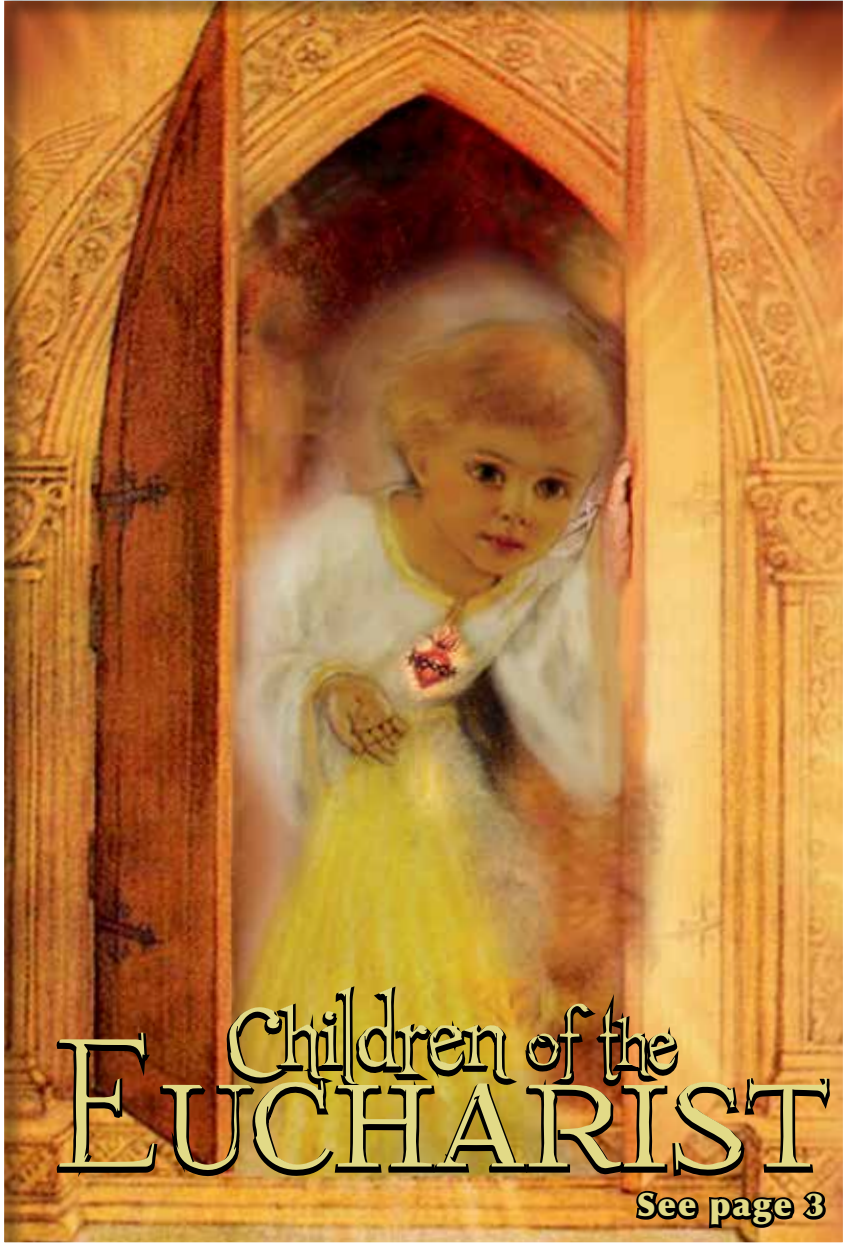


The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Children of the
EUCCHARIST

See page 3

SUMMER 2019

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Danville, Illinois and Children
of the Eucharist.

Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

Once again we are enjoying summertime since our schedules have changed with the ending of the school year. Children are happy, and this is an opportunity for families to spend more time together because of the vacation season.

Then we look at the present situation of our world, and we see that these are challenging and troubling times. This also gives us the opportunity to recognize the presence of God in our lives, and we have the knowledge and technology to make our world a better and peaceful place.

The Spirit whom Jesus promised to send still gives power to His Church and to each of her members. Once we open our hearts to the Spirit, changes do take place. For example, in the Scripture readings during the Easter Season, we hear of how the Spirit changed the lives of the apostles and helped in their work as witnesses of Jesus' message of salvation.

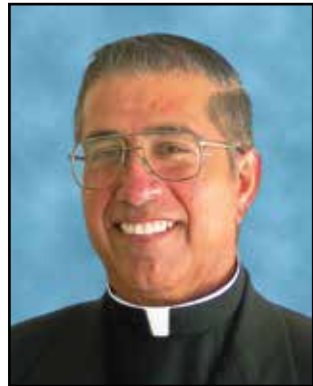
As witnesses today of Jesus' message, we can impact those around us and work toward making our world better. Please take advantage of opportunities that allow you to relax, and spend quiet time listening to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit in your life.

May you and your family have a happy and joy-filled summer filled with many blessings, and thank you for everything!

Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am

Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.

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



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

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An Invitation

The Family Forever Society

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

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

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

Most Legacy Gifts are used as principal for our Retirement Trust Fund. While we do have a modest trust fund to help cover the rising cost of healthcare needed by the elderly and disabled members of our religious community, it is always a struggle.

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

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



Forever Yours in the Holy Family,

Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.

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



SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 4

Children of the Eucharist and Our Lady of Fatima

**by Mrs. Connie Schneider,
President, Children of the Eucharist**

Welcome to Children of the Eucharist: Young Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

In a world that is totally disunited, let us unite; let us work to gather our Catholic school children and all children before the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The 17th Annual Worldwide Children's Eucharist & Marian Holy Hour will be held on Friday, October 4, 2019, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. The Holy Hour will be in honor of two of the shepherd children to whom Our Lady appeared in Fatima, Portugal in 1917, Saint Francisco Marto and Saint Jacinta Marto. They are brother and sister.

The Holy Hour will be broadcast live from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) will provide the live coverage.

This year is the 100th anniversary of



the death of Saint Francisco who died on April 4, 1919, at the age of 10. His sister Saint Jacinta died at the age of nine on February 20, 1920. The third shepherd child, Servant of God Lúcia Santos, died on February 13, 2005, at the age of 97. She is a cousin to Francisco and Jacinta.



Pope Saint John Paul II

Let us unite and help our children to entrust their lives to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to adore and offer prayers of reparation to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and to pray the Most Holy Rosary, all for the healing of families. This mission was entrusted

to children of the world by Pope Saint John Paul II. It is also intended to hasten the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as desired by Jesus and explained by Our Lady of Fatima in her apparitions.

The world seems to have forgotten the power of the intercession of children. Saint John Paul II, one of the greatest saints of our time, penned a wonderful Christmas letter in 1994. He attempted to open our eyes and our hearts, and he entrusted the unprecedented problems of family life to the youngest members of our Church, the children!

Who would have ever thought that a great saint would write a four-plus page letter to children? But he did, and he entrusted the peace of the world to them as well. John Paul II was a great promoter of the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

On May 13, 2000, during the beatification of the two shepherd children, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, John Paul II closed with the following:

“Our Lady needs all of you to console Jesus, who is sad because of the bad things done to him; she needs your prayers and your sacrifices for sinners... Ask your parents and teachers to enroll you in the ‘School’ of Our Lady, so that she can teach you to be like the little shepherds, who tried to do whatever she asked them...”

John Paul II was our recent Holy Father who entrusted the healing and peace of families and the world to children. However, calling for the prayerful intercession of children dates back to Pope

Pius X and Pope Benedict XV. The following events preceded the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.

Pope Saint Pius X

Pope Pius X’s decree in 1910 allowed children who had reached the age of reason, considered to be seven years of age, to receive Holy Communion. During the four years following the decree of Pius X, a world gone mad seemed determined to destroy what was left of Christian civilization in the blood, fire, and hatred of World War I. Pope Pius X saw his urgent calls for peace and his attempts at reconciliation ignored. The pleas of his successor, Pope Benedict XV, were also ignored.

From the mouths of infants and nursing babes, you have established strength against your adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease.

- Psalm 8:2

Pope Benedict XV

In his memorandum for peace, dated July 1, 1915, Pope Benedict was unanimously rejected by the nations at war, even by some priests who protested against the Pope’s initiative. However, the Holy Spirit was at work.

Under the direction of Father Bessières, S.J., a Catholic school in Bordeaux, France presented simple “treasure sheets” to students. The children were asked to write down daily sacrifices that they would offer up to God for the end of the war and the salvation of the soldiers killed in action.

The idea circulated from school to school at such a speed that it must have received God's blessing. Cardinal Andrieux, Archbishop of Bordeaux in France, on Holy Thursday 1916, gave the rules and regulations for the First Children's Eucharistic Crusade.

Benedict XV, finished with man's wisdom, turned with trust to God's folly, the cross, along with the pure and innocent prayers of children. He prescribed to all the bishops of the nations involved in World War I that on July 30, 1916, all the children of their dioceses should receive Holy Communion in the most solemn manner for the intentions of the Pope.

On that day, these nations saw thousands of children receive Holy Communion and unite their sacrifices to the Sacrifice of Our Lord for the conversion of the world and an end to war. Then on May 5, 1917, Pope Benedict XV wrote a plea for peace, entrusting the world to Our Blessed Mother, as the Mediatrix of All Graces, through whom Jesus dispenses His favors. These events helped to open a door.

Only eight days later, on May 13, 1917, the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima began to humble shepherd children in Portugal. This was Our Lady's response to Pope Benedict XV, Christ's vicar on earth, who struggled for years for peace.

Children of the Eucharist

Since the 2002 – 2003 Year of the Rosary, our organization, known as Children of the Eucharist, has been working to gather children before Jesus

in the Blessed Sacrament to pray the Rosary and to entrust their lives to Our Lady. We hope you will consider joining us!

We have a beautiful School of the Immaculate Heart of Mary that lays out the message of Fatima for our children, including clergy, teachers, and parents. It is one promise and five easy steps.

Ambassadors

Will you consider becoming an ambassador of the Immaculate Heart of Mary? The mission is to help Our Lady in these unprecedented and uncertain times to lead the children of the world to an Entrustment to her Immaculate Heart. She will then safely lead them to her Divine Son Jesus Christ, truly present in the Holy Eucharist. This will ultimately lead to world peace and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Available from the Children of the Eucharist is a beautiful entrustment folder for families, a Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. God bless your family!



*Please keep up to date on
the Children's Holy Hour
on October 4:*

www.childrenoftheeucharist.org
connieschneider@earthlink.net

(651) 776-0363





YOUTHFUL OUTLOOK

Little William's Miracle

by Little William's Mom & Dad

In October of 2018, our 4-year-old son William began having persistent neck pain. After several doctor visits and a couple different treatments, our pediatrician recommended



A month before William's health issues were identified.

we see a neurologist. It was the neurologist's opinion that this was something more than a stiff neck and recommended we have an MRI done on his brain and cervical spine. On Wednesday, November 21, the day before Thanksgiving, we brought William to Saint Louis Children's Hospital for his sedated MRI, which revealed fluid in his spine. The radiologist noticed what looked to be a mass toward the bottom of the image.

We met with a neurosurgeon that afternoon who informed us that we would need an MRI of the complete spine to find out the severity. However, we would have to wait until Friday for the scan due to the Thanksgiving holiday. She determined that he would need surgery to have the tumor removed

and penciled us on the books for surgery on Monday. The scan on Friday confirmed that William had a large tumor inside of his spinal

cord that spanned six vertebrae, and surgery was the best course of action.

Hearing the word "tumor" in the same sentence as our son has been the hardest thing that we have experienced in our lives. We were terrified and had so many questions. Why William? What did he do to deserve this? Why did God pick our sweet, innocent boy to have a tumor? Why couldn't one of us have the tumor and not him? How can we be strong for William and pretend like we know that everything is going to be okay?

We began to pray, along with many others, for not only a miraculous healing, but also comfort, strength, and for us to have faith that God will provide. It didn't take long for God to respond!

Not only is it a miracle that we were able to meet with a neurosurgeon on the same day of the MRI, but she also just happened to be the neurosurgeon who specializes in pediatric neuro-spine surgery, specifically tumors. She informed us during our meeting that she would be the on-call neurosurgeon for the holiday weekend, which meant she was there to meet with us that Friday to go over the MRI results. On top of all of that, she had a surgery unexpectedly canceled for the following Monday, which meant William could have his surgery.

The Surgery

After the MRI on Friday and discussions with our neurosurgeon, we were informed that we would not be going home. We needed to stay at the hospital over the weekend for his surgery on Monday. On Monday, November 26, the surgery team came to our room on the 12th floor to bring William down to the operating room. William was so scared, and he was beginning to understand the severity of the situation. We carried him down to the operating floor with tears streaming down our faces. Then they rolled him into the operating room.

There were two goals for surgery. One, safely remove as much tumor as they could. Two, for William to come out of surgery with the same level of function he had prior to surgery.

After nine (9) long hours, surgery was over, and our neurosurgeon came out to go over the results. The first thing she said was that he made it through surgery and all his vitals were good. She estimated that she was able to remove 50% - 60% of the tumor safely, however, she stopped surgery after several of the signals indicated he could be losing function in his legs. She was able to compress his spine and close his syrinx, which would relieve him of his neck pain. At this point, we were so relieved that he made it through

surgery that we felt we could handle the next steps, whatever they may be.

The next day, we had his post-operation MRI to confirm the amount of tumor left and to develop a plan for treating the remaining tumor. Options would be to observe, have a

second surgery in the future, or do chemotherapy. However, the neurosurgeon informed us that the MRI showed that the tumor was completely gone!

There was one small spot that she wanted to keep an eye on for the next several years, but it was too small to be detected as a tumor and could likely be trauma from the surgery. She said that she was completely surprised by the clean scan, and she does not get surprised very often. The independent radiologist who read the MRI also concluded that no tumors were present.



Brothers William (right) and Blake.

We couldn't believe the news. It was truly a miracle!

God showed up again and answered our prayers, not only a safe surgery, but that the entire tumor was removed. The pathology report on the biopsy of the remaining spot would be completed in the next seven to ten days.

The Recovery

In the recovery room, we were informed that William lost function in his legs during surgery. He would need to go through extensive physical therapy to be able to walk again.

They were encouraged that he was showing response when they performed their neuro tests, however, they were not sure of the long-term prognosis. It was a long night in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), and William was very scared since he couldn't feel the lower half of his body.

We were released from the PICU the following day. Since the original tumor was located inside the spinal

cord, the neurosurgeon had to remove several pieces of his spine. He was fitted for a brace that would help pro-

tect his spine as he healed and would provide him with support to give him good posture. William began inpatient physical therapy the day after leaving the PICU. He went twice a day for the remainder of our stay at the hospital.

As he went through therapy, we celebrated small achievements such as toe wiggling, leg movements, sitting up, pulling himself to standing, and, eventually, assisted steps in a walker. On December 4, we were discharged from the hospital after 12 long days.

The hospital is a scary thing for a little kid, but Saint Louis Children's Hospital did an amazing job of making him feel as comfortable as possible. Our 2-year-old son Blake was a little young to understand what was going on, and it was really tough at times when he would come to visit because he did not want to leave his brother or us. He could sense something was going on, but we were so fortunate to have our parents to help us. They made him feel comfortable at their home, and they would frequently bring him to the hospital.



Blake visiting William in the hospital.



William receiving a visit from Saint Louis mascots.

We were so fortunate to have such an amazing support system. Our families and friends visited us daily. Friends sent gifts to William, and he even had a classmate visit him at the hospital. It was these little gestures that made the time at the hospital tolerable.

On December 6, we finally received the pathology report, and the tumor came back as a low grade (benign), level 1 tumor. These tumors are typically slow growing, well contained, and unlikely to return after surgery. However, they did say that although the tumor was considered to be benign, there were some growth cells identified that were growing faster than they would like. His neuro team, overall, was very pleased with the pathology report.

The neurosurgeon originally felt that it would be a low-grade tumor, however, to get the official news that it *really* was low-grade was the best phone call we had ever received! This was another prayer answered during our journey.

It is always a concern that there could be growth tumor cells left behind from surgery that could ultimately grow back. But, at this point, his treatment plan was to have an

MRI scan every three months for the next year to make sure there are no surprises. Again, we were elated with the news!

We began outpatient therapy the following day. The goal was to regain William's functionality that he had prior to surgery. Within a few days after outpatient therapy began, William began to take really good steps in his walker. This really gave us hope

that he was going to be able to walk again and had a chance at regaining his full functionality. On December 13, William took his first steps without using a walker. This gave him so much confidence, and he started to realize that if he put in the hard work, he could get everything back.

A week after his first unassisted steps, he ditched the walker and began walking everywhere we went. He had some stamina and balancing issues, but overall, he was exceeding expectations. He kept working hard at physical therapy. On February 21, he was discharged from physical therapy. When

he first began therapy, he was tested as having the physical abilities of an 11-month-old. Upon discharge, he was tested as being at or above his



William receiving a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.



William

age group! Yet again, another prayer answered.

On March 19, 2019, William had his three-month MRI to check the area where his tumor was removed. His MRI revealed that nothing had grown back since surgery, and the area where his tumor was removed is not showing any changes since his initial post-operation MRI back on November 27, 2018.

The neurosurgeon team is very optimistic that the tumor will not return based on what they saw. We will continue to have quarterly MRIs for the next year to monitor the area, and then it will be annually after that. Another prayer answered!

The Lasting Impact

When you read stories about families that go through experiences like this, they always say that they never thought it would happen to them. We used to always glance over comments like that until we were the ones saying it. There were so many moments of denial, fear, anger, and even questioning God and His purpose. We each had moments of weakness where we had to lean on each other and to be strong for one another.

We have such a greater appreciation for our kids, our health, our families, our friends, and the community of people who are still walking with us on

this journey. We have such a strong network of prayer support, many of whom we have never met before, and they have made such an impact on William. We thank God daily for the people He has placed in our lives to help us through such a trying time.

Looking back, the night after William's surgery, we were in the PICU awaiting the results from his post-operation MRI scan. At that point, we realized that we just have to let go and hand it over to God. We made the decision that we were going to trust that God has a plan for William, and it was our job to be there for him, encourage him, and walk with him.

We had this overwhelming sense that God was in the PICU with us. He had given us the strength to get to that point, and He wasn't going anywhere. God doesn't promise that you won't experience difficult circumstances, pain, or even loss. However, He does promise that He will be with us, always. While we don't know what the future will hold for William, we are thankful every day that God has answered so many prayers over the last several months.

We have learned so much during this journey. If we could pass along any advice, it would be to be bold in your prayers, lean on those who offer their support, and be present with those you love. **+JMj+**



William in his wheelchair.

Around The Province...



Saint Louis Blues Hockey and Famous Footwear surprised Cabrini Academy's Girls on the Run at their March 18 practice. These organizations provided each of the students with a new pair of running shoes and a goodie bag containing a water bottle, socks, and headband. Louie and the Blues cheerleaders came along to cheer on the girls, too! Cabrini Academy is grateful for the support and generosity of Famous Footwear, the Saint Louis Blues, and Girls on the Run Saint Louis.

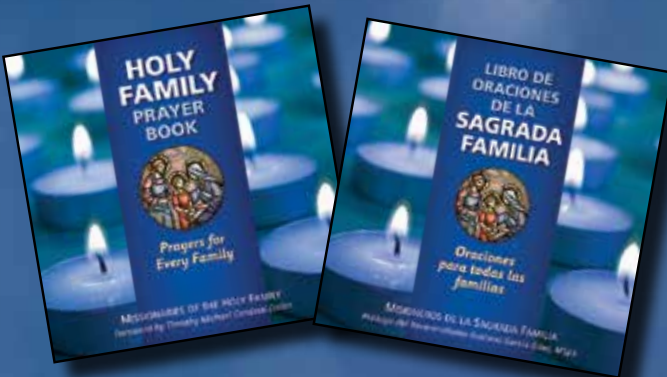


Around The Province...



The Turkey Hunter, Miss Brianna, 15,
with the third turkey of her hunting career.

A Great Gift for All Occasions!



Only \$8.99
Order today at 800-325-9521.

Thursday,
August 8 -
Sunday,
August 11, 2019

The Apostolate for Family Consecration Invites Your Family for a Family Fest Missouri Weekend!



Place - Eagle Hurst Ranch



Eagle Hurst Ranch ♦ 240 Eagle Hurst Road ♦ Steelville, MO 65565
www.eaglehurstranch.com

Daily Mass, Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet - (*chapel on site*)

~ Camp Pastor ~

Father W. Drinkwater, C.S.S.R.

~ Youth Coordinator ~

Inspiration for the children!



~ Family-Friendly Rates ~

- 1.) \$20 per adult (ages 15 & up) and \$5 per child (ages 3-14):
- 2.) **Meals:** Feel free to bring your own food and snacks. There is plenty of refrigeration space, however, cooking facilities are minimal. A large BBQ area is available. You may purchase buffet-style meals for \$8.50 per adult per meal and \$5 per child per meal.
- 3.) **Lodging:** Camping/RVs, etc. – no charge (no hookups available). Cabin rental is \$80 per night, and there are 30 air-conditioned cabins with refrigerator (1 or 2 bedroom cabins). Please bring towels and washcloths.

~ Family Activities ~

Playgrounds ♦ Tennis ♦ Ping Pong ♦ Sports Equipment
Shuffleboard ♦ Nature Trail ♦ Softball ♦ Volleyball
Large Swimming Pool & Patio (*modest suits, please!*)

Tubes for the River ♦ Fishing ♦ Pony Rides

(*Horseback riding not included;*

\$25 for 50 minute trail ride.)



Apostolate Coordinator, (314) 420-7917.

To register, call (314) 638-3382 or (800) 257-2624.

(Donations accepted.)



First Holy Communion

On Saturday, May 25, a beautiful student at Saint Frances Cabrini Academy in Saint Louis, Missouri received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at Saint Wenceslaus Church. Father Philip Sosa, M.S.F., provincial superior of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, celebrated the Sunday Vigil Mass, and he spoke about the glory of receiving Jesus Christ -- Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity -- in every Holy Communion.



First Holy Communion





JOYS OF FAMILY LIFE

Bald Guy's Fishing School

by Jerry "Baldy" Bluett

I'm the Bald Guy. Typically, when someone asks me how many kids I have, I respond, "Only six." Of course, my pretty bride of 45 years joins me on our path. All six kids are grown and married, and spread out among Texas, California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Washington. There are 14 grandkids counting the twins that are due in August. The twins are already very much a part of our family.

One thing that makes me happy is how close the six kids and their spouses remain. The grandkids, with the exception of the twins, all know one another and get along famously when they are together.

The Bald Guy's Fishing School started out much smaller in 2010. Our whole group got together in Wisconsin and stayed in one house on a lake. If you want to have some fun, try fishing with five grandkids at the same time on a dock!

Luckily, I was only in charge of fishing, cleaning fish, and cooking fish. I did not have to organize meals to feed everyone. The fish we caught couldn't come close to feeding everyone three times a day.



Fishing School 2010

We certainly had a wonderful time, and everyone was anxious to have another Bald Guy's Fishing School.

The fishing school is not the only time our whole group gets together in one place. We have all been together at a few Thanksgivings and some weddings. However, we did not have matching T-shirts for those occasions.

The next Bald Guy's Fishing School was 2013, again in one house on a lake in Wisconsin. The group was bigger. Everyone pitched in ahead of time from designing the T-shirts to planning meals. Try fishing with seven grandkids at the same time on a dock!

Luckily, I had some help from one of my daughters and her boyfriend (now my son-in-law). As the group grew, things became a little more complicated to organize, but even more fun. I sure



Most of us in 2016

cleaned a lot of fish and the youngest grandkids were right at my side to watch and “help.” Some of the kids and their spouses recommended we have a Bald Guy’s Fishing School every year. I have to admit I was thinking, *“Wait a minute, this is a big production!”*

We all got together in 2014 and 2015, but not for another Bald Guy’s Fishing School.

In 2016, the group was even bigger and the Bald Guy’s Fishing School was in session. One house on a lake in Wisconsin, but farther north. That place sure was busy while we were there with boats, fishing, skiing, tubing, meals... and more meals. I’ll admit the fishing was not as good as I would have wished, but we did have one good fish fry. The oldest grandkids can really pack away a lot of fish when the Bald Guy prepares the meal!

It’s pretty funny that our youngest daughter and her boyfriend attended the 2016 fishing school and the boyfriend is now another great son-in-law.

Next came Bald Guy’s Fishing School 2018. This time in the Seattle area and double duty with the wedding of our youngest daughter. It was not easy finding a house to rent that would fit the entire group, but it happened. The three youngest grandkids were the two flower girls and the “Ring Bear.” That was a fun wedding, and you should see my grandkids dance!

The fishing school was great, but not enough fish to be caught. Three of the t-shirts said STAFF on the back of the shirt. One of my sons-in-law gained status of STAFF during fishing school, and he will be recognized as such at the next school.

There is no doubt that getting our whole group together costs some money. There are lots of us pitching in with the organization, planning, execution, and expense. It is all worth the fun and staying close as a family.

Family: call them, skype them, e-mail them, fish with them, gather with them. It’s easy; it’s family. God bless your family! **+JM+**



NEVER FORGET

Holy Souls Garage & Bake Sale

by Friends of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

“Always pray for the dead. If deceased persons are prayed for by offering the Eucharist or by any prayer and have no further need of purification, the prayers are not unavailing. The deceased in heaven receive an increase in their intimacy of God’s love and an increase in their own intercessory power.”

– Saint Thomas Aquinas (who called this “accidental glory”)
Excerpt from the book, *Day by Day for the Holy Souls in Purgatory*, by Susan Tassone, © 2014.

These words of Saint Thomas Aquinas were so profound to me that they would become the central goal for all of our works contributing to the release of the Poor Souls in Purgatory (also referred to as Holy Souls). Following the example of friends, I began to learn more about the Poor Souls, and my family began to contribute to their release by having Masses said for them through the Mission Office of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

As time went on, it started to occur to me that so much more could be done. I began to ponder what more my family could do to help the Poor Souls. One day, as I sat at the kitchen



table wondering and asking what could be done, I spotted an item I never use. Why not sell it and have the Poor Souls benefit from the sale? So my friends and I came up with the idea for the “Holy Souls Garage

& Bake Sale.”

Since seven is traditionally considered the number of perfection in the Bible, our first goal was to raise \$777.77. When it was all done, we had achieved our goal. The end of the sale was marked by a flock of nearly 100 seagulls circling overhead, and we understood that as a sign of many souls flying to heaven. God was pleased. So we did it again.

Each time we raised our goal, until it

was eventually \$7,777.77, which is ten times our original goal. We added an army tent and then another army tent. We sold a car and a boat. Each time the sale gets bigger, more people donate, more people buy items, more Masses are celebrated, and, ultimately, more souls are released from Purgatory.



This special event has overtaken my small lot and surrounded my whole house. Volunteers come from many parishes to help set up, donate, sell stuff, buy stuff, and to take down.

We find additional ways to make money with the left over items. If there are other charities that can benefit from anything we have, then we contribute to those charities, such as Soles for Souls, a baby blanket quilting charity, the Saint Francesca Resource Center of the Church of Notre Dame in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and many more.

During one sale, we were chatting and came up with a list of those who benefit from the Holy Souls Garage & Bake Sale. Here is our list:

- 1) The Holy Souls in Purgatory. Our work in itself is a prayer for them, and they benefit when Masses are celebrated because they move closer to Heaven or are released into Heaven.
- 2) The volunteers, donors, and customers. No matter in what capacity we can help the Poor Souls, they are eternally grateful, and they will pray for those who help them.
- 3) The poor in mission territories. They benefit from the actual money raised because the resources are distributed to the missionary priests who serve them.
- 4) The priests in mission territories. They don't always have money to buy bread and wine for the consecration at Mass, and this provides what they need for celebrating Masses (their most important duty!).
- 5) Our own community. The Poor Souls can intercede for us and pray for us (remember, they are eternally grateful).
- 6) The entire world. Every person, the Body of Christ, benefits when one Mass is celebrated.

It occurred to me, at one point, how important it is to financially support missionary priests because if one Mass is not said due to the lack of bread and wine, the whole world suffers. This is unacceptable!

When customers come to our sale, I have to fight the urge to not talk

about the Poor Souls. This is a battle at the beginning of each sale, but God strengthens me and I find it easier and easier to defend the Doctrine of Purgatory that is so important for our times.

When customers arrive, I say, "Welcome to the Holy Souls Garage & Bake Sale." I ask their names and then inquire if they have ever been to our sale or if they know how it works.



Usually people will say "No," or they will ask for an explanation.

So I tell them, "We are raising money to have Masses celebrated for the release of Holy Souls in Purgatory. The money is sent to missions around the world, through the Diocese of La Crosse. Missionary priests will celebrate Masses for the Souls in Purgatory and then use the money for the poor people they serve in whatever capacity needed. You get what you want, and you pay what you want. If you have any questions, please let me know. Enjoy shopping!"

When they are ready to check out, I always ask them if they have any Poor Souls for which they would like a Mass celebrated. Many will give one or two names, and some will just say "No, we're good."



Sometimes it has been a great opener for conversations. People will talk about death and eternity, and they receive some healing in knowing that our prayers are with them. Most people are quite generous, and we have successfully raised over \$10,000.00 in total from all five of our sales.



Being open about our mission for the Poor Souls is exciting. It has helped to educate people in our community, even Catholics, on the great need to help our brothers and sisters who are suffering, in the state of purification, and waiting for their

release into Heaven.

Please pray, pray, pray for Poor Souls and have many Masses celebrated for the living and the deceased. Ask your

departed loved ones to intercede for you, visit a cemetery, and make the Sign of the Cross whenever you pass a grave or a cross seen from a highway.

Next time you are Christmas or birthday shopping, remember a Mass is a great gift for the person who has

everything. The Mission Office at your own diocese is a great place to begin, or have your own Holy Souls Garage & Bake Sale!

God bless the Poor Souls, and God bless everyone who will read this article. +JM+

References on Purgatory

Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to 2,000 silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. *Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin.*

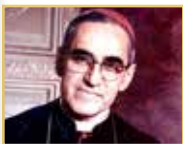
2 Maccabees 12:42-46

According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire [itself] will test the quality of each one's work. If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. But if someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; *the person will be saved, but only as through fire.*

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (reference numbers 1030 – 1032)



COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Archbishop Romero: Martyr for Justice & the Poor

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

Bishop Samuel Ruiz said this in his homily of March 24, 2010, at the Cathedral of San Salvador, on the 30th anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero:

“He was called the prophetic bishop for the poor and oppressed. He was assassinated when he celebrated an evening Mass in the chapel of a cancer hospital near his house. At 6:25 p.m., one gunman entered the chapel and killed the Archbishop with a single shot during Mass.”

Hundreds of thousands attended his Funeral Mass on May 30, 1980. Ernesto Cardinal Corripio Ahumada of Mexico, the personal representative of Pope Saint John Paul II, spoke of the Archbishop as a “beloved peacemaking man of God whose blood will give fruit to brotherhood, love, and peace.”

Before he was brutally murdered, he spoke these prophetic words, “*those who surrender to service of the poor through love of Christ will live like the grain of wheat that dies... the harvest comes because of the grain that dies.*”

Oscar Romero was born on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15, 1917, in Barrios, El Salvador.



He came from a simple family on the border between El Salvador and Guatemala. His father was a postman. When Oscar was young, he helped his father post letters. He also learned to be a carpenter and a mechanic.

He entered the seminary at the age of 14. When his mother became ill and money was needed for medicine, he left the seminary for three months and worked in the gold mines in Potosi, Bolivia. In 1937, Oscar went to Rome to study theology and stayed there during World War II. On April

4, 1942, he was ordained a priest. He returned home in 1944 to celebrate his first Mass with his family in Barrios, El Salvador

In 1967, Oscar received the title of monsignor, and he moved to the capital city of San Salvador. There he met Father Rutilio

Grande, and the two became good friends. Monsignor Romero soon became famous for his preaching, visiting prisons, organizing catechism classes, and working with the poor.

Monsignor Romero was ordained a bishop on June 21, 1970. As an auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, he helped many people in the capital city where politics and crime came together in a dangerous mix. In

1974, he became Bishop of Santiago de Maria. A month after he was there, three people were killed by the military in the village of Tres Calles. Bishop Romero tried to comfort the families, and he wrote to President Molina to protest the murders.

In February of 1977, he was named Archbishop of San Salvador. The rich people were very happy when he

became archbishop because they thought he would then stop the local priests from helping the poor. But they were wrong!

On March 12, 1977, Father Rutilio Grande and two others were assassinated as they traveled to celebrate Mass in the small

village of El Paisnal. Archbishop Romero was moved with pity over the death of his friends and the suffering endured by the poor. He became more aggressively engaged

in the struggles of the impoverished people of his country.

In September of 1978, Archbishop Romero told the people at Mass at the Cathedral that he was accused of preaching politics and subversion. He said plainly:

"What I want to say here, from this Cathedral seat, is the way of the Church, and from that Church, I want to support everything that is good, console the victims of abuses and injustices, and also bravely denounce all abuses and torture, the disappearance of persons."

On February 17, 1980, a month before he was martyred, he wrote a



letter to U.S. President Jimmy Carter about his desire to let the people of El Salvador enjoy freedom and a democratic process. On March 14, Robert E. White, the U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, called the Archbishop and delivered a reply to his letter, which was signed by Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State: "We understand your concerns about the dangers of providing military assistance."

Ten days later on March 24, 1980,



Archbishop Romero was murdered by a gunman who shot him as he celebrated Mass in the chapel of a cancer hospital.

Option for the Poor

Pope Saint Paul VI wrote in his encyclical letter, *On the Development of People*, that the Church never failed to foster the human progress of the nations to which she brings faith in Christ. The Church in Latin America then explicitly encouraged all Christians to have a preferential

option for the poor and to free all who are oppressed.

After Oscar Romero became a Monsignor, and while he was living in the city of San Salvador, he worked with Catholic social agencies to provide food to the poor. The gap between the rich and the poor was great, and corrupt politics was making the situation worse. In early 1980, Archbishop Romero went to Rome to discuss the political conditions in El Salvador and the harsh reality for the poor.

Because the U.S. military was becoming involved in his country, Archbishop Romero wrote to President Carter about his concern. Romero wanted to protect the rights of his people to build up their own country without oppression and interference from other nations. His worst fear became a reality when 70,000 Salvadorans died from violence, mostly from the exact repression he tried to stop.

The majority of the people remained poor and suffering.

Father Juan Hernandez Pico, SJ studied the life of Archbishop Romero, and he wrote an article, *Romero and the Social Gospel: The Challenge for Us Today*. Father Pico explained that after Romero was installed as Archbishop of San Salvador, this ushered in the "Romero phenomenon." When Father Grande and his companions were killed, Archbishop Romero spoke more openly about the

repression of El Salvador. In July of 1978 he said:

“My greatest satisfaction and joy comes from listening to the people... the preacher’s duty is not only to teach, it is to learn as well. I want to support everything that is good, console the victims of abuses and injustices... the Church must bear witness to the presence of Christ. If a lot of people have left the Church, it’s precisely because the Church has alienated itself a little from humanity. But a Church which knows how to feel as its own the whole of humanity, and wants to incarnate the pain, the hope, and the anguish of all those who suffer and rejoice, then the Church will be Christ loved and hoped for, Christ present.”

Saint Oscar Romero

Pope Francis canonized Archbishop Romero wearing the saint’s cincture stained with the martyr’s blood. Archbishop Romero was a martyr for the faith. He is a good example of a spiritual leader in the modern era because he was not just preaching. He was a shepherd who died for his flock. He is a defender of the poor


and oppressed.

More than 39 years after Romero was murdered, El Salvador still longs for recovery and healing. The priests who are truly good shepherds help the poor and the oppressed. They lead the flock to find the living water of Jesus Christ, while defending justice, peace, and truth.



Priests are called by God to listen to the cry of the poor. We are not

called to preach only and take no action. We are not called to a type of preaching that never assists in relieving the burdens of those whom we must serve. If we look at the Gospels, Jesus always criticized the teachers of His day who did not lead by example.

This is our challenge, the challenge of the Church, the challenge for you and me, to minister to a world desperate for truth and seeking safety. They will find the Light of Christ if we are present to them. If we are messengers of justice, peace, and mercy, Jesus Christ will be visible in His Church and in the world, faithfully defending those hungry for truth and love. 

Around The Province...



Father Aloysius Irawan, M.S.F. blesses the groundbreaking of the 28th Habitat for Humanity home in Seguin, Texas.

Around The Province...



In December 2018, the Ballet Folklorico De La Rosa students, under the direction of artistic director Beto Rincón, performed traditional Azteca dances for the Virgen de Guadalupe Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Seguin, Texas.

Around The Province...



Some members of the Missionaries of the Holy Family at the May 2019 Assembly Meeting in San Antonio.

Around The Province...



The Midnight Mass Christmas Band at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas.

Men of God: Priests Forever

In this Year of Our Lord 2019, two 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., St. Louis, MO 63118. Thank you and God bless your family!



Fr. Simon Brzozowski, M.S.F.
55 years



Fr. Arthur Ockwood, M.S.F.
60 years

Thank You & God Bless You to everyone who made a financial gift to date in 2019. We, the priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, extend our deep gratitude to all our benefactors. You are remembered in our prayers.

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Children's Holy Hour, see page 3.



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