



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

March 2015

MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY

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In this Issue

Members of One Family	1
Overview for the Month	
Feasts for March	
Cenacle Corer	2
Highlights of the Month	3
God Touched Me	7
Spiritual Army News	
Dispatch	
Upcoming Events	9
Spiritual Enrichment	
Recommended	
Thank You	10
Devotion Schedule	

When we repent we learn how to forgive.

So far, we have been looking at steps that will help us feel free enough to forgive the people who have hurt us. Now we want to look at why Jesus asks us to forgive. We also want to look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation and how examining our consciences and confessing our own sins can actually help us become more forgiving.

Children in His Image. We left off in the last article with Fr. Tim asking Linda to try to forgive Brad, her ex-husband, for the way he had treated her and their children. At first, Linda resisted. How could she forgive the man who had given up on their marriage, committed adultery, and then walked away from her and their children? Fr. Tim pointed to two key reasons why forgiveness is so important.

First, he reminded Linda of Jesus' words that unless we forgive others from the heart, we won't be able to experience God's forgiveness in our own lives (Matthew 6:14). He went on to tell her that we must forgive because we are all children of God. This may be hard to accept, especially when we are thinking about someone who has deliberately hurt us. But from God's viewpoint, it makes perfect sense. After all, he created every one of us and loves each of us as our Father.

Scripture tells us that God created us in his image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). No other creature on earth has this privilege. Not even the angels in heaven are created in God's image! So each of us occupies a special place in God's plan -- and a special place in his heart. We are his children, and he cherishes every one of us deeply. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us "of all visible creatures only man is able to know and love his creator" (CCC, 356). We all have the privilege of talking with God and hearing his voice.

Members of the Same Family. When we forgive someone, we are exercising this great privilege of talking with God. We are commending this person to his or her Father in the hopes that he or she will find the Lord and be converted more deeply. We are affirming that this person is worth forgiving, simply because he or she is beloved of the Father.

It can be hard to look at everyone as brother or sister -- especially someone who has done horrible things. It's hard to consider the chemical-weapon wielding dictator as a member of our own family. It's hard to embrace the corporate executive who treats his employees like property. It can be hard to say the word "brother" when talking about a student who stages a mass shooting in his high school. But God weeps over these people just as deeply as he weeps over their victims. He loves them just as much as he loves you. He suffers over what they have done, but he also suffers over the darkness in their hearts that led them to do it. It's hard for us to grasp, but our Father longs to forgive them if they will just turn to him and repent.

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Continued on Page 5

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

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The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. The entire month of March falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

At the beginning of this month we will embark on our journey to the cross by receiving ashes and donning the purple of penance. We will reflect on our mortality ("Remember man thou art dust") and the shortness of life ("and to dust thou shall return"). We will heed the call, "Now is the acceptable time, now is "the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2)." Just like Our Lord's earthly life every moment of our lives is leading up to

the last moment—when for eternity we will either go to God or suffer the fires of hell.

Let us not tire of doing our good works and penance, but continue with the enthusiasm of the catechumens on their way to Easter and Baptism. May our Lenten observance be a joyful journey — and not a forced march. As the weeks of Lent progress let us not tire of doing our good works and penance, but continue with the enthusiasm of the catechumens on their way to Easter and Baptism. May our Lenten observance be a joyful ☐

FEASTS FOR MARCH

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of March are:

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Second Sunday of Lent, Sunday | 19 | Joseph, husband of Mary, Solemnity |
| 3 | Katharine Drexel (USA), Opt. Mem. | 22 | Fifth Sunday of Lent, Sunday |
| 4 | Casimir of Poland, Opt. Mem. | 23 | Turibio de Mogrovejo, Opt. Mem. |
| 7 | Perpetua and Felicity, Memorial | 25 | Annunciation of the Lord, Sunday |
| 8 | Third Sunday of Lent, Sunday | 29 | Palm Sunday, Sunday |
| 9 | Frances of Rome; St. John Ogilvie (Scotland), Opt. Mem. | | The feast of St. Frances of Rome (March 9) is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.☐ |
| 15 | Fourth Sunday of Lent, Sunday | | |
| 17 | Patrick, Opt. Mem. | | |
| 18 | Cyril of Jerusalem, Opt. Mem. | | |

OUR CENACLE CORNER

*Seeking a deeper relationship with God
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures*

THE LITANY OF GOD AND THE PSALMS

Psalm 51

Psalm 68

Psalm 39

Psalm 23

In addition to Litanies use for intercession, these Psalms may be used as a form of mantra, a short phrase that helps focus prayer. Their beautiful and well-worn phrases become a kind of holy singsong to lull our wandering imagination and helps us to concentrate on God alone. In this sense they resemble the Rosary and the Jesus Prayer. Their holy monotony is their special attraction because they lead us beyond mere words to the very person of God who is ineffable, that is, radically incapable of being confined to human words.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

8 THINGS TO KNOW AND SHARE ABOUT THE ANNUNCIATION

by Jimmy Akin 04/07/2013 from National Catholic Register

The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the birth of Christ. Here are 8 things to know and share about the event and how we celebrate it.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the appearance of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce of the birth of Christ. What's going on and why is this day important? Here are 8 things you need to know.



1. WHAT DOES THE WORD "ANNUNCIATION" MEAN?

It's derived from the same root as the word "announce." Gabriel is announcing the birth of Christ in advance. "Annunciation" is simply an old-fashioned way of saying announcement." Although we are most familiar with this term being applied to the announcement of Christ's birth, it can be applied in other ways also. For example, in his book *Jesus of Nazareth 3: The Infancy Narratives*, Benedict XVI has sections on both "The annunciation of the birth of John" and "The annunciation to Mary," because John the Baptist's birth was also announced in advance.

2. WHEN IS THE ANNUNCIATION NORMALLY CELEBRATED AND WHY DOES IT SOMETIMES MOVE?

Normally the Solemnity of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25th. This date is used because it is nine months before Christmas (December 25th), and it is assumed that Jesus spent the normal nine months in the womb. However, March 25th sometimes falls during Holy Week, and the days of Holy Week have a higher liturgical rank than this solemnity (weekdays of Holy

Week have rank 1:2, while this solemnity has a rank of 1:3; see here for the Table of Liturgical Days by their ranks). Still, the Annunciation is an important solemnity, and so it doesn't just vanish from the calendar. Instead, as the rubrics in the Roman Missal note: Whenever this Solemnity occurs during Holy Week, it is transferred to the Monday after the Second Sunday of Easter. It is thus celebrated on the first available day after Holy Week and the Octave of Easter (which ends on the Second Sunday of Easter).

3. HOW DOES THIS STORY PARALLEL THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST?

As noted above, John the Baptist's birth was announced in advance also. In both stories there are multiple parallels:

- The Angel Gabriel makes the announcement.
- He announces to a single individual: Zechariah in John the Baptist's case and Mary in Jesus' case.
- He announces the miraculous birth of an individual who has a prominent place in God's plan.
- He is met with a question in both cases (Zechariah asks how he can know this will happen; Mary asks how it will happen)
- A miraculous sign is offered as evidence (Zechariah is struck dumb; Mary is told of Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancy, which is in its sixth month)
- Gabriel departs.

4. HOW IS MARY'S REACTION DIFFERENT THAN ZECHARIAH'S?

At first glance, Mary's reaction to Gabriel could appear like Zechariah's unbelieving reaction, but it is fundamentally different.

Like Zechariah, she asks a question, but it is a question of a different sort:

- Zechariah asked how he could know what the angel says would be true. His attitude was one of skepticism.

Continued on Page 6

FROM PALM BRANCHES TO THE WOOD OF THE CROSS

By Fr. Roger Landry

1) This Palm Sunday Liturgy is framed by two expressions. The first is "Hosanna," which was shouted at the beginning of Mass. "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" The second is "Crucify Him!," which we just shouted with the crowd in front of Pontius Pilate. HOSANNA and CRUCIFY HIM. At first glance, no two expressions could seem more opposed. But when we really confront them in faith, we recognize that they're not that opposed after all, for the Messiah who rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey amidst waving palms, shouts and adulation, FREELY decided to mount the throne of the Cross. The Cross, therefore, was not a sign of humiliating ignominy in contrast to the palm branches, but the fulfillment of all the messianic hopes they proclaimed. It is to that glorious tree of the Cross that the palm branches all point, for on that Cross Jesus was ultimately gloriously enthroned and inaugurated the messianic kingdom that will never end.

2) Our emotions this next week will oscillate between these two related poles of the GREAT JOY of those outside the southern city walls on the way to Bethany (on Holy Thursday) and the GREAT SADNESS outside the northwestern wall on the hill of Calvary (on Good Friday and Holy Saturday). But we will not really capture the meaning of these events for us unless we recognize that the story of this Holy Week in Jerusalem — the story we proclaim in today's Gospel — is not just a memory, not just an historical event that we commemorate. Rather it is a LIVING STORY that beckons us to enter into it.

3) After David had committed adultery with Bathsheba and arranged to have her husband Uriah killed, God sent Nathan the prophet to convict David of his sins. Nathan told the story of a rich man who, although he had many flocks and herds, decided to steal and kill the ewe lamb of his poor neighbor to eat with a guest (cf. 2 Sam 12:1ff). This outraged David and got him to exclaim, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die." Then Nathan shocked David by saying, "You are that man!"

During our listening to the Passion of the Lord, we might be tempted to become outraged against Judas, Pilate, Peter, Herod, the soldiers and so many others. But God through the Church gives us this story and then tells us, like Nathan told David, "You are that man!" You are Judas! You are Pilate! You are Peter! There have been great debates through the centuries about who ultimately was responsible for the death of the Lord. Some said the Jews. Some said the Romans. Some said both. But the Second Vatican Council, clearly basing herself on the traditional understanding from St. Paul's letters and the



earliest teachings of the Church, said that — even though clearly the sinful deeds of the Jewish leaders and Roman authorities played a part — ALL OF US killed Jesus by our sins. Jesus died for our sins. Thus, if we're really going to understand what the terrible consequences of our sins have had, and if we're ever going to be able to experience the extraordinary joy of Easter that saved us from those sins, we need to enter into these events and recognize that we betrayed the Lord, that we killed him. During this holiest of weeks, therefore, the Church calls us to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the characters we

encounter, because, over the course of our lives, we have acted just as they have and our actions have had the same consequences as theirs.

4) But that's not the end of the story. God through the Church doesn't stop merely by pointing out Judas, Peter, Pilate, Herod and the Others. We also encounter Mary Magdalen, the Blessed Mother, Simon of Cyrene, the Roman Centurion, St. John and the others, and the Church says to us, again, "You are that man!" We are Mary Magdalene, reconciled sinners who remain faithful to the Lord to the end. We are Simon of Cyrene, helping the Lord — albeit perhaps reluctant at first — to carry the Cross. We are St. John, receiving Mary as our inheritance. We are the Centurion proclaiming Jesus to be the Son of God. During these days we are called to contemplate their faces as well and see in them the reflection of our fine.

Continued on Page 8

MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY

Can you see that we are all members of the family of God? Can you take one more step toward letting go of your resentments and unforgiveness, simply because we are all God's children?

The Decision to Forgive. Sitting with her in the church, Fr. Tim asked Linda to quiet her heart and try to imagine Jesus sitting with them as well. After a few moments, Linda told him, "I see him smiling at me. I see how much he loves me, despite my shortcomings. He just loves me because he made me." Fr. Tim then asked, "What about Brad? How does Jesus see him?" She replied, "I guess he loves Brad just as much. He wants to show Brad his love just as he wants to show me."

That's when things began to change. Linda saw the bigger picture, and it helped her let go of her anger. She saw that God may not like what Brad did to her, but he still loves Brad and wants to help him—just as he loves her and wants to help her.

When all is said and done, forgiveness is a choice. It's an act of the will, not an act of the emotions. It's a decision to say, "I forgive you for hurting me and treating me unfairly." Sometimes that's all it takes, and we are set free. But other times, especially when it comes to the deeper hurts of life, it takes more time, more patience, and more trust in the Lord. In those cases, keep saying, "I forgive," even if you don't fully feel like forgiving. Every time you do this, you are taking one step closer—and you are inviting the Lord to take one step closer to you.

This is what happened with Linda. She found that saying, "I forgive," even though her heart wasn't really agreeing, helped heal her wounded heart and helped bring her to a place where she could forgive Brad once and for all. You may have to say these words over and over, day after day for a while. But every time you say them, the Spirit pours out more grace and helps you even more.

Father, Forgive Me. Fr. Tim encouraged Linda to look into her heart and ask God to forgive her for any hatred or resentment she was holding against Brad. At first, it sounded odd that Fr. Tim would turn the tables on her and expect her to repent. "But he sinned against me," she protested. "I tried my hardest in this relationship. Why should I be the one to repent?"

Over time, however, Linda realized that, given all that Jesus had done for her, she really had no right to hold onto her anger and resentment toward Brad. She knew she had to go to Confession. She came to see that God loved her as she was, and that he understood her suffering. But she also came to see that she needed God to release her from the grip that her resentment and self-pity had on her. She saw that by holding on as she had done, all she was doing was wishing ill for Brad, wanting him to suffer for what he did. That's why she went to Confession: she wanted to be set free, and she didn't want to keep inflicting her anger onto Brad. She had

already forgiven him. Why would she now want to hurt him again?

God wants all of us to repent for any resentment or hatred we may have against other people. These types of thoughts are real sins, even when they come in response to someone who has treated us unfairly. These thoughts and emotions can cloud our otherwise healthy relationships, as well as our relationship with the Lord. As St. Teresa of Avila once described them, they are like tar poured over a beautiful crystal. The tar of our resentments blocks out the rays of God's love and prevents the crystal from shining as beautifully as God intended.

After celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Linda finally felt able to forgive Brad completely and move on with her life. She chose mercy over judgment, and God blessed her for it. Today, Linda is still single, and it's still a challenge to make ends meet every month. But if you ask her how she feels, she will give you a one-word answer: free! She has become outgoing and friendly again. She doesn't revisit her old hurts every day. Instead, she is trying her best to rebuild her life and provide everything she can for her children. God has delivered her from the weight of unforgiveness, and he can do the same for you.

Father, Help Me Forgive! On more than one occasion, Pope Francis has called bishops and priests to act as shepherds who look after the people entrusted to them. This Lent, why not give your pastor the opportunity to do this for you? As you prepare to make your Lenten Confession, make a list of the people you need to forgive: parents, spouses, children, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and so on.

Then, when you go to Confession, tell your pastor about these people. Ask him to help you let go of the hurt and forgive them. Confess any hatred, anger, or ill will that you may be holding against them. Ask your pastor to pray with you and ask God to give you the grace to imitate Jesus and say, "Father, forgive them."

It's a sad fact that we live in a sinful world and that we will be hurt. It's a sad fact that not everyone sees himself or herself as part of the family of God. Nevertheless, those who learn how to deal with their hurts—through prayer, through the grace of God, through the sacraments, and through the decision to forgive—can be set free. May we all choose to embrace the freedom that Jesus died to give us. May this Easter Sunday find us all rejoicing in our salvation in a new way! ☐

8 THINGS TO KNOW AND SHARE ABOUT THE ANNUNCIATION

- Mary does not ask for proof. Instead, she asks how the angel's words will be fulfilled. He accepts what he says and wants to understand specifically how it will take place. Her attitude is thus one of faith seeking understanding, not a lack of faith.

5. WHAT DOES MARY'S REACTION SAY ABOUT HER PERPETUAL VIRGINITY?

Mary's question is translated in the RSV:CE as "How shall this be, since I have no husband?"

This is not a good translation, because she does, in fact, have a husband: Joseph. Luke has already told us that she is betrothed to Joseph, which means that they were legally married (thus Joseph would have had to divorce her, not just "break the engagement" as one might today; cf. Matt. 1:19).

What the text literally says in Greek is "since I do not know man."

This relies on the common biblical euphemism of "knowing" for sexual relations. Mary's question indicates that she understands the facts of life, and it is surprising since she is legally married and awaiting the time that she and Joseph would begin to cohabit. If she were planning on an ordinary marriage then the most natural interpretation of the angel's statement would be that, after she and Joseph begin to cohabit, they will together conceive a child, who the angel is now telling her about. The fact that she asks the question indicates that this is not her understanding, and it has often been taken as a sign that she was not planning on an ordinary marriage. Early Christian writings from the second century onward, beginning with the Protoevangelium of James, indicate that Mary was a consecrated virgin who was entrusted to the care of Joseph.

6. HOW DOES GABRIEL RESPOND TO MARY'S QUESTION?

Gabriel informs her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." Here Gabriel indicates the involvement of all three Persons of the Trinity: Through the action of the Holy Spirit, the Father causes the Son to be conceived in human form. There will be no human father, making clear the fact that the child will be the Son of God.

As a further illustration of God's power, he points to the fact that Elizabeth, though old and apparently barren, has miraculously conceived a son and is in her sixth month of pregnancy. "For with God nothing will be impossible."

7 IS ELIZABETH MARY'S "COUSIN"?

This question sometimes comes up in discussions of Mary's perpetual virginity, because it is sometimes thought that the "brothers" of the Lord were his cousins

and that they are described as brothers because Aramaic has no word for "cousin."

Yet the New American Bible described Elizabeth as Mary's cousin.

Who Jesus "brothers" were has been understood in different ways. The earliest sources that comment on the question (including the second century Protoevangelium of James) say that they were step-brothers through Joseph. They also, hypothetically, could have been adopted (adoption was very common in the ancient world since people often died early). So they need not have been cousins.

While it's true that Aramaic does not have a word for cousin, Greek does (anepsios), but that is not the word used here.

Despite the well-known mistranslation in the NAB (later corrected in the NAB:RE), Elizabeth is not described as Mary's "cousin." The Greek word in this passage (sungenis) indicates a female relative--a kinswoman--not a cousin in particular.

8. WHY IS MARY'S "FIAT" (LATIN, "LET IT BE") IMPORTANT?

Mary's acceptance of this role is momentous and will entail suffering. It is momentous because she will be the mother of the Son of God himself. It will entail suffering in ways that she cannot yet foresee (e.g., witnessing the Crucifixion), but some she could foresee.

In particular, she will be regarded as having been unfaithful to Joseph, and that would involve not only public shame but, as Matthew records, endangered her relationship with Joseph and her future livelihood and social position. Yet she placed herself completely at the service of God's will.

Commenting on this, Pope Benedict writes:

"In one of his Advent homilies, Bernard of Clairvaux offers a stirring presentation of the drama of this moment. After the error of our first parents, the whole world was shrouded in darkness, under the dominion of death. Now God seeks to enter the world anew. He knocks at Mary's door. He needs human freedom. The only way he can redeem man, who was created free, is by means of a free 'yes' to his will. In creating freedom, he made himself in a certain sense dependent upon man. His power is tied to the unenforceable 'yes' of a human being. So Bernard portrays heaven and earth as it were holding its breath at this moment of the question addressed to Mary. Will she say yes? She hesitates ... will her humility hold her back? Just this once — Bernard tells her — do not be humble but daring! Give us your 'yes'! This is the crucial moment when, from her lips, from her heart, the answer comes: 'Let it be to me according to your word.' It is the moment of free, humble yet magnanimous obedience in which the loftiest choice of human freedom is made" (Jesus of Nazareth 3: The Infancy Narratives, ch. 2). □

GOD TOUCHED ME

GOD HEARS – AND HE ANSWERS.
I WILL WAIT ON THE LORD!

*Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you know not.
Jeremiah 33:3*

by Raina Paquillo Gonzalez, a devotee

As a daughter of a devout Catholic mother, I was raised a cradle Catholic. To me, praying was just something that we did a lot of. My mom would make the whole family pray the rosary, and I would recite words or prayers that really had no deep meaning to me. I knew to pray when times got tough, but it wasn't until my husband and I were faced with the challenge of getting pregnant that I really started to question my faith.

Why are we struggling to get pregnant while others found it so easy? People who are not married or don't even want children have them? Why is God so cruel to us? Am I really a bad person? Does he think we would not be good parents? Is this my punishment?

Frustrated and sad, I would cry about this and confide in my mom for help and comfort. She would tell me to just pray and believe that God has a plan.

My sister, Ruth, and my mom would give me prayers of saints to pray to -- Saint Ann, Saint Gerard, St. Therese of Lisieux and so on. I would try things my mom gave me from her previous pilgrimages, like the powder from Mother Mary's Milk Grotto in Holy Land and healing water from Lourdes, but nothing seemed to work. Days, months, and years passed and all seemed hopeless. My mom kept saying, "If it is God's will, it will happen. Just keep praying and believe." I prayed to God asking intercessions from Mama Mary and St. Therese of Lisieux. It wasn't a coincidence that during a pilgrimage my husband and I went to in December 2014, I read my testimonial on Saint Therese's grounds. With all the signs Saint Therese showed me the past year, I had no doubt she was calling me to take part in the said pilgrimage to the apparition sites of the Blessed mother in Europe.

It was on this pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain and France that my faith was awakened. We took a spiritual journey seeking God in the Blessed Mother's apparition sites and other beautiful sacred places. We were told that Mother Mary planned this trip and miracles and conversions would happen, but we out of the 34 pilgrims on this trip, we never imagined it would be either of us experiencing

those miracles or conversions. It wasn't until the events that occurred and the miraculous way they have occurred that made us believers. I do believe my husband and I were meant to be on the pilgrimage. Every little move we made on this journey seemed like it was designed for us. Every private thought or question we shared with each other at the end of each day would be answered the next morning, either from the Gospel readings at our daily Masses, from



conversations with the pilgrims, to the sacred places on the itinerary. One would think God was speaking directly to us. There was no way anyone would have heard our private conversations.

My experience in these holy places we visited were surreal. In Fatima, I walked to the Apparition Chapel on my knees reciting the Rosary. I felt accomplished experiencing and fulfilling the "custom" but it wasn't until later that same night, I couldn't sleep and I felt compelled to journalize my thoughts. As I reflected and wrote about my experience that afternoon, I started to weep uncontrollably, realizing Mother Mary's love for God was endless. Having to witness her son, Jesus, suffer through his sorrowful passions broke my heart. I was given the gift of truly feeling her pain as a mother and the suffering she felt, yet still having the trust and gracious obedience

to the Lord. Why do I feel this way when I don't have a child of my own to know?

We journeyed to Garabandal, Spain, and there I felt the Lord and Mama Mary's presence as we attended Mass. As I opened my heart in prayer I felt something so deep it's hard to put into words. It was an unexplainable euphoric feeling that no other human experience can hold a flame to. I felt their love consume my heart and though I was weeping on the outside I was filled with so much happiness and extreme gratitude. I thanked the Eternal Father, Jesus, and Mother Mary and all the angels and saints for showing me the signs to come aboard this journey. I was in total awe! I felt Mother Mary speak to me that day as she guided me through Mass, telling me that the pilgrims' prayers and petitions will be answered and I needed to pray for all of them. I was compelled to pray for everyone I could think of. I felt myself reflecting her grace and humility as I walked to receive the Eucharist and her gentleness as I prayed that she continues to guide me.

I felt Eternal Father and Mother Mary watching over us in Garabandal and the power of the Holy Spirit taking hold of me during Mass. It was like a light switch just went on and so much about the Catholic faith that I once questioned, now captured my senses and my being and it all made sense for that moment. The Catholic faith IS real. From our prayers, our traditions, purgatory, saints, and angels. I was overcome with confidence that it all happened as if I lived through the times of Jesus and witnessed everything for myself. Thank you Lord for this awakening of my soul.

This pilgrimage has truly been the best experience of my life. I draw strength in my faith that with God all things are possible if I continue to put Him first, believe in Him, and pray to Him unceasingly for guidance to fulfill His most holy will. I have a new deep love for the Lord and Mother Mary. I am renewed and confident that God is good and God is love. Dear Lord, "I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. Please pardon those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you". Especially those who come to you and go -- in a sudden flash of a disguised belief and faithless heart! □

***If you have any personal articles
on God's miracle in your life
you want to share with the devotees,
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Continued from Page 4

FROM PALM BRANCHES TO THE WOOD OF THE CROSS

5) But there's one other person God the Father points to. He beholds his Son on the Cross and says to us, "You are THAT man!" This is an UNBELIEVABLE reality, that we are meant to be other Christs — "Hosanna in the Highest, blessed is he who bears the name of the Lord!" But astride this shout, there is another: "Crucify HIM!" "Crucify HER!" The Lord Jesus told us that, to truly be his disciple, we must pick up our Cross each day and follow him. We are called to follow in his footsteps until our footsteps themselves become bloody and hammered to a tree. The Cross is given to us, as it was given to Christ, so that we might DIE, die to ourselves, die to our egos and selfishness, die to earthly desires. But as with Christ, this suffering and self-death are not ignominious or humiliating, but glorifying, because it is in dying with Christ that we rise. We are called ultimately to state with St. Paul, in truth, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me."

6) There is no better place to start on our ascent to Calvary in Christ than here at this Mass. The Mass we celebrate is in itself Palm Sunday and Calvary altogether in one. We again will shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord." We again will mount Calvary where we will be not just witnesses but participants in the very same death of the Lord once-and-for-all for us and our salvation. And we will gain an ingress to that Eternal Banquet in the presence of all the angels and the saints, where we hope forever to behold the Lamb looking as if he has been slain in that kingdom won for us by the Lord by the very death and resurrection we celebrate now. □

Father Roger J. Landry was ordained a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts by Bishop Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap. in 1999. After receiving a biology degree from Harvard College, Fr. Landry studied for the priesthood in Maryland, Toronto, and for several years in Rome. After his priestly ordination, Father returned to Rome to complete graduate work in Moral Theology and Bioethics at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Rome. A popular speaker on the thought of Pope John Paul II and on apologetics, he is presently parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Church in Hyannis, MA.

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SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER TAPS POOR AND ACADEMICALLY DESERVING STUDENTS AT JOSE RIZAL UNIVERSITY

After thirteen years or so of being a devotional group whose purpose is to propagate 1st Saturday devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the 1st Sunday devotion to the Eternal Father, and the Infant Jesus, The Spiritual Army of God the Father Ministry has evolved to an outreach non-profit organization that has provided financial assistance to deserving religious and non-religious individuals. As the Ministry financially assisted our First priest who had concluded his religious formation as Canon Joel Estrada in the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priests in Chicago, Illinois, it is now reaching out with the same resolve to deserving student(s) with good scholastic background in the Philippines. The most important criteria will be the student's economic status that classifies the qualification as poor and academically deserving student. This pilot project is being coordinated by Mrs. Evelyn Pua, the Secretary of the Ministry, who is now in the Philippines together with Mrs. Norma Montalvo, Vice President Administration of Jose Rizal University (JRU) in Mandaluyong City.

The Spiritual Army of God the Father is laying all the criteria to finalize the logistics of this scholarship. Through the blessings of Almighty God, our scholarship program will take off this coming semestral opening for the school year 2015-2016. □

... I am your Mother Mary.

*Today offer physical suffering to God.
Let this be your way to perfection
and desire to be with God's loving embrace.
Let this devotion to my holy rosary
be the start of your own transformation,
a good disciple of my son Jesus.*

*I love you my children
and thank your for listening to me.*

*Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary
022115*

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TOY DRIVE FOR THE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
[ONGOING]**

**PRAYING THE STATIONS WITH
MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS**

MARCH 7, 2015

MASS AT 8:30 AM

POTLUCK BREAKFAST | DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES

OF THE DIVINE MASTER ON BEAUDRY & SUNSET

501 N. BEAUDRY AVENUE

LOS ANGELES, CA

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

IN LOS ANGELES IS MOVED TO

2ND SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2015

THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES

OF THE DIVINE MASTER IS CLOSED IN

OBSERVANCE OF HOLY SATURDAY.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 12, 2015

MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS

1977 CARMEN AVENUE ON GOWER

LOS ANGELES, CA 90068

JOURNEY TO HOLY SITES

IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

ST. JOSEPH'S MIRACULOUS STAIRCASE

SANTUARIO DE CHIMAYO -- THE LOURDES OF AMERICA

JULY 24-27, 2015

DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER INFORMATION

TO BE AVAILABLE SOON AT

WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

- During Lent, let's try to increase our use of sacramentals (e.g., wearing a blessed crucifix or medal, carrying and praying the rosary, using holy water, etc.). These sacramentals are sacred signs instituted by the Church to prepare us to receive the fruit of the Sacraments and to sanctify different circumstances of our lives. (CCC 1677).
- Start a Family Lenten Jar with your children. Spend an afternoon with them learning about different local charitable organizations or needy families for whom the Lenten Jar was conceived.
- March 10 is nine days before the Solemnity of St. Joseph, and the day to begin a novena in honor of for his feast day.
- If you wish to gain the courage to embrace the small crosses in your life with joy, pray the Stations of the Cross. This is an excellent practice that should not only be confined to Lent but ought to be prayed on Fridays throughout the year.

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

Thank you, Eternal Father, for Your Will that transformed our sorrow into joy, our tears of anguish into tears of thanksgiving. Our physical and spiritual re-creation, through Your Healing Hands, kept us enclosed and revived in our hope for renewed lives as we look up to the heavens praising You, in Jesus' most Holy Name, through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and of the angels and saints.

My dearest God, I thank you very much that every time I fall, I receive Your loving reminders either through articles I read, the liturgical readings, or from words uttered by people around me.

Fed

Father God, in the name of Jesus, I thank you so much for being with us always, especially with my sister – realizing that every morning when we wake is a precious gift of life from you. May our faith and hope for her restored health and healing come, through the intercession of our Mother Mary.

Carmelita

Jesus, thank you for your special presence as I seek to deal with the hurt, frustration, fears, difficulties, and troubles that I face each day. Please always be at work in my life, doing your will and leading me to the path you have prepared for me.

YLH

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous March sponsors of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of our Blessed Mother. The devotion continues to be a constant success.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Guada Eugenio | Mila Lumba
Evelyn Pua | Nicet Santos

Los Angeles, California

Marilyn Batino | Lolita Estrada
Alice Ng | Thelma Zamora
[Waiting for two more sponsors.
Please call/e-mail Victor to sign up.]

DEVOTION SCHEDULE



THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

IN LOS ANGELES:

1st Saturday Devotion

The Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | 501 N. Beaudry Avenue | (213) 250-7962
Holy Mass starts at 8:30 A.M. | 1st Saturday Devotional Prayers follow.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the Month | The Monastery of the Angels | 1977 Carmen Avenue on Gower | (323) 466-2186
12:30 P.M. - Rosary to the Father | 1:15 P.M. - Holy Mass
2:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – March 21, 2015

at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | starting at 8:30 a.m.
Please call Victor at (213) 385-7798 if you wish to become a Sponsor of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion.

IN LAS VEGAS:

1st Saturday Devotion

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117 at 1:00 PM
Cenacle will be at 10:00 AM before the devotional prayers.

Please call Evelyn at (702)274-4315 for entry to The Enclave or for more information.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M.
at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – March 28, 2015

*Please call (702) 255-9616 or (702) 274-4315 for
dates and venues for the coming months or for more information or if you wish to Sponsor the Devotion.*

IN LAUGHLIN, NEVADA:

1st Saturday Devotion

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church | 3055 El Mirage Way
Holy Mass starts at 8:00 A.M. Devotional prayers follow.

IN SAN DIEGO

Rosary to the Father

Monday – Saturday after the 8:00 A.M. Mass [Look for Iris Haj]
St. Mary's Church | 1160 S. Broadway | Escondido, CA 92025

IN THE PHILIPPINES

2000 Hail Mary Devotion - Metro Manila Area

Letty Rollan has organized the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion in various areas of Metro Manila through the members of the "Mother Butler." Please call her U.S. Vonage phone (510) 779-6652, text her at Manila #916-384-9300, and/or call her Manila landline 939-4677. Mention Mila Lumba's name to be recognized.