

# The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

**Celebrating Life & Family Traditions**



**Serve the Lord with Gladness**

WINTER 2020-2021

# The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## *In this issue*

<i>Provincial Perspective</i> .....	1
<i>Gregorian Masses Enrollment Form</i> .....	2
<i>God Bless the Millennials!</i> .....	3
<i>Wisdom from the Bald Guy</i> .....	6
<i>Marriage vs. Civil Unions</i> .....	8
<i>Men of God, Priests Forever</i> .....	13
<i>Mass with the Bishop</i> .....	14
<i>The Truck Drive</i> .....	16
<i>Queen of the Most Holy Rosary</i> .....	18
<i>Family Forever Society</i> .....	21
<i>Fraternity &amp; Social Friendship</i> .....	22
<i>Prayer for Priests</i> .....	26
<i>Join the Perpetual Mass Association</i> .....	<i>Inside Back Cover</i>

## The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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### **Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF)**

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Front Cover: Front Cover: A young altar server from Texas.

Back Cover: Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first millennial to be proclaimed Blessed by the Church.

# Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

Ending 2020 and beginning the new year of 2021, we find ourselves living in difficult and challenging times due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Thus, we wonder what is in store for us and the whole world.

**We may wonder: Where is God?** We must remember what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to live out their lives, submitting to God's will.

They questioned and feared what they could not understand, as we do today. But their strong faith and trust in God helped them live out their lives in confidence. They are the example for us to keep a close relationship with our God by praying daily and by loving and serving others in need.

Making Jesus the foundation of our lives brings us the gift of true peace and renews our wearied minds and hearts. Do take the necessary precautions to avoid the virus and stay safe and healthy.

With prayerful best wishes for a Blessed Year of Our Lord 2021!

Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am

*Fr. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.*

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



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

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**God bless your family! +JMJ+**





## YOUTHFUL OUTLOOK

### Blessed Carlo Acutis: Explorer of the Infinite

by © J.P. Richardson, 2020

Everyone needs someone to look up to – heroes, heroines, people to emulate and imitate, role models, lodestars. Who are they? Maybe Dads, Moms, siblings, teachers, and others. Could be saints and blessed, too. Even saints and blessed, before going to Heaven, look up to Someone – God. Blessed Carlo Acutis, who was beatified recently, put it this way: *“To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan.”*

Every generation, too, has their heroes, heroines, superstars, people they admire, paragons to inspire. Sometimes, after they’re gone, heroes and heroines “live on” in books, poems, plaques, and statues to be guiding stars for people and generations not yet alive.

Christopher Columbus, Father Saint Junipero Serra, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Frederick Douglass,



Blessed Carlo Acutis: Source (WP:NFCC#4), Fair Use, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Crazy Horse, Winston Churchill, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and many other people were looked up to by people of their own times and generations that followed.

Recently, statues of some time-honored people have been toppled and destroyed – pulled down to earth – by

some people of our time who regard those long-admired people as villains to be scorned rather than heroic icons to be exalted on pedestals. Those iconoclasts of our time are looking elsewhere for inspiration. Where will they look? To the left or right? Behind? Ahead? Down? Up?

Blessed Carlo was known for saying, *“All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies.”* What does it take to keep going as originals? We ought to be careful where we look for

our superstars, our guiding lights, our lodestars. Following misguiding stars can lead us in wrong directions, away from our original goals. We can turn into photocopies of things not planned in the original design.

Castles built in sand or air get washed or blown away. Mere mortals seldom inspire “all of the people, all of the time.” Worldly values change. The standards of this temporary world are set up and knocked down. Immortal heroes and heroines, saints and blesseds, are different. They live by timeless standards. Their heroic virtues are virtually universal and everlasting in their power to inspire.

Why do we love and revere Jesus Christ even 2,000 years after He was conceived and crucified in this world? Because He is our personal hero? Because He is a lodestar for our generation? Yes, but countless people of all generations, since He ascended into Heaven, have looked up to Jesus as God and Our Redeemer, as “The Way, the Truth, and the Life.” Jesus Christ’s appeal is catholic (universal) and timeless.

Saints and blesseds, too, inspire peo-

ple of all times and places. Why? Because they know the best place to look for inspiration. Blessed Carlo said, “*Sadness is looking at ourselves; happiness is looking toward God... Not me, but God... The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy.*” Blessed Carlo, like all people who go from this life to Heaven, did his best to be like Christ, who is perfect, changeless, and timeless. Heroic



Body in Repose: Enzo Rippa - own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Christian virtue is beyond time and place.

*Star Trek*, the television series and movies that have captivated countless fans for generations, popularized the idea that “space is the

final frontier” – the last great wilderness remaining to be explored, the last grand adventure for our human race.

The Catholic Church teaches us about our other final destinations – the Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. We’re all explorers, adventurers crossing the frontiers of our own personal spaces. Each of us will arrive at three of those Final Four.

Christopher (Christ-bearer) Columbus was a Catholic explorer. His frontiers were finite – the oceans and the New World. He charted the way from Europe to America. Columbus Day

is October 12, the anniversary of the day in 1492 when his sailors sighted land after their long voyage. Blessed Carlo Acutis's feast day is also October 12, the anniversary of the day in 2006 when his soul sighted Perpetual Light.

We could think of Blessed Carlo, too, as a Catholic explorer. His frontiers were infinite. He explored cyberspace – he was called a computer genius – and his final frontier was the infinite – Heaven. *"Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite,"* he said. *"The infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven."*

Carlo, who died of leukemia when he was 15, was wise beyond his years in exploring the infinite and charting the way for the rest of us.

Along the way to Heaven, we can see, as Blessed Carlo saw, other shining stars to guide us. *"Continuously ask your guardian angel for help,"* he advised. *"Your guardian angel has to become your best friend."*

Carlo looked to the Blessed Mother, who always points us toward her Son, Jesus Christ. *"Do whatever He tells you,"* Holy Mary said to the servants at the Wedding Feast at Cana, where her Son, the Son of God, worked His

first miracle, changing water into wine. Carlo desired to be guided by Our Lady, Stella Maris or Star of the Sea. He wanted to avoid being waylaid on his journey. *"The Virgin Mary is the only Woman in my life,"* he boldly proclaimed.

*"Our soul is like a hot-air balloon,"* Blessed Carlo explained. *"If, by chance, there is a mortal sin, the soul falls to the ground. Confession is like the fire underneath the balloon, enabling the soul to rise again.... It is important to go to Confession often."*

He avoided distractions along the way. As he neared his destination,

he could say, *"I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God."*

Saints and blessed always aim High. And they choose to be guided by accurate maps and Heavenly GPS – God's Providential Sacraments. Blessed Carlo called the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, *"my highway to Heaven."*

Why not, like our new lodestar pilot Blessed Carlo Acutis, aim for the infinite and steer beyond the stars, the heavens – toward Heaven? **+JM+**



Church of Burial: I, Sailko,  
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## JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE

# Is your Family a Sticker or a Mover?

by Brother Knight Baldy Bluett

Just what is a sticker family? I don't have an exact definition, but this will give you an idea: Did your great-grandparents live their entire married life in the same house? They would be stickers. Did your grandparents live within 50 miles of where they were born for their entire lives? They would be stickers. Did your parents live within 100 miles of where they were born for their entire lives? They would be stickers.

Do some of your sibling families live within 150 miles of the place they were born? Those families would be



stickers. You get the idea. Seems to me that the sticker family has a broader geographical area with each new generation. How about the families of your children?

I am not, in any way, criticizing stickers. I know families that have never ventured (yes, ventured!) out of their own *county* of birth. They are wonderful families and very happy families. I know families that have made one big move, far away from where they were stickers, and became





stickers in their new location. I know a couple of families with



children or grandchildren within 1,000 feet of where they live. That makes it rather easy to stay in touch. Stickers are good for families.

Then there are the movers. I would consider myself to have been a sticker until I went to college, 900 miles from home. Then I got a job and got married and had my own family. Oh my, Patty and I have made seven moves, dragging our kids along with us. All of those moves were job related, most with one company. Some people thought it was terrible for us to move the family all over the country.

We had different homes, different parishes, different schools,

different challenges, and new friends from all over the map. None of it seemed to phase any of our children. They were used to it. They all still seem to keep in touch with some friends they met along the way.

Patty and I have been where we are since 2007. This is the longest time we have lived in any place as a family. I guess we are stickers now. We have six children, all married to wonderful spouses with wonderful families. Those families are in California, Minnesota, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. I would say every one of those families are stickers, at least for now.



Whether you think you are a sticker or a mover, the key is to keep in touch with your family. It's easy, and you will never regret it! God bless your family. **+jmi+**



## CHURCH DOCTRINE

# Marriage vs. Civil Unions

Catholic News Service (CNS).

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[www.catholicnews.com](http://www.catholicnews.com)

***Pope Francis is not changing Church teaching on gay unions, Secretariat of State says. Secretariat said pope's recent comments did not advocate for marriage or marriage rights for same-sex couples.***

VATICAN CITY -- The Vatican Secretariat of State has sent an explanatory note to nuncios around the world insisting that when Pope Francis spoke about civil unions, he was not changing or challenging "the doctrine of the Church, which he has reaffirmed numerous times over the years."

The note, which was not signed, explained that the pope's remarks about gay people in the recent film, *Francesco*, come from his responses to two separate questions in a 2019 interview for Mexico's Televisa Network.

The pope's comments were "edited and published as a single answer without the necessary contextualization," the note said.

As Catholic News Service report-

ed October 26, when Pope Francis said gay people have a right to be in a family and that gay couples needed some form of civil law to protect their rights, he was not advocating any form of "marriage" or marriage rights for gay couples.

Yet, in his documentary *Francesco*, director Evgeny Afineevsky presented the statements as if Pope Francis had been talking about the right of gay couples to form a family, including with children.

Afineevsky, who a Vatican official said was never granted an on-camera interview with the pope, pulled the quotes about families and the quote about civil unions from the interview by Valentina Alazraki, correspondent of Televisa, CNS had reported.

The clips used in Afineevsky's film put together quotes from three separate moments of the Televisa interview, so the pope appears to say: "They are children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out or be made miserable over it. What we have to create is a civil union law. That way they are legally covered."

The note from the Secretariat of State also noted that Pope Francis repeatedly has insisted that gay unions cannot be equated to marriage, pointing to a 2014 interview with the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*.

In the interview six years ago, Pope Francis was asked about moves across Europe to legalize gay marriage or adopt civil union laws.

"Marriage is between a man and a woman," he said. "Secular states want to validate civil unions to regulate different situations of cohabitation, driven by the need to regulate economic aspects between people, such as ensuring health care. These are cohabitation pacts of various kinds, of which I could not list the different forms."

"It is necessary to see the different

cases and evaluate them in their variety," he said, implying that some forms of civil unions would be acceptable.

From the unedited interview with Televisa, the pope's remarks to *Corriere della Sera* and similar distinctions he has made on other occasions, the Secretariat of State's note said, "It is clear that Pope Francis was referring to particular state regulations, certainly not the doctrine of the Church, which he



has reaffirmed numerous times over the years."

**Note from the editor.** From the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, on *Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions between Homosexual Persons*:

Those who would move from tolerance to the legitimization of specific rights for cohabiting homosexual persons need to be reminded that the approval or legalization of evil is something far different from the toleration of evil.

In those situations where homosexual unions have been legally recognized or have been given the legal status and rights belonging to marriage, clear and emphatic opposition is a duty. One must

refrain from any kind of formal cooperation in the enactment or application of such gravely unjust laws and, as far as possible, from material cooperation on the level of their application. In this area, everyone can exercise the right to conscientious objection.



As experience has shown, the absence of sexual complementarity in these unions creates obstacles in the normal development of children who would be placed in the care of such persons. They would be deprived of the experience of either fatherhood or motherhood.

Allowing children to be adopted by persons living in such unions would actually mean doing violence to these children, in the sense that their condition of dependency would be used to place them in an environment that is not conducive to their full human development.

This is gravely immoral and in open contradiction to the principle, recognized also in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, that the best interests of the child, as the weaker and more vulnerable party, are to be the paramount consideration in every case. +JM+

### *Around The Province...*



Some priests and seminarians of the Madagascar Province of the Missionaries of the Holy Family gather together after Mass in November 2020.



## *Around The Province...*



Every summer, beautiful moonflowers bloom in Mary's Garden on the campus of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri.



In July 2020, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas, four young ladies enjoyed their 15<sup>th</sup> birthdays with a Quinceañera Celebration. Father David Tonary, M.S.F. celebrated Mass, and parents and godparents were invited to place crowns on the young ladies and offer special gifts.

## Around The Province...



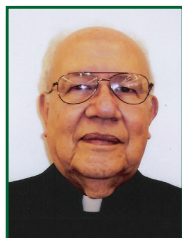
Anna is four years old. She has no problem operating a spinning rod and reel, and she lands fish by herself. She goes ice fishing with her dad when the ice is safe. She needs to beef up a bit to handle a shotgun and go after goose and duck (she loves eating tasty animals).

The Lumen Gentium Award is bestowed upon Catholic laypeople who have demonstrated participation in the Catholic Church's mission to bring Christ's light to the world.

Recipients nominated by Father David Tonary, M.S.F. were Gloria Reyna from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seguin, Texas and Rito Ivarra from the Saint Joseph Mission in Redwood. Congratulations, Gloria and Rito!



## Men of God: Priests Forever



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



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



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

In this Year of Our Lord 2021, three priests of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination.

We thank God for our priests and brothers, and we beseech Him to send us many more.

If you would like to send a Tribute Gift in honor of one or more of these Men of God, please send it to 3014 Oregon Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63118.

Thank you and God bless your family!

### Do You Want More Holy Priests?

Please join the *Holy Family Circle* and help foster vocations to the priesthood! Find your level of joyful giving below, complete the form, and mail it or a copy to 3014 Oregon Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118.

<b>Giving Level</b>	Associate..... up to \$49 per month	Patriarch/Matriarch
<b>Examples:</b>	Samaritan ..... \$50 per month	\$10,000 annual gift
	Companion ..... \$100 per month	
	Disciple..... \$300 per month	
	Apostle..... \$600 per month	

***My Contact Information:***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**My Level of Joyful Giving per month:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Mass with the Bishop

*In October 2020, Saint Frances Cabrini Academy, on the campus of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, held an online school auction after the Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Mark Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis. Bishop Rivituso is a "Son of Saint Wenceslaus."*





# Mass with the Bishop





## HOLY FAMILY SEMINARY

### The Truck Drive

by Richard "The Trumpet Player" Garza

Where do I begin to tell the story of an experience so long ago? My life in the seminary begins with a truck ride. My



Bridge road to seminary.

brother Humberto, who was in the seminary at the time, picked me up in Victoria, Texas, and we drove to Jourdanton to meet with Father Robert O'Hara, M.S.F.

The three of us rode in a pickup truck all day, all night, and half the next day until we arrived at the Holy Family Seminary at 2500 Ashby Road in Overland, Missouri. I don't know if it was the trip or what, but I was totally sick when we arrived. So, for my first week of religious life, I was very sick. My brother kept up my spirits by bringing me meals and encouraging me to get well.

After my sick week ended, I began to explore the seminary. I went to look for the refectory (cafeteria) and ended up

in the library! I met Brother Ed Kinsley, and he directed me to the refectory where there were several seminarians. They were glad to see me up and around, and they all welcomed me to my new life. This was the summer of 1971.

As the summer went by, I kept

meeting more and more seminarians. There was a large enrollment of students at the time. Just to name a few, I remember a mix of people, including: Danny Hawkins (now Father Dan), Paul Dexter, Ted Puckett, Hector Vasquez, Ernesto Garcia, Jerry Barnes (now Bishop



Richard in the Saint Louis, Missouri snow.



Holy Family Seminary

Barnes), Father Felipe "Phil" Sosa, Father Herman Defler, Father Arthur

Ockwood, my good friend Philip "The Duck" Danaher, and, of course, Father Jim Wuerth who touched my life so profoundly.

Eventually, the school year began, and my most difficult subject was Logic. I could not understand the difference between inductive and deductive reasoning.

I believe I learned more about logic by watching Mr. Spock on Star Trek!

My first college year went by fast. I learned so much from the priests. I was only summoned once to the Office of the Dean of Studies to have a discussion with Father Jim Stirnaman!

I came home for the summer and got a job. One day, I received a phone call from Father Jim Wuerth



Richard Garza (left) and Ernesto Garcia at Holy Family Seminary.

informing me it was time to report for my second year at the seminary. The second year was even better because we were sent to the fabulous school, Saint Louis University. Talk about a true and wonderful experience in education!

It was the greatest thing to attend Saint Louis University. This was an experience I will never forget, and I still treasure all of my memories there. It influenced me to go to college back home in Victoria, Texas, and to earn my degree in Psychology. I ended up with a career in education, and retired from teaching after 21 years.

I will always be grateful to the Missionaries of the Holy Family for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime, especially for meeting the gracious Father Jim Wuerth. May God always bless the Missionaries of the Holy Family! I thank everyone for touching my life so profoundly; you will always be in my heart. With love to all of you. +JM+





## PARISH SPOTLIGHT

# Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish

by Father Dan Hawkins, M.S.F.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary here in Ottawa on Wellington Street where it became a lodge before it actually became a parish in 1947. The building has been used in various ways and for various causes.



The Treasures of God from the 1890s.

However, what stands out in regards with social ministry are the many years it served as a form of holding place, called Saint George's Home, for adoption and fostering of thousands of children from the United Kingdom.



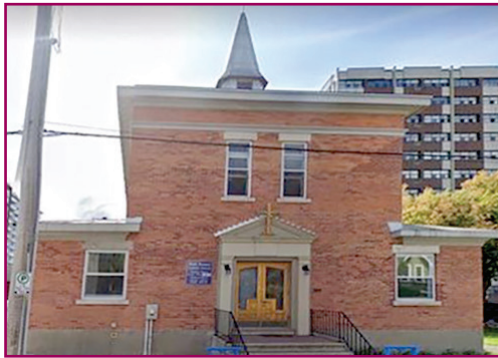
Historical Sign

Briefly, here is some of the Canadian history: The original Victorian house was built in 1855. The Navy even occupied the building and also the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps lived here

from 1897-1908. The Sisters of Charity, from the United Kingdom, began a Catholic Emigration Association in 1908 and onward for many years.

There were over 30,000 children that came through from the British Isles who were eventually sent to homes and farms throughout Canada. The Canadian





Outside the Church.

from approximately 1939-1946.

The actual Parish of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary began in 1947 after some extensive renovations to the original structure, with two separate floors, built in 1926. The large front section of the building is located on Wellington Street, which is situated close to downtown Ottawa. This now brings us to the present as we prepare to partner with a refugee organization called Matthew House.

Matthew House prepares already accepted refugees,

also from Catholic Immigration, into their houses so they can adjust socially and culturally into Canadian society. The refugees are helped to gain employment, and they are ready to leave after three months or so. Our parishioners will be able to help in various ways with this ministry through volunteer opportunities.



Inside the Church.

On account of the present pandemic, both the Archdiocese of Ottawa and Matthew House (and ourselves), are waiting to begin this ministry. Keep in mind that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, *the Holy Family*, were also refugees when they had to escape into Egypt to avoid the Massacre of the Holy Innocents imposed

by the satanic King Herod. For reference, see the Gospel of Saint Matthew, chapter two.

Please welcome our new parish into the family of parishes served by the Missionaries of the Holy Family in the North American Province! God bless your family. +jMj+

### Around The Province...



Wherever sister  
and little brother go,  
they steal the show!

Gabriel is 8 years old, and he has baptized at Saint Joseph Mission in Redwood, Texas. Along with completing his First Communion, Gabriel is an altar server. He is a very good helper, and his grandparents are very proud of him as he continues to love and serve the Lord with gladness.





**An Invitation**

## The Family Forever Society

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

What is the Family Forever Society? It's very simple! Members of this special society are people who have remembered the Missionaries of the Holy Family in their wills or estate plans. Their bequests are called Legacy Gifts.

While most Legacy Gifts are made with the intention of the Missionaries of the Holy Family receiving benefits in the future, some Legacy Gifts are realized in the present. Gifts of securities or stock, real estate, and other tangible property are usually transferred before December 31 of any year so the benefactor can realize tax breaks for charitable donations.

Most Legacy Gifts are used as principal for our Retirement Trust Fund. While we do have a modest trust fund to help cover the rising cost of healthcare needed by the elderly and disabled members of our religious community, medical expenses will only increase as our members grow older.

**Please consider joining our Family Forever Society.** To receive a free booklet on preparing your will, please send your request to me at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118, or call me at 1-888-484-9945. If you are remembering us in your will, please remember us as: *Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family - North American Province.*

Our Holy Family priests and brothers will always hold you and your loved ones in prayer. Isn't that what a Family is supposed to do? Thank you and God bless you... *forever.*



Forever Yours in the Holy Family,

*Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.*

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



## BE A FRIEND TO OTHERS

### A Good Samaritan

by Father F.A. Eka Yudianto, M.S.F.

On October 3, 2020, the day before celebrating the memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis promulgated the encyclical letter with the title *Fratelli Tutti* (*On Fraternity and Social Friendship*). In this encyclical, Pope Francis wants us to be friends with everybody. Jesus Our Savior has commanded us to love one another, as God is love. Jesus loves us and brings salvation to the world.

Jesus is a friend for everyone: tax collector, poor, outcast, prostitute, and sinner. Jesus gave us a good example of how He cared for the little ones who lost their hope, so they could find comfort

and joy. Many people are hopeless because of the pandemic. We who are called Children of God should be friends to those living in the shadow of death, so they can see and experience the Light of the World.

We must be Good Samaritans like Jesus. In His parable, Jesus teaches us how to care for people who are suffering, distressed, alienated, and living on the peripheries of society. Jesus criticized those who refused to do this. Unlike

the priest and Levite, the Good Samaritan took care of the person who was robbed and beaten. **(Luke 10:25-37)**



The Good Samaritan



Salvation is for all who live out God's Commandments. The Good Samaritan was the person showing the mercy of God. He was not afraid to take action. Today we are living with many

that He no longer calls us slaves, but He calls us friends (John 15:12-15). We are encouraged to follow God's commandment to love one another as God loves us. Jesus gave us a good example when

He laid down His life for us on the cross. He purchased us from the slavery of sin, so that we are free to love one another. Love goes beyond national borders and boundaries.

Sometimes, people are refused help because they are of different skin color, social position, poor, sick, elderly, or disabled. It is sad, but it is a reality. If they are different, they are seen as bad, brutal, or barbarian. We want to protect our comfort zone by securing our area.

Pope Francis is trying to promote equality and solidarity. Fraternity calls for something greater. Fraternity can be created by recognizing the

equality of everyone living on this planet, which is the opposite of individualism and selfishness. Radical individualism is a virus that can create many hardships and injustices in our relationships with other people.



World Meeting of Families

borders and regulations that make it difficult to care for each other. Sometimes, if our brother really needs help, we are not in a position to offer assistance.

### **Love is Open to Everyone**

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us

Social friendship and universal fraternity is necessary for everyone in building freedom, justice, and peace in the world today. How can we do so? It begins with us. We have to open ourselves to see the wonder of God's love. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, we read of the corporal works of mercy from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Jesus reminds us that what we do to the "least of society," we do to Him (Matthew 25:31-46). Jesus is a friend of the poor, the hungry, the stranger, the immigrant, the misunderstood, the sick, the imprisoned, and those near death. If we want to enjoy eternal salvation, we must love our brothers and sisters in need, wherever they are and from wherever they came.

### **Action Required**

With the coronavirus pandemic, many people have suffered. Recently, I had a funeral service for a person who died from Covid-19. He was the head of the family, and he had four children. The children do not understand because they are too young, but they are suffering without their

father. Another family is struggling because the father lost his job, and the mother works in a small restaurant. There is not enough money to pay the bills, and this is a common problem for many.

What can we do? The answer is simple, be a Good Samaritan as Jesus commanded. We have to care for our brothers and sisters in need and provide for them.

The Church must hear the cry of the poor and follow the example of the Master: feed the hungry, bring drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the sick in prison, and bury the dead. We pray for them, too. Prayer is a powerful act of love because we believe in the love of God. God will answer our prayers when we need it. Trust Him.

Pope Francis closes his letter with a prayer for all people: *May our heart be open to all people and nations of the earth. May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen.* +JM+

***"What can we do? The answer is simple, be a Good Samaritan as Jesus commanded. We have to care for our brothers and sisters in need and provide for them."***



## *Around The Province...*



Mr. Ron Williams (middle) faithfully performed his duties as a Maintenance Manager for the church campus of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, which includes the consolidated school of Saint Frances Cabrini Academy. After 22 years of outstanding service, Ron is retiring, and he will be greatly missed by all. Thank you and God bless you, Ron!

## Prayer for Priests

Source: Elizabeth Cavallaro

Eternal High Priest and King Jesus Christ, increase Your image in priests so they become more like You. Give them the strong gift of faith and prayer. Take over their personalities and lives; make them interesting souls for You, Lord God, to inspire Your people to grow spiritually mature and love You. Give them Your confidence to preach and teach what You desire them to preach and teach.

In our society, Lord, they, too, are bombarded with impure images, so we beg that You give them the great gift of holy purity, peace, and a mighty protection to grow in holiness; heroic virtue to become saints in these special and desperate times with so much uncertainty and stress. We pray for joys and blessings for them; help them to have compassionate and empathetic hearts who are



little, humble, forgiving, and loving.

They must long for You, Almighty God, so please help them to long for You as well as cultivate a great love, a great loyalty, and a great friendship

for You as King, Lord, and best friend. Keep in mind that they are wounded souls also in need of mercy and being fully whole, so we ask for healing, wholeness, mercy, and the supernatural gifts and graces that you desire, by Your goodness and mercy to give them daily to forge on in this fierce battle for souls.

Fill them with all the gifts, fruits, and virtues of the Holy Spirit. Our Lady, Queen of the Clergy and Queen of Prophets and Visionaries, and Saint Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus and Terror of Demons, find our priests and confessors good friends and pray for them. In Jesus Christ's Holy Name, we pray. Amen.



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## Pieta Votive Candles



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

*Thank You & God Bless You to everyone who made a financial gift in the Year of Our Lord 2020.*

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See page 3.*



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