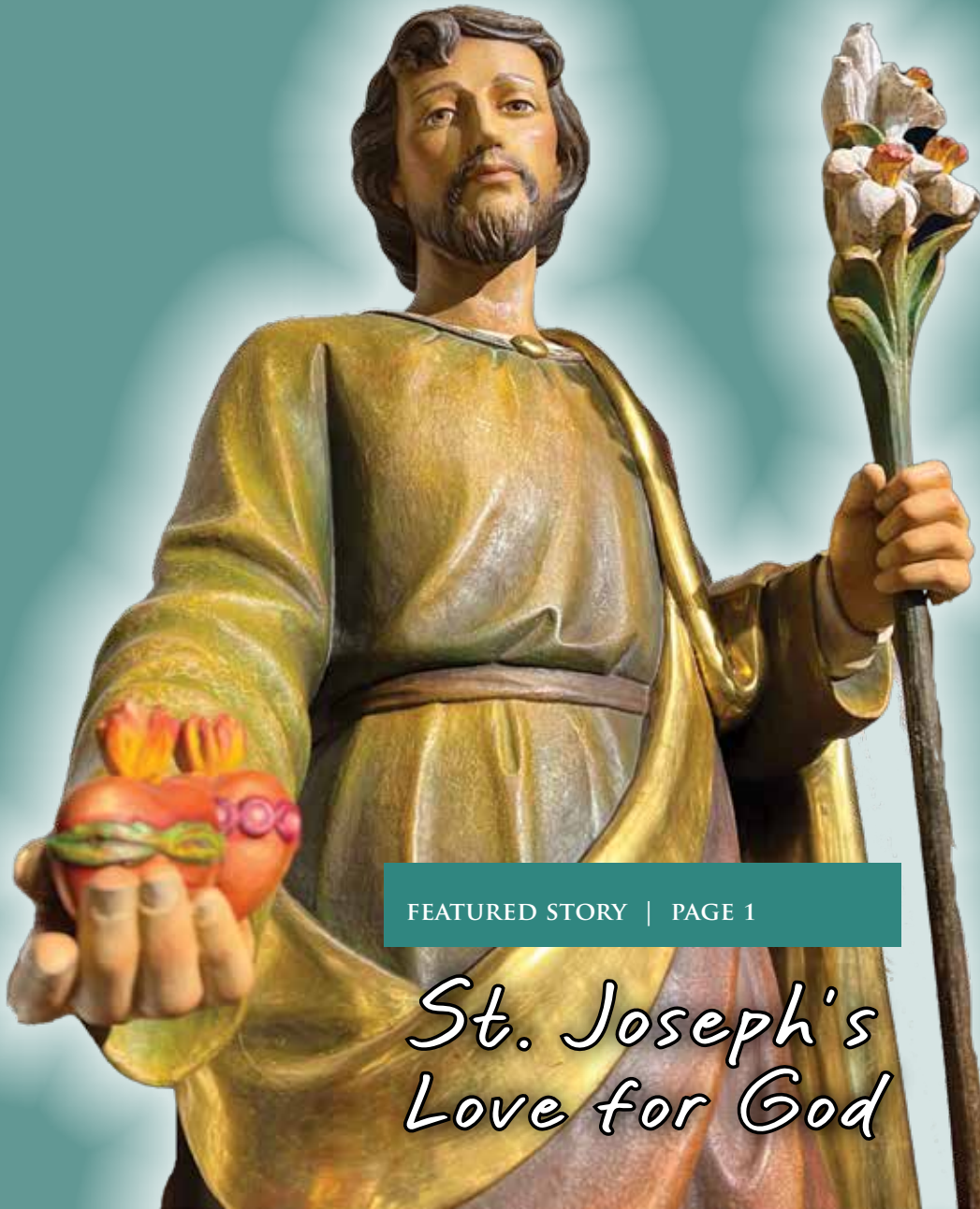
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THE VOICE OF PROVIDENCE

JUNE-JULY 2023



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*St. Joseph's
Love for God*

THE VOICE OF PROVIDENCE

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O St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus Christ and true spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us and the suffering and dying of today.

Now and at The Hour is a non-profit bi-monthly publication of the Divine Providence Province of the Servants of Charity, a Catholic Religious Congregation founded by St. Louis Guanella, (1842-1915).

Cover Image: *Joseph Most Faithful. St. Mary of the Assumption 1003 Bridge St, Charlevoix, MI 49720.*

The depiction of Joseph holding with care the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of course is a testament to how faithful he was to His task of caring for Jesus and Mary. Because of his fidelity to his calling as the husband of Mary and as the foster father of Jesus, he is given the role of leading us all in fidelity to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Therefore, go to Joseph and he will show you the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts. See page 25 for more.

Center Image: *Mass in a Connemara Cabin* by Aloysius O'Kelly. 1883. **National Gallery of Ireland.** The faithful kneel on a rough, dirt floor to receive a final blessing after Mass. The Lord reminds us that He, too, lived in a humble dwelling. He came from heaven, humbling Himself to live among the poor and to give Himself to us under the lowly appearances of bread and wine. Through the Mass, God comes to physically live in us! Let us never forget or take for granted the precious gift of the Holy Eucharist.

St. Joseph's Intense Love for God

BY FR. LEO JOSEPH, SDC

When we first attended our childhood religious formation, the first day of our class began with questions like: who is God? Where is God? We discovered that God is love and He is everywhere. Why did God create us? We learned to respond: "To know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him." These are the most common answers and the basic truths of our faith. Joseph would have grown up memorizing the central proclamation of the Jewish faith found in Deuteronomy: "Hear O Israel! The LORD is our GOD, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (Dt 6, 4) The many saints of the Church followed this greatest commandment and St. Joseph was no exception. He demonstrated his love for God through his actions toward Jesus and Mary. As a pious Jew Joseph practiced love, the greatest commandment with total dedication. He opened his heart totally to this free gift from God, a gift which is available to everyone.

St. Louis Guanella understood the power of Joseph's love and exhorted his brother priests and sisters saying, "Sanctify oneself and sanctify others." He knew that the measure of one's holiness is found in one's love of God and his neighbor. This love shone brilliantly in Joseph. It was the burning love of God that inspired Joseph to wholeheartedly accept the trials and troubles that he had to endure as the husband of Mary and foster father to Jesus. Living with Jesus, the beloved son of God, and



Mother Mary, his love for God increased immensely. His love reached such heights because his whole existence was focused on Jesus. Joseph teaches us to cultivate the same intimacy with Jesus and Mary. St. Paul affirms the importance of our imitation of this: "Whatever you do whether you eat or drink, do it for the glory of God." Joseph lived this motto. While Joseph lived on earth, he was recognized as nothing more than a simple carpenter; but he reached the highest degree of holiness next to the Blessed Virgin Mary because he did everything out of love for God.

Most importantly, Joseph can be our guide in learning how to love God. We must begin, as he did, accepting that God loves us and allowing Him to take complete possession of us. Joseph fully understood God's love for him. He knew this truth long before St. James wrote: "Draw close to God and He will come close to you." Because of the great trust that grew out of his love, God was with him through whatever difficulties Joseph went through. His love and service for God became his primary objective and greatest ambition. We can learn to experience the power of God's love for us only when, like St. Joseph, we are attentive to His voice, constantly open to His invitation, and ready to mold ourselves according to His will.

St. Joseph's life demonstrates that true love for God only comes alive when we live it in word and action. Given the precious gift of life, the greatest gift we can give God in return is to love Him through service to others – just as Joseph spent his life serving Mary and Jesus for their well-being. Joseph's life teaches us how we must return love for love in total loving surrender to God's holy will, leaning, without hesitation, on His eternal faithfulness. Led by his intense love for God, St. Joseph's life was daily filled with actions that would be described later in the beautiful words of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "Do small things with great love."





SHRINE NEWS

BY FR. LEO JOSEPH, SDC

As we move into summer, the weather continues to grow warmer and we begin to enjoy vacations and picnics. The shrine remembers many events which have taken place. A service was held on Divine Mercy Sunday with confessions, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction. Over fifty people came to receive the Lord's reconciliation that day. April 25th brought many Servants of Charity priests to the Pious Union to celebrate Mass during the USA Assembly, with Fr. Fortunato, Fr. Dennis Weber, and Fr. Ronald among them. Gifts were exchanged after Mass and priests and congregants alike enjoyed the reunion. The shrine remembered St. Joseph the Worker with an outdoor Rosary procession and Mass on Saturday, May 6th. On Mothers Day, there was a special blessing for all of the mothers as well as a May crowning.

Looking forward, we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi on June 11th and Fathers Day on June 18th. Let us always remember to love and pray for our fathers, who have sacrificed so much for us.

July 4th is remembered at Independence Day with cook outs, parades, and fireworks. We should always be thankful to live in a country where we have the freedom to live and pray together.

The Shrine also has many projects going on this summer. We will be constructing a garden near the grotto, dedicated to Mother Mary. The outdoor Stations of the Cross will also be renovated, with new audio boxes for people to pray along at each station. The shrine also hopes one day to build a new Providence Hall as a gathering place for pilgrim groups.

Many thanks to all of those who support the shrine and help offset printing costs. Your generous donations are a great help in printing the magazine.



From the Inbox *and the Mailbox*

Dear Father,

I keep seeing QR codes everywhere. It keeps saying to scan them, and I am not sure quite how, or even what a QR code is! I am writing to see if perhaps you know.

God bless,

Anonymous



Hello,

Thank you so much for your letter. A QR code is similar to a bar code, but people can scan it with their phones. The code takes you to a particular webpage on the internet. With your smartphone, open your camera app and point it directly at the QR code. Once the camera has focused in on the code, it will either automatically redirect you to the webpage or a little box will pop up, asking if you would like to proceed to the webpage.

Included is a QR code for the Pious Union website to request Masses.

Thank you again for the letter and may God bless you.

Fr. Leo Joseph, SDC

Joseph of Nazareth: Our Spiritual Father

BY THERESA CAVICCHIO

Over 150 years ago, St. Joseph was declared Patron of the Universal Church (Pope Pius IX, 1870). As cited in his Litany, the Spouse of the Mother of God, and Foster Father of the Son of God, officially acquired the unique charge of the entire Catholic Church throughout the world. Since then, the Church established by the Son whom he had raised as his own has been privileged to call St. Joseph her own particular patron.

This patronage applies to the Church as an institution but also, on a deeply personal level, to each individual member of the faithful who make up the body of the Church. Just as St. Joseph performed every duty of a devoted father for Jesus in the physical sense – loving, providing for, protecting, teaching, guiding Him – so he does the same for each of us as our own spiritual father, if we only ask.

Writing in this regard in his highly popular book *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, answers the question, why do we need a spiritual father?

Even if you have the best of fathers by earthly standards, “Jesus wants you



to have the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph because there is no man more capable of modeling true fatherhood for you than St. Joseph. His loving spiritual fatherhood has the power to draw you extremely close to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, increase your virtue, protect you from Satan, and help you reach heaven.”

“Saint Joseph loves us and so will joyfully do the exact same things that a biological father does for his children, only on a spiritual level. He will spiritually feed, shelter, clothe, educate, protect, and correct us. This is his role as father.”

Considering each of these aspects of St. Joseph’s “role as father” may give us insights into the life-changing spiritual influence he can have on us.

Saint Joseph will spiritually feed us - As he provided daily bread for Jesus and Mary, he will nourish us with a deep desire and appreciation for that true Bread of Life which sustains and strengthens us. He will help us to understand the critical importance of nurturing an ongoing relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Saint Joseph will spiritually shelter us - He will shelter us within the haven of our Church, the home we share now with Jesus and Mary, as he sheltered them in the home they shared as a family on earth. Under his guidance, this haven will continue to keep us safe throughout our lifetime.



Saint Joseph will spiritually clothe us - He will cover us with the sturdy fabric of a strong character based on solid ethics and a well-formed conscience, all of which were hallmarks of his own saintly life. Both durable and beautiful, this garment can carry us through any difficulties we encounter in life.

Saint Joseph will spiritually educate us - He will teach us to unite our will to the will of the Father as he did; to rely on the Father wholeheartedly and confidently as he did, in true poverty of spirit. He will serve as our gentle, patient model of trust and faithfulness in prayer.

Saint Joseph will spiritually protect us - He will shield us from forces drawing us away from God, increasing our awareness of the dangers posed by temptations rampant in our modern-day culture. He will intercede for us in our efforts to resist such spiritual minefields placed by the evil one, who flees in terror before him.

Saint Joseph will spiritually correct us - He will help us form a right conscience to avoid sin, to acknowledge when we do fall, and to strive each day toward continual conversion. Toward this end, he will encourage us to make frequent use of the Sacrament of Penance and the graces it provides.

Saint Joseph performs these paternal duties in a spirit of never-failing love for us couched in that profound humility which characterized every action of his earthly life. And, while he remains the humblest of men, we should never underestimate his tremendous intercessory power born of the great love he enjoys from Jesus and Mary.

To conclude our reflection, we do well to remember that in any worthwhile relationship, both parties have an important role to play. Father Calloway encourages us: “The paternal mission of St. Joseph is not finished. A father’s work is never finished until his children are safely home ... Your spiritual father knows what is harmful to your soul, and he wants to watch over you and help you arrive safely home [in heaven] ... Your role is to entrust yourself to his diligent care and never look back.”

Let us do so with hearts filled with love, confidence, and trust.

Theresa Cavicchio is a wife, mother, and freelance writer from Pennsylvania. She is also a grandmother and a professed Secular Franciscan.





Conjugal Love:

The Sacrament of Self Giving

BY FR. AMALRAJ SDC

The Catholic opposition to practices such as contraception, direct sterilization, and abortion has the curious distinction of being simultaneously well-known and little understood. Many both in and outside of the Church have some awareness of the Church's conclusions on these matters, but far less grasp of the basis for them. Recent statistics have trumpeted the fact that as many as eighty percent of U.S. Catholics disagree with the Church's position on birth regulation. This divergence between official teaching and the view of many ordinary Catholics can be seen in other issues such as extramarital sex, the use of reproductive technologies such as artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization, and even abortion. Situations sometimes confuse people about the rationale of the Church's teaching on these matters and make them defiant by their purported opposition to it. However, the Catholic Church courageously perseveres in its teachings to clarify the vision of the dignity of men and women created in the image of God, and to certify the human vocation in marriage is to make a sincere gift of self in love and respect the preciousness of human life.

Fulfillment from the "I"-Thou Dialogue

Each and every human person is therefore precious, called to share in the eternal communion of love which is the Trinity. The only proper way to treat



such a person is as one worthy of unconditional respect and love. To use a person in conjugal love merely as a means to one's ends is to violate his or her dignity as an unrepeatable subject called by God. In conjugal love couples are called to draw themselves together in the unity of love. The 'I' of the personal subject is both established and enriched by interaction with the other in the 'I-Thou' dialogue of mutual friendship and love. In fact, men and women are only fulfilled as persons through making a sincere gift of self to others in love.

This unity of love, which is the basis of all genuine friendship and community, is most fully expressed in the covenant of marriage. In this covenant, a man and a woman promise themselves to each other in faithful and fruitful love for the rest of their lives. From the perspectives of the Scriptures, God Himself is the witness of this covenant (Prv 2,17; Mal 2,14). In the Church's understanding, this covenant is also a sacramental sign of grace which both symbolizes and gives the couple a share in the same divine love which binds Christ to the Church (Eph 5,21-33). Just as the love of the Lord Jesus for the Church cannot be changed or broken, so too the bond which unites the couple cannot be broken by any sin or infidelity on their part.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH COURAGEOUSLY PERSEVERES IN ITS TEACHINGS TO CLARIFY THE VISION OF THE DIGNITY OF MEN AND WOMEN CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, AND TO CERTIFY THE HUMAN VOCATION IN MARRIAGE IS TO MAKE A SINCERE GIFT OF SELF IN LOVE AND RESPECT THE PRECIOUSNESS OF HUMAN LIFE.

Sex - A Sacred 'Language of the Body'

The covenant-promise of the couple which is made in the free consent of their wedding vows, must be uniquely expressed and simultaneously recalled in their giving themselves to each other in the sacred marital embrace. In this action a couple enacts with their bodies the complete self-giving which they have promised each other in their vows. This sacred self-giving is uniquely described as the 'language of the body' spoken within marriage and by husband and wife alone. This language communicates covenant fidelity and total self-donation. Through this bodily dialogue, a couple learns in a new way the meaning of their own masculinity and femininity and how sexuality enables them to realize

their vocation to self-giving. They also discover in the utterance of this language that they are not only husband and wife but also potential father and mother (Gn 4,1). If either the spousal or the parental meanings of intercourse is deliberately refused or negated the gift is neither fully given nor received.

Procreation – A Cooperation with God

Through their shared fertility they have been entrusted by God with the awesome task of participating in the creation of new human life. St. John Paul the Great described the procreation of new human life as a ‘renewal of the mystery of Creation’ and a unique form of cooperation with God on the part of the couple. Hence, based on a grasp of the person’s call to make a gift of him or herself in true love, the Church holds that sexual union must be both the expression of the couple’s love and open to the gift of children who might result from it.

Fr. Amalraj Sawarimuthu SdC, is a religious priest from the Congregation of the Servants of Charity. Presently, he is working in the Catholic Social Service program of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a pastoral assistant in the division of the Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence.



O God, You have united us in the bond of Holy Matrimony.

Make us courageous witnesses of Your love in the world.

Bless and protect us as we journey towards holiness. Guide us safely home to You and to our eternal reward. Amen.



The Eucharist: The Center of Christian Life

BY KELLY FLAHERTY

For children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their parents or caregivers are their first and most important advocates. Parents make sure that they are getting the best medical care possible, the best education, have all of their basic needs met, and are shielded from discrimination. Parents are also concerned about the spiritual care of their children.

The celebration of the sacraments is an essential aspect of the Catholic faith. The sacraments are the means by which the faithful encounter the saving presence of Christ, and through them, they receive the grace necessary for their journey of faith. In 1995, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities" which provide direction to the Church regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the sacramental life of the Church. According to the Guidelines, "Baptism is to be made available to all who freely ask for it, are properly disposed, and are not prohibited by law from receiving it. ... Disability, of itself is never a reason for deferring Baptism."⁽¹¹⁾

Some parents, however, may struggle with the reception of Holy Communion by their children with disabilities. This sacrament, the Eucharist, is the source

and summit of the Christian life. “The celebration of the Eucharist is the center of the entire Christian life.” (Guidelines, 21) However, for people with developmental disabilities, participating in the Eucharist can present some unique challenges.

Brian and Tiffany Rooney struggled with this very thing. Their son Blaise has epilepsy, a brain injury and cerebral palsy. He was baptized and as he grew up, Brian could tell that he had a true love for the Mass. There were always indications that Blaise knew what was going on, even if he was unable to articulate the details. Brian and Tiffany wondered if he would be able to receive the Eucharist. Because of Blaise’s disabilities, Brian knew that he would be unable to go to Confession, but Blaise is truly incapable of grave sin.



According to the USCCB guidelines, persons with developmental disabilities have the right to receive the sacraments like any other Catholic. Therefore, the Church has a responsibility to ensure that the sacraments are accessible to all Catholics, regardless of their disabilities. In the case of the Eucharist, the guidelines state that "the persons with disabilities should be encouraged to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist and to receive Holy Communion, either in the hand or on the tongue, whichever way is preferable for them."

Another consideration when providing the Eucharist to persons with developmental disabilities is the physical environment in which it is celebrated. The guidelines state "the liturgical environment should be adapted, as necessary, to enable the full, active, and conscious participation of the persons with disabilities." This may mean providing accommodations, such as ramps or wheelchair-accessible pews, to enable the person to participate fully in the Mass.

St. Louis Guanella, founder of the Servants of Charity who oversaw the Pious Union, said, “The Father waits only for a fraternal gesture of love in order to supply through His own means what is needed by whomever He is helping.” Brian could see that fraternal gesture on the face of his son during the consecration at Mass and often at that moment Blaise says, “He did it.” After speaking with Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC at a recent event, Brian and Tiffany decided to seek the sacrament for their son.

Pope Francis stated in “The Joy of the Gospel” that, “the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them His friendship, His blessing, His word, the celebration of the sacraments.” (200) The Pope has also said that the bias should always be toward giving the sacrament.

After meeting with their parish priest, Blaise joyfully awaited the day of his First Holy Communion, March 11, 2023. “It has given us such great joy to see Blaise receiving Communion. It has added to his life and to ours.”

If you are grappling with a similar situation, Brian encourages you, in the words of St. John Paul the Great, to “Be not afraid.” Pope Francis, in his message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities November 20, 2021 said, “As the true vine, He wants every branch, in union with Him, to bear fruit. Yes, Jesus wants us to attain ‘the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints...’” (Gaudete et Exsultate, 1).

MESSAGE OF JOHN PAUL II ON THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED PERSON 5 January 2004

6. There is no doubt that in revealing the fundamental frailty of the human condition, the disabled person becomes an expression of the tragedy of pain. In this world of ours that approves hedonism and is charmed by ephemeral and deceptive beauty, the difficulties of the disabled are often perceived as a shame or a provocation and their problems as burdens to be removed or resolved as quickly as possible. Disabled people are, instead, living icons of the crucified Son.... It is said, justifiably so, that disabled people are humanity's privileged witnesses. They can teach everyone about the love that saves us; they can become heralds of a new world, no longer dominated by force, violence and aggression, but by love, solidarity and acceptance, a new world transfigured by the light of Christ, the Son of God who became incarnate, who was crucified and rose for us.





Wm. M. W. Kelly

Perfect – and Powerful: Summer Devotions for the Holy Souls

BY SUSAN TASSONE

Ah, summertime, and the living is easy. Two weeks of vacation. A few days at the beach. An afternoon picnic in the park. And....

Prayers for the suffering souls in purgatory? Absolutely! No week or two off for them. Purgatory is never a day at the beach.

The revelations of St. Alphonsus Liguori and St. Teresa of Avila tell us most souls are released from purgatory on Christmas Day. OK. Why not give them “Christmas in July”! And August. Why not make these three summer months a time to help them ... and, in doing that, help ourselves?

Ourselves? You bet. Do you think it’s even remotely possible that the souls you’ve helped free from purgatory are going to forget the role you played once they’ve entered heaven? Not now, not ever. From that instant you have good, good friends in not just high places. In the highest place ever.

(Actually, they knew what you were doing for them while they were in purgatory and that’s when they started praying —interceding — for you.)

The Precious Blood

July is the month of the Precious Blood. The holy souls long for the Precious Blood of that Sacred Heart.

St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that “as the dew refreshes and raises up the withering plants and flowers, so does the Blood of Christ revive and comfort and bring renewed hope to the poor souls in purgatory.”



This summer print out or bookmark the Litany of the Sacred Heart and the Litany of the Most Precious Blood and pray them often for the holy souls.

No access to a computer or smartphone? Ask a friend to print a copy for you. (It's good to have friends of earth, too!)

The Stations of the Cross

Along with the Mass and Rosary, praying the Stations of the Cross is a powerful, powerful, powerful way to help souls in purgatory and acquire merit for ourselves. (No, the Stations aren't meant to be limited to cold, dark Lenten Fridays.) As Jesus pointed out to Venerable Sr. Martha Marie Chambon (Introducer of the Holy Wounds Chaplet Rosary): "When you offer my holy wounds for sinners, you must not forget to do so for the souls in purgatory, as there are but few who think of their relief." It's not that we don't care. It's not that we don't want to. It's just that, shrug, we get busy. Out of sight, out of mind. Out of our prayers.

WHEN YOU OFFER MY HOLY WOUNDS FOR SINNERS,
YOU MUST NOT FORGET TO DO SO FOR THE SOULS IN
PURGATORY, AS THERE ARE BUT FEW WHO THINK OF THEIR
RELIEF.

Two suggestions here. The standard Stations of the Cross (or Way of the Cross) or the ancient devotion of praying The Way of the Cross for the Holy Souls. That's the title of the first book I ever published which has sold over 150,000 copies and I don't mention it here to make sales. Please forgive me if it seems like I'm tooting my own horn. I'm not. But I never hesitate to toot horns, bang drums, and shout from the rooftops for the holy souls in purgatory.

Why are the Stations of the Cross so powerful? Because of the indulgences attached to this devotion that you can apply to your deceased loved ones! For more information about The Way of the Cross for Holy Souls you can visit my website.

Following a practice that goes back many centuries, consider praying the Stations for the holy souls for thirty-three consecutive days at home or at church. If possible, go to Mass on each of those days in honor of Our Lord's thirty-three years on earth. What a marvelous summer devotion this can be. I know this devotion is potent since I have done it for years. Many favors have been obtained by this means. It's an exchange of prayers. I love Blessed Solanus' words about them: "The holy souls hardly ever fail."

And remember: In a special way we can offer this practice for the priests and consecrated men and women in purgatory who tend to be forgotten too soon after their deaths. Remember, we gain fresh intercessors and plus when we pray for the souls it increases their intercessory power for you! (See the Catechism of the Catholic Church #958.)

Take a “Prayer Stroll”

In August, a month devoted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, try a family “prayer stroll” through your local cemetery to pray for all those buried there. Continually pray the Eternal Rest Prayer on your Rosary beads.

Visit the graves of your loved ones and clean their sites in a spirit of prayer and penance. Place or plant flowers near their grave in their honor. Have younger family members sprinkle holy water on the graves. (It’s one of the first sacramentals of the Church. Holy water refreshes the holy souls.) I did this with my young cousin and he ran around the cemetery sprinkling holy water on the nearby graves as well! That’s the spirit, and a lesson for the youngest generation.

Remember Masses and Gregorian Masses. The Pious Union of St. Joseph is one of the most reputable and reliable organizations to arrange Masses, Novena of Masses, Triduum of Masses and the powerful Gregorian Masses for your deceased dear ones. Visit them at: www.pusj.org. Mary Grace, the Pious Union Office Manager, is always ready to assist you by phone or email!

A Day with Mary

Pious legend has it that on the day Mary was assumed into heaven (now marked on August 15th) all of purgatory was emptied, and the souls detained there accompanied her in her triumphant entry into paradise.

St. Bernardine of Siena said that through her prayers and the application of her own merits, the Blessed Mother has the power of freeing souls — especially her devotees — from purgatory. And St. Peter Damian attests that every year on the Solemnity of the Assumption, Our Lady liberates thousands of souls.

This summer, join with her, pray with her, for the souls who are longing for their personal, spiritual, “Independence Day.” And let the celestial fireworks begin!

Susan Tassone is an award-winning author of 14 best-sellers, including Praying with the Saints for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, Day by Day for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, Day by Day with St. Faustina and more. She is a regular guest on EWTN Global Catholic network and other media platforms. Visit her at: susantassone.com



SACRED HEART OF JESUS

the Servant

BY FR. SILVIO DE NARD, SDC

The feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is approaching. This particular feast celebrates Jesus Christ, not only as Son of God, but as Jesus the servant.

The purpose of Jesus' coming among us was to serve His Father and all of us. Jesus' first mission did not regard being a master and a teacher, but a servant. He came not to do His own will but His Father's will. He was not the center of His mission. God the Father was the center of His life and mission.

His job was not to make Himself famous and powerful but to be the servant of the Father who asked Him to be servant of men, to be savior of men, and to be the Son of Man.



When Jesus asked His disciples to go among the people to bring the good news of God's presence He asked them to cure the sick, to raise the dead, to cleanse lepers, to drive out demons. Without cost they have received; without cost they were to give (see Mt 10).

The main requirement of a true disciple of Jesus regards being a servant of God's message. In the same chapter, Matthew underlines the theory of being a servant: "No disciple is above his teacher, no servant is above his master." It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, the servant like his master.

Jesus was not highly revered because he was the Son of God. He was revered because of His miracles; not much because of His teaching but because of his healing without asking for payment. What He did and preached was free. He never asked to be honored; He only asked to be listened to. He came to do God's will and God asked Him to be the suffering servant of the Lord, as Isaiah wrote in his four descriptions of the Messiah.

When praying to the Sacred Heart of Jesus we are entering into a territory we dislike. Jesus is talking about the cross and suffering, about servanthood and humiliation, about giving and not receiving. He, the Son of God, humbled Himself by taking on human nature. God, made Himself human, something less than angels. This was a humiliation to Him. To be the Creator and becoming a creature was an immense difference in being. And He did it because of His love for us, stupid people. He did not create us stupid. We become stupid by our own choices, by not following the true meaning of free will, by disregarding His

commandments, by trying desperately to be better and more knowledgeable than God Himself.

And Jesus knew that. He never complained. He preferred to climb the wood of the cross rather than betray His mission, to be a servant to His creatures. What a man!

Even though Jesus is a man does not mean we should treat him as a mere man. He is the Son of God and the Son of Man. Even though He appears as a Sacred Heart pierced by a lance and surrounded by thorns does not mean we should humiliate Him more and more by our proud actions.

St. Guanella was a true disciple of Jesus by refusing to follow the world's way of life and action. Servants never receive applause from the people they serve. We Servants of Charity should abhor praises and compliments. People do try to put us on a pedestal, but we should receive such accolades as compliments to God not ourselves. We are just servants.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus was humble, hardworking and a 100% servant who did not crave vacation days, honors, privileges, pride, and constant presence among applauding people.

To celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart is to celebrate Jesus offering Himself to the Father and to people in need, day in and day out. Servants of Charity try to be like Him in this way. Lay people can also follow this servant attitude, by helping those in their own lives. Then we all will draw closer each day to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.





No Greater Love HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS

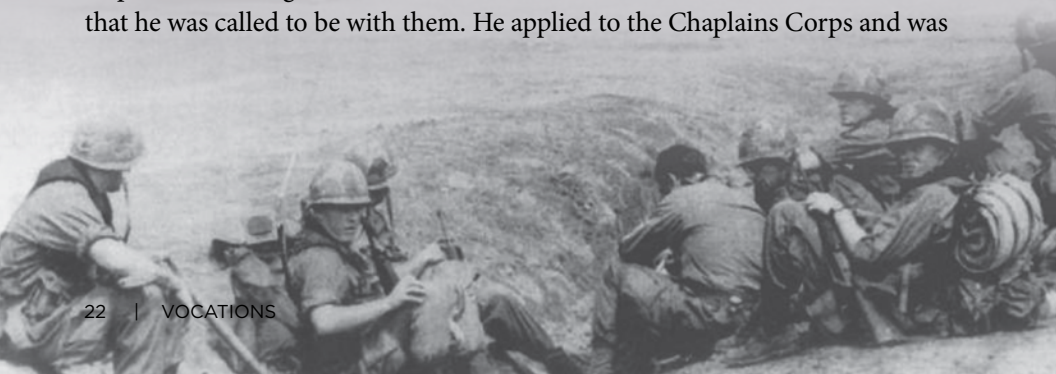
BY MARK HELMS, LT COL RET

Fr. Vincent Robert Capodanno served as a Navy Chaplain during the Vietnam War in 1966-1967. The Marines he comforted on the battlefield loved him affectionately and called him “The Grunt Padre.” Fr. Vincent wanted to live among them and experience the same dangers and difficulties they did. The Marines felt that he was one of them. Fr. Vincent’s virtuous life and formation began by growing up during the Depression Era in a large, Catholic, Italian-American family.

Fr. Vincent was born in Staten Island, NY on February 13, 1929. He was the youngest of nine children. Named after his father, they called him “Junior.” He grew up in a very loving, joyful household. When he was ten years old, his father died. All of the children, including Vincent, worked to help their mother, feed the family, and pay bills.

Faith and patriotism were embedded into the character of young Vincent. His faith would continue to grow as he would choose single-heartedness towards Jesus. He loved God above all things. Shortly after high school graduation in 1947, Fr. Vincent answered the Lord’s calling to the priesthood. In addition, he felt a special calling to missionary life, and entered Maryknoll Seminary in 1949.

After ordination, he became a Maryknoll missionary working the next seven years both in Taiwan and Hong Kong. During his work in Hong Kong, he began to encounter U.S. military troops who were heading to Vietnam on U.S. Naval ships. Fr. Vincent got to know these soldiers, sailors, and Marines. He believed that he was called to be with them. He applied to the Chaplains Corps and was

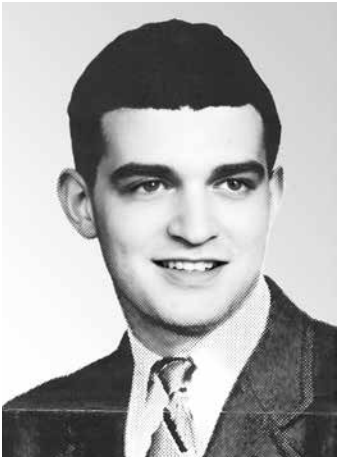


accepted by the Navy in 1965. He attended the Navy Chaplain School in Rhode Island. Once he graduated from the course, he immediately requested an assignment to Vietnam. His family wanted him to stay in the States. They asked him, “why Vietnam?” Fr. Vincent would answer, “because I am needed there. That is where the fire is.” He was a man of peace but chose to go to war to be a light of the Lord for those Marines he served.

Fr. Vincent arrived in Vietnam during Holy Week of April, 1966. He was assigned as a battalion chaplain to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. Chaplains in wartime are non-combatants and spend their time in the rear area serving as pastors and counselors, by providing assistance to the wounded and dying. Fr. Vincent was a unique chaplain, in that he wanted to be on the front lines with the Marines.

During his 16 months in Vietnam, Fr. Vincent was involved in six combat operations. His heroic acts during these operations made a lasting impression on the Marine Corps. He always wanted to be assigned to the unit that would face the greatest danger that day. He did not carry a weapon into battle; he only carried his cross, Rosary, and St. Christopher medals to give to the Marines. He was calm and cool under fire. During a firefight, he would move from troop to troop, providing comfort and often telling them, “God is with you this day.” The Marines felt safe when Father was with them on a mission.

On September 4, 1967 a Marine unit had become encircled by a much larger North Vietnamese force. Fr. Capodanno’s battalion was tasked with going in and rescuing that unit: Operation Swift. Everyone knew that this



particular operation would be a difficult and dangerous mission. Fr. Vincent was encouraged by higher command not go on this one, but he insisted and hopped on the last helicopter that would take them into battle. It was a horrible fight that day in which many Marines died. During the encounter, Fr. Vincent moved from Marine to Marine, always exposing himself to enemy fire. He was wounded twice by shrapnel to his hand and legs, but kept going. As his Marine unit was being overrun by enemy forces, Father spotted a wounded Marine and moved to help him. An enemy machine gun was twenty feet away and killed Fr. Vincent.

He saved souls and lives that day. His heroic virtue has been recognized both by the military (posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor), and by the Church (in 2006 he was named Servant of God and is now being considered for beatification).

When word spread that the Padre had been killed, there was a great sadness among the Marine units throughout all of South Vietnam. Their beloved Padre was no longer with them. In John 15,13, Jesus said, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for another.” Fr. Vincent’s heroism and single-heartedness continue to inspire many today. He was always faithful and said ‘yes’ to the Lord’s calling; priesthood, mission service, and chaplaincy. He brought the love of Jesus to the Marines he served as he brings that same love to us even now. A twenty-year-old Marine corporal said of Fr. Vincent, “Somehow he just seemed to act the way a man of God should act.”

Mark Helms is a retired United States Army Lieutenant Colonel and a retired high school history teacher. He and his wife Marianne, have been married for 44 years, and receive great joy and blessings from their eight grandchildren.

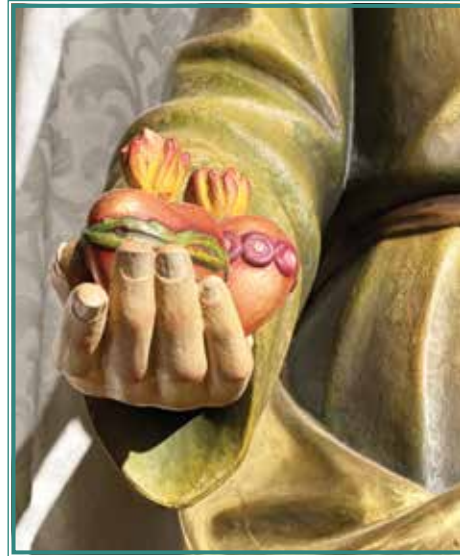


St. Joseph Shows Us

the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts

BY KELLY FLAHERTY

In the small town of Charlevoix, Michigan, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish sits right on the main drag. It is a simple small town parish from the outside, but has many treasures to be found on the inside. One of these is a remarkably beautiful statue of St. Joseph.



The Pastor of St. Mary's is 40-year-old Fr. Peter Wigton, who grew up in Northern Michigan in the small town of Cedar. He is one of ten children born to Doug and Jan

Wigton. Fr. Peter recounts that the one thing that his parents focused on was the importance of faith. He recalls that his parents prayed together every day and that the family would often gather for various devotions and prayers. "We all knew that God was at the center, and that nothing was more important. I thank the Lord that my parents helped us to understand how to prioritize."

Fr. Peter went to Catholic school through high school and then went on to college at The Franciscan University of Steubenville. There he joined the Lion of Judah Household where his devotion to St. Joseph began to grow. St. Joseph was the main patron of the household. He was seen as an example of faithful Christian manhood. "From that time on, I grew in my love for St. Joseph. He definitely became an example for me of what kind of man I wanted to become."

During his junior year at Franciscan Fr. Peter heard the call to become a priest. While attending the spring formal with his girlfriend, they were on the top level of the ferryboat enjoying the view of Pittsburgh all lit up at night. The moon

was up above the downtown skyline making for a perfect romantic scene. It was then that the Lord decided to speak. Fr. Peter heard an interior voice that said, “You’re holding onto an imperfect love.” He immediately replied, “Yeah, but it seems so good.” The immediate response was, “Yeah, but I have so much more for you.”

After speaking with his spiritual director, Fr. Peter realized that this was his invitation from the Lord to give himself to complete fulfillment in the priesthood. He was already on the right trajectory with his studies so he completed his undergraduate degree with a double major Theology and Humanities and Catholic Culture. His next step took him to Italy, but he completed his formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus OH.

BECAUSE OF HIS FIDELITY TO HIS CALLING AS THE HUSBAND OF MARY AND AS THE FOSTER FATHER OF JESUS, ST. JOSEPH IS GIVEN THE ROLE OF LEADING US ALL IN FIDELITY TO THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY.

After his ordination, Fr. Peter served as Associate at the Cathedral in Gaylord MI. His next assignment was at St. Joseph in Manistee MI. He is currently at St. Mary of the Assumption in Charlevoix, where he replaced his older brother Fr. Matthew Wigton as Pastor. When Fr. Matthew, was pastor at St. Mary, he created an Adoration chapel that included three stained glass windows: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Joseph holding both of those hearts close to his own.

The parish had a beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother that came from Obergammegau, Germany and Fr. Peter wanted to get a statue of St. Joseph that would match the style and scale of Mary. He had some other work being done around the church and spoke with the contractor who recommended a sculptor in Italy that would be up to the challenge. And so, the journey began.

Fr. Peter was very fond of the window depicting St. Joseph with the two Hearts because of its uniqueness and wanted the statue to portray it. His only difference was that instead of St. Joseph holding the Hearts near his own heart, he would be presenting the Hearts and drawing the faithful in to focus on of the hearts of Jesus and Mary. The sculptor did an amazing job. He created the statue in the

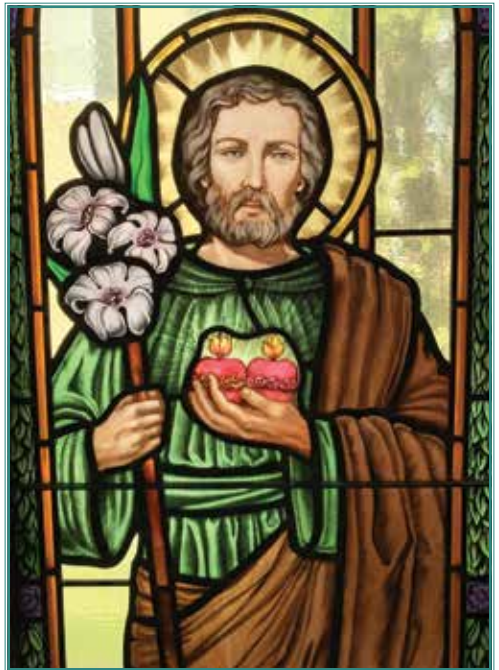


style and scale of the Blessed Mother, and he perfectly resembles St. Joseph as Fr. Peter had imagined.

But then he needed a name. Fr. Peter recently was praying and asking St. Joseph to tell him what his name was. “Who are you?” Fr. Peter asked. The response came, “Faithful. I am Joseph Most Faithful.” The depiction of Joseph holding with care the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of course is a testament to how faithful he was to His task of caring for Jesus and Mary.

Because of his fidelity to his calling as the husband of Mary and as the foster father of Jesus, he is given the role of leading us all in fidelity to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Therefore, go to Joseph and he will show you the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts.

The statue was officially installed in the church during Easter 2022. Now anyone who visits the church may contemplate St. Joseph Most Faithful showing us the two Hearts that are the pathway to complete fulfillment.



The Pious Union Library



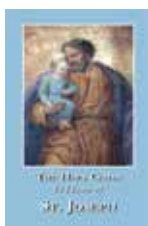
Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini, SdC: A Man from the “House of Providence”

Venerable Bishop Bacciarini was born in Switzerland to a poor family. His life was marked with sacrifices and sufferings. He embraced the mystery of suffering like Jesus on the cross and by following the Little Way of St. Therese of Lisieux. Venerable Bishop Bacciarini is a master of love, suffering and holiness.



The Heart of a Father

Fr. Tito Credaro, a Guanellian priest, studied, lived and extensively wrote about Guanellian spirituality. Fr. Tito loved Fr. Guanella and the Servants of Charity, *The Heart of a Father* tells us why.



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Blessed
Maria Clara
of the Child
Jesus



Blessed
Carlo Acutis

To become a member of the Pious Union of St. Joseph or to extend membership to prayerful friends and relatives, please send names and addresses to 953 E. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240 or email piousunion@pusj.org

Shrine of St. Joseph Sacraments and Hours of Devotion

Mass times: Sun 10:00 a.m. • M, Tu, Th, Fr and Sat 11:30 a.m.

Wed 8:30 a.m. followed by Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction: Wed 4:45 p.m. • Divine Mercy Chaplet: Wed 4:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary: Before Mass • **Stations of the Cross:** Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Anointing of the Sick: First Saturday during 11:30 a.m. Mass and when requested

Confession: Before and after Mass, upon request

To receive the Monthly Shrine Bulletin and all special event mailings, please contact the office at 517-522-8017 or send email to piousunion@pusj.org



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