

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



2015 Year of Consecrated Life

Read how to “wake up the world” on page 24

WINTER 2014 - 2015

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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by the Master of Liesborn,
15th century
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Saint Louis, Missouri

Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

The Year of Our Lord 2015 has already begun, and we are celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life through February 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated Life. The purpose for this special year, as stated by the Vatican, is to “make a grateful remembrance of the recent past” while embracing “the future with hope.”

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of *Perfectae Caritatis* (Perfect Charity), a decree on religious life, and *Lumen Gentium* (Light of the Nations), the Second Vatican Council’s Constitution on the Church.

As we reflect on our vocation in life in the coming months, or participate in programs observing the anniversary of *Perfectae Caritatis* and *Lumen Gentium*, may it arouse the aspiration to profess our faith in fullness and with renewed conviction.

Living in difficult and challenging times, we wonder what is in store for us. What must it have been like for Mary and Joseph to live out their lives, submitting to God’s will? Their strong faith and trust in God was essential, but we also share some of their daily experiences. They are the example for us on how to keep a close relationship with our God by praying daily and by loving and serving others.

Making Jesus Christ the foundation of our lives will bring us the gift of true peace to our families and renew our wearied hearts and minds.

(Matthew 11:28-30)

I wish you and your family a Blessed 2015!

Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am



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



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HOLY FAMILY LIFE

Loving Jesus in the Poor

by Father Feddy Himawan, M.S.F.

Editor's Note: Father Feddy Himawan, M.S.F. is a priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Family from the Java Province of Indonesia. He served as pastor of Holy Family Parish in New Braunfels, Texas for over nine years. In September 2014, he returned to his home province in Indonesia. He is greatly missed; we love him! He recently answered some questions about his fascinating life:

Where were you born?

I was born in the city of Salatiga in the Central Java Province of Indonesia.

How many siblings do you have?

I have three siblings. Betty died in 2005 at the age of 45. Benny and Ferry both live in Indonesia and are married. Our order of birth: Betty, me, Benny, and Ferry.



Patrick, my sister's son.



My sister Betty.

Were you raised Catholic?

Yes, I was raised Catholic, and I was baptized as a baby when I was three weeks old.



Where did you go to school as a child?

I went to Catholic schools from kindergarten through middle school, and I attended a public high school for grades 10 – 12.

How did you develop your love for the poor?

My parents taught me to help



Vicky, my sister's daughter, with her husband and son.

the poor by giving them food, clothes, and money to buy medicine and shelter. I did this out of our house for people who just moved to town or lost their homes for any reason. They would come to our house for assistance.

At one point, my parents helped five boys who were having educational and behavioral problems. Since my parents were teachers, they supervised and helped the boys finish high school. Some of them went on to college.



My parents Johannes and Lidwina.

math and English. I helped to sweep the rooms.

My dad would often ask me to walk along the paddy fields in the middle of the night to watch over the irrigation because some people would steal water for their own rice field. He was a leader in his village, and he was obligated to watch over the irrigation. Additionally, cleaning up a public cemetery and a public road were some of our other monthly activities.



My youngest brother Ferry and his wife Lucy and their son.



My brother Benny with his wife and two children.

When I was in middle school, my mom took me with her several times to a part of town where prostitution was legal. My mom had an organization with the mission to approach children who were forced to become prostitutes.

Only a few of the children we visited were able to be freed from a life of prostitution.

We would also visit an orphanage once a month. My sister Betty usually taught the children some subjects like

Who taught you how to live simply and not waste anything, especially food?

My parents usually asked me and my siblings to collect any leftover food after supper, and we would walk for 30 minutes to give the food to homeless people downtown.

What types of charity did you learn from your Muslim grandfather?

My grandfather was so generous in sharing what we have with the unfortunate, especially when it came to land.

Some of our cousins had lost their jobs and their homes, and they came to my grandfather. He loved to welcome them into his own home or to help them to build their own simple houses.

Why did your family become Catholic?

My dad was born and baptized within a Catholic family, and my mom became Catholic when she attended a Catholic middle school. My parents met in the parish choir.

When did your Muslim grandmother become Catholic? Did she ask you to baptize her?

I baptized my grandmother a few months after I was ordained. She expressed her wish to follow Jesus when I was in middle school. Often she would say that she did not understand what would make people kill a good man like Jesus. When I entered the seminary, she was very happy and asked me to baptize her after I became a priest. She passed away three years after she was baptized. I could not attend her funeral because I was in the middle of nowhere in the jungles of Papua New Guinea on a missionary assignment.

Was your Muslim grandfather ever upset when members of his family became Catholic?

Not at all! According to my mom, she was encouraged to become a Catholic by her father (my Muslim grandfather). My mom followed her older sister who became the first Catholic among my grandfather's children.



Father Feddy Himawan, M.S.F.

Why did you become a priest, specifically a missionary priest?

One day, during class in the eighth grade, my mind began to wander, and my calling came to me: I wanted to be a missionary priest, to be sent overseas, to minister in different countries and among different cultures. I grew up in a culture that was very much associated with traditional healers, but the modern world calls it superstition. The spiritual world was never strange for me. I liked to pray and connect with this spiritual world. My mom told me to leave all that nonsense behind and to join an organization like the Legion of Mary or the youth ministry. I opted to become an altar server.

Why did you choose the Missionaries of the Holy Family?

The Missionaries of the Holy Family was the only religious order familiar to me. The value of the family is important to me, and I was drawn to this charism.

How did you survive in the jungles of Papua New Guinea?

It was only by God's grace that I survived! I firmly explained to the people that some of their cultural practices were not Christian. Ministering to the people gave me the strength to deal with all of the difficulties of living in the jungle. (Papua New Guinea is an island nation over 2,000 miles east of Salatiga, Indonesia.)



How did you almost become a martyr for the faith?

Several times people got mad when their needs and demands were not fulfilled by the pastor. In 2000, a man came to me at night with a three-foot-long machete, demanding that he should be appointed as a leader of the Catholic community. He placed the machete on my neck, and I was trembling, but I managed to stay calm and talk to him. Several villagers passed by the rectory, and they stopped to see what was happening. We ended up talking all night long.

Finally, I realized that this man wanted to start what was known as a cargo cult. The year 2000 was a very important year for cargo cult members. In

the year 2000, they believed that the Catholic Church would release their leader, his name was Yali, a man considered by the cargo cult to be a prophet. Yali died of natural causes in the late 1960s. Cargo cult members, however, believed that Yali never died, but was imprisoned by Catholic missionaries in the city of Alexishafen, which was formally the location for the Archdiocese of Madang in Papua New Guinea.

What is your impression of the United States of America?

It is a great nation that has become a "mecca" for people all over the world. I am impressed that the Catholic Church seems fully alive here in a nation that has become a superpower.

What is your favorite memory as a priest?

Too many! Perhaps when I first visited families in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. Or, taking Jesus to the streets of San Antonio and New Braunfels, Texas in Eucharistic Processions.


If God said that He would grant you one wish, what would it be?

Lord, grant me wisdom and perseverance.

If you could be God for one day, what would you do?

I don't know. I don't want to play God!

What is your next adventure?

That depends on what the Church needs, and the decision will be made by my provincial superior. God bless your family! 



A PROFILE OF SERVICE



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him, O Lord

Father Joseph Raymond Lawless, M.S.F.

May 2, 1926 – October 18, 2014

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father Joe Lawless, M.S.F., age 88, died on Saturday, October 18, 2014 in Mechanicsville, Virginia. He was laid to rest at Saint John Cemetery in Stamford, Connecticut.

Father Joe was born on May 2, 1926 in East Orange, New Jersey, to Joseph and Alice Lawless as the first of four children. He is survived by his only sister, Judith Lawless Wade of Norwalk, Connecticut, and one brother, Jay Lawless of Fairbanks, Alaska.

He graduated from Saint Basil Preparatory School in Stamford, Connecticut, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944 at the age of 18. He served as a combat infantryman until 1946.

During World War II, his 42nd Infantry Division was credited with capturing a handful of German cities before entering

Dachau, the notorious and first concentration camp established by the Nazis, which was the model for the other concentration camps that followed. **Father Joe helped liberate more than 30,000 prisoners from Dachau.**

Father Joe returned home and graduated from the University of Georgia on the G.I. Bill. He was a student staff member on the university newspaper, and writing was his passion. Later, while a member of the R.O.T.C., he was called into active duty during the Korean War.

He entered the seminary in 1965 as a late vocation. His studies began at the Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts. He later transferred to the Missionaries of the Holy Family in 1966. Further preparation continued at a Franciscan Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Father Joe was ordained


into the Priesthood of Jesus Christ on June 19, 1971.

His vocation in life was to help and care for others, particularly those in the minority communities. He became a fixture in parishes from Los Angeles, California to Granite City, Illinois, before finding his home at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Corpus Christi, Texas where he served for more than 30 years.

His ministries included jails, hospitals, Mexican Missions, police chaplaincy, school administration, AIDS ministry, and gangs. He also served on several bish-

ops' committees and task forces, as well as on the provincial government of the Missionaries of the Holy Family.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Memorials: Using the return envelope found in the middle of this magazine, please send any contributions in Memoriam of Father Joe Lawless, M.S.F., or make an online gift at our website, www.MSF-America.org. Thank you! 

Men of God: Priests Forever

In this Year of Our Lord 2015, five priests of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.



Fr. Leo Gariazzo, M.S.F.
50 years



Fr. Richard Oberstar, M.S.F.
50 years



Fr. James Beegan, M.S.F.
15 years



Fr. John Lombardi, M.S.F.
15 years



Fr. Francois Rakotovoavy, M.S.F.
15 years

We thank God for our priests, 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 use the envelope found in the middle of this magazine. Thank you and God bless your family!



UNITED IN CHRIST

As the Wind Blows, so does Life's Journey

by Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F.

I am sure that when you read the title of this article, you asked yourself, "Where is he going with this?" Well, I won't keep you in suspense any longer...

Forty years ago, as of May 25, 2014, I was ordained as a Catholic priest with the Missionaries of the Holy Family. Our provincial office is in Saint Louis, Missouri, which, by the way, is my hometown. It's hard to believe that 1974 was 40 years ago!

My many years in ministry have been very rewarding, both as a priest living in a religious community and as an opportunity to understand who I am.

I have experienced numerous joyful occasions, such as the privilege to baptize people of all ages as children of God. As God's steward, I enjoy welcoming them into a new family of faith. Other joyous moments have been the witnessing of weddings and watching husbands and wives have their own children and become parents of future generations.

By working through His priests, Jesus

Christ has humbled me by allowing me to represent Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. By His grace flowing through me, sinners have become reconciled to God and His Church.

Of course, the greatest of all gifts that comes from ordination is the honor of bringing Jesus – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – down upon the altar to be shared with His faithful people.

"By working through His priests, Jesus Christ has humbled me..."

Not all of my work, however, has been glamorous and rosy. Once the excitement of ordination began

to level off, the Lord's love placed before me various different and diverse challenges.


There have been sad moments. Sadness came with the death of members of my immediate family and with the death of members within my religious family, the Missionaries of the Holy Family. Other sad experiences have been the times when people I know well have decided they no longer need Jesus in their lives.

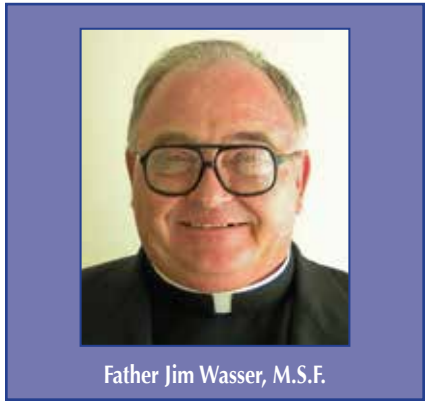
In order to remain faithful to Christ, I must always remember that I am the servant and He is the master. All of us

together are living on His time, not on our own time.

God has given me some unusual and different assignments, but He has always been present to guide me along the right path. I have been assisted by the Holy Spirit in making heavy decisions, as well as being comforted when I had to make unpopular decisions.

Over my 40 years as a Priest of Jesus Christ, I have, with God's grace, traveled to many places and met many inspiring people. Through it all, I still realize that it is the people – God's People – who are the reason for my priesthood!

Pray for me as the winds of life continue to carry me forward, and rest assured of my prayers for you and your family. God bless you always! 



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- Daily Remembrance in Prayer by Holy Family Priests and Brothers.
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- Invitations to Holy Family Events. (i.e., ordinations, anniversaries, etc.)

Find your level of joyful giving below, complete the contact information, and mail this form, or a copy of it, in the envelope in the middle of the magazine. Thank you and God bless you!

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YOUTHFUL OUTLOOK

My Quinceañera

by Miss Melanie, 15

Parishioner at Saint Wenceslaus Church (Saint Louis, Missouri)

Hello, my name is Melanie. My family joined Saint Wenceslaus Parish when I enrolled for first grade at Saint Frances Cabrini Academy, which is the consolidated school on the parish campus.

I have been an altar server at Saint Wenceslaus for several years now, and I received the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Holy Confirmation at this parish while I attended Cabrini Academy. In the fall of 2014, we celebrated my Quinceañera.

A Quinceañera is a ceremony that marks a teenage girl's transformation into a young lady. The celebration is held on one's 15th birthday. The traditions include a Mass with a special blessing, receiving a por-




Melanie with some members of her Court of Honor.



Melanie receiving the Blood of Christ at her Quinceañera Mass.

celain doll from your godparents (or giving one to your little sister to show that you are leaving your childhood behind), changing your shoes from flats to high heels, and dancing the first dance with your father.

Quinceañeras originated in Argentina and Mexico, but the custom is now widely celebrated throughout Cuba, the United States, Puerto Rico, Central America, and South America.

The day of my Quinceañera was the best day of my life! I was very happy to see my family's smiling faces. They were so proud of me. All of my loved ones attended my Quinceañera to witness my transition from a girl to a young lady, and I thank God for them. 



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 currently under funded.

Please consider joining our Family Forever Society. To receive a free booklet on preparing your will, please send your request to me using the envelope in the middle of this magazine, 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



PARENTS' TIME-OUT

It's a Matter of Trust

Contributed by Dr. Ray Guarendi

Dear Dr. Ray,

Two times in two weeks my 14-year-old son was not where he told us he'd be with his friends. My husband says two weeks' grounding. I say indefinitely. What do you say? — Fooled Me Twice

I've been married over 25 years, and I have five daughters. I've learned to give the female perspective great consideration.

That said, I have a few questions. Where was your son when he was not where he should have been? It's one thing to stop at Burger Binge after a game without asking. It's quite another to head to Bambi's party, especially when Mr. and Mrs. Buck aren't home.

I'm going to assume, because of your reaction, that your son didn't just stop off at church to pray an extra half hour. He headed somewhere he wouldn't have a prayer of being allowed even if he had asked you on bended knee.

Next question: How do you know you were fooled twice? You may have been fooled more, but you were so fooled you never realized you were fooled. Discipline Reality Number 104: Teens usually do more things wrong than the times they are actually caught. This isn't being cynical or untrusting of kids. This

is accepting reality.

Almost everybody – young and old – gets away with doing something many more times than the times being caught. Since a primordial drive of adolescence is for more social freedom that parents know is good, it's only logical that periodically (or regularly) opportunity and temptation will overcome a youngster's conscience and fear of penalty.

I can't know, of course, where and how often your son has pushed his social boundaries, but you did catch him twice in only two weeks. You're either vigilant or lucky or both, or he's sloppy or guilt ridden or both. Either way, at the very least, in the future don't presume anything. Always have a way of checking.

Now, how long a grounding? Most parents are on the side of your husband. That is, as a youngster abuses a privilege, he loses the privilege for a set period of time, and then life returns to the pre-grounding state.

It's quite another to head to Bambi's party, especially when Mr. and Mrs. Buck aren't home.


I, on the other hand, am on your side. And it's not just because you're a woman. Your son broke your trust – deliberately, it appears. You gave him freedom commensurate with your judgment of his worthiness. If he has shown you that you underestimated his judgment – when he is with peers, at least – then you need to reassess your judgment.

One option is to curtail your son's freedom of movement for a while, as he re-proves to you that he can be trusted. More closely monitor the who, what, when, and where of his social world. Consider a two-week full grounding, followed by a clear holding in of the reins for as long as you judge necessary to teach the lesson and to restore your confidence in your son.

Raising teens is a lot like controlling a feisty colt. You have to hold the rope tightly and real close to his bridle. The more inches of rope between your

hand and his head, the less you can direct him anywhere. With both horses and teens, hold the rope close, letting it out by the inch as they settle.

Some might disapprove of my comparing adolescent boys to horses. I understand. For one thing, training horses to cooperate is easier.

Excerpt from: *Good Discipline, Great Teens*, pages 121-123. Copyright © Dr. Ray Guarendi, Servant Books. 



Dr. Ray Guarendi

The father of 10, Dr. Ray is a psychologist and a popular TV and radio personality and guest speaker offering parenting advice in concert with Catholic values. More information about Dr. Ray's books and DVDs can be found on the internet at www.DrRay.com.

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PARISH SPOTLIGHT

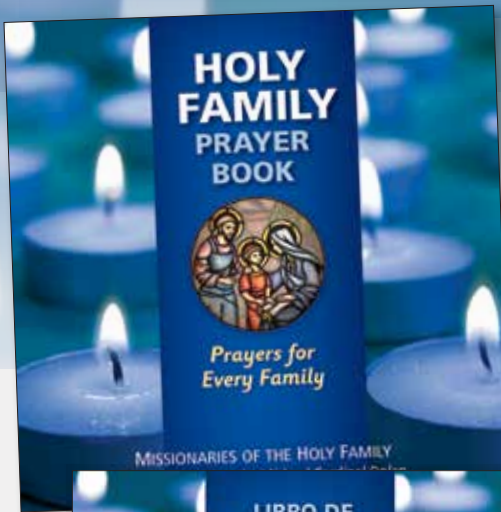
Saint Wenceslaus Parish

Saint Wenceslaus Church is a parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, served by a Holy Family priest as the pastor, Father James Wuerth, M.S.F. The permanent deacon is Deacon George Miller.



God bless you, Father Jim, and your parish family at Saint Wenceslaus Church!

A Great Gift for All Occasions!



Holy Family Prayer Book

Prayers for Every Family
Missionaries of the Holy Family

Foreword by
Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

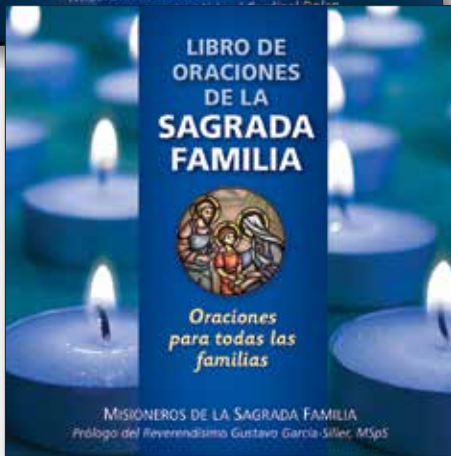
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THE HOLY SACRAMENTS

It's Never Too Late

by Joseph Kenny
Reporter for the *St. Louis Review*

Arnold “Jay” Williams and Mary Gajdosik have been friends since she and another friend came to his place to pick apples a few years ago. They both enjoyed dancing and found they had much in common. But Williams did not share her church-going habits.

After about a year of dating, he asked if he could go to Saint Wenceslaus Church with her. “I said, ‘You don’t have to go because I’m going,’” Gajdosik recalled. “He said, ‘No, I want to go. Can I go with you?’”

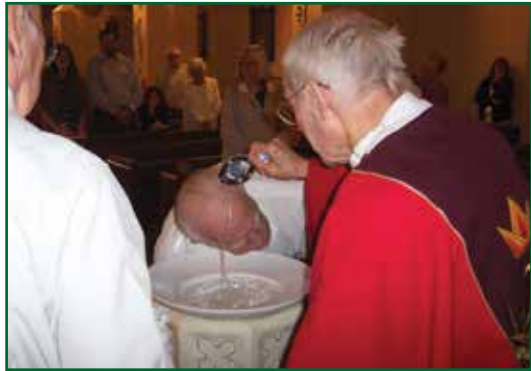
Williams has been attending the church for about three years now. Earlier this year, he told her he wanted to be baptized.

Again, it wasn’t to please her. “It was because I’d never been baptized,” the 84-year-old said, adding with a smile, “I was old enough now.”

Gajdosik said, “He wants to go to heaven when he dies,” and, needling him a bit, added “he’s getting closer

and closer to that time.”

Williams did not have a lot of contact with religion earlier in his life. He does agree that being baptized and



Mr. Arnold “Jay” Williams, 84, is baptized into the Church, the Body of Christ, by Father Jim Wuerth, M.S.F., pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, on September 14, 2014, the Feast Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

being a part of the Church is a good way to get to heaven.

Mary Mattammal, a Saint Wenceslaus parishioner who served as his catechist, noted that though his formal religious upbringing was lacking, Williams already knew a lot about the Bible. He has macular degeneration, so reading anything but large type is difficult for him. No problem for his

catechist though. She improvised by reading material to him and playing tapes.

Williams and Mattammal met one-on-one for catechesis, and she was conscious of making sure he could come into the Church before Christmas, a desire he had expressed. Mattammal had reminded the parish pastor that he needed to get going on helping Williams enter the Church, and that's when the priest did what most good leaders do -- he put the ball back in her court, asking her to take Williams through the process. Mattammal had not done that at Saint Wenceslaus before, but had been on a catechist team at Saint Francis de Sales and has a master's degree in pastoral studies.

Williams was baptized, confirmed, and received his First Communion at Saint Wenceslaus on September 14, 2014 at Sunday Mass. A reception was held for him afterward.

Williams took to the parish easily. "A

fairly small parish, people know and care for one another," he said. "It's a nice, cozy little place."

He appreciates the teachings of the Church. "From the opposite side of the fence, I had a pretty good idea of what Catholics are all about. It



Mr. Jay Williams receives the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation.



Mr. Jay Williams receives the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ for the first time during his First Holy Communion.

(the catechesis) satisfied my questions or doubts, and I accepted it."

Gajdosik, Mattammal, and other parishioners, including one of Gajdosik's neighbors,

Deacon George Miller, have set a good example for him, he added.

Williams grew up in Michigan and later lived in a number of states. He was in the Air Force and ended up in Belleville, Illinois. For a dozen years or so, he sold


insurance in St. Louis. Later stops were in California and Hawaii. He noted that, as a cab driver in Hawaii, people routinely asked how he ended up there, much like St. Louisans routinely ask people what high school they attended. He liked to joke with his passengers by telling them he was



Mr. Jay Williams leaves Saint Wenceslaus Church on September 14 filled with the Holy Spirit and full of joy!

surfing off the coast of California and rode the waves after a big storm until he landed on the island.

Gajdosik was a member of St. Thomas of Aquin Parish when it closed in 2005. She and a friend considered attending a few other parishes but

ended up going one Sunday to Saint Wenceslaus where they were welcomed and felt at home. "It's a real family atmosphere," she said. 

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Thank You & God Bless You, to everyone who made a financial gift in the 2014 calendar year.

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.

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 us to light a seven-day votive candle for your family and your intentions, please use the return envelope stapled in the middle of this magazine. Candles burn in a rack to the right of the statue. (The suggested donation is \$7.00.) May God bless you.



DEAR FATHER

Ask Father John

by Father John Carl Lombardi, M.S.F.

Q: Dear Father, do the Girl Scouts have pro-abortion ties? I have heard rumors that the Girl Scouts have ties with Planned Parenthood and affiliated organizations. Can these rumors be substantiated?

A: Mary Hasson, a mother of seven children and a Fellow in Catholic Studies at the Ethics & Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C., can substantiate these rumors. I will quote directly from parts of her article, *Catholic ministry under fire over Girl Scouts' pro-abortion ties* -- Catholic News Agency (CNA), March 2012:

The Girl Scouts' 100th Anniversary Convention in Houston... sparked a firestorm of protests from conservatives and pro-life advocates over the Girl Scouts' speakers: An A-List of entertainers, journalists, and philanthropists that included many champions of pro-abortion and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) causes.

The speaker lineup was but a symptom of a deeper pathology, according to current and former Girl Scouts. Behind the badges, slogans, and cookies is a deadly reality: the Girl Scouts' ongoing partnerships with U.S. and international advocates, like

Planned Parenthood and affiliated organizations, which sell a distinctly unholy vision of sexual empowerment secured by contraception and abortion.

Particularly troublesome is the Girls Scouts' relationship with WAGGGS, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and international agitator for abortion, contraception, sexual diversity, and "comprehensive" sexuality education.

It is a situation that's unconscionable for Catholics.

WAGGGS delegates, for example, helped draft the controversial 2010 World Youth Conference NGO document demanding global support for abortion and LGBTTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Intersex & Queer) issues.

It is a situation that's unconscionable for Catholics. And a growing number have left the Girl Scouts, embracing a mission to tell other families what they've uncovered.

Christy Volanski, a former Scout leader, and her daughters Tessa and

Sydney are prime examples. They left the Scouts in 2010 when they saw evidence -- materials, resources, and partnerships -- that their Girl Scout (financial) dues promoted an agenda of abortion, contraception, explicit sex education, and homosexuality.

Their website, **speacknowgirlscouts.com**, tells their story and offers details, screen shots, and web links that lay the facts bare. *"We felt so hurt and betrayed when we found out about this agenda... There is no reason for other families to... be deceived,"* says Christy.


So where's the Catholic Church in all this? Not where you'd expect. It's quite literally in the Girl Scouts' camp. The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the Church's representative and advocate for Catholic Girl Scouts, occupied Booth 932 in the Girl Scout Exhibit Hall in Houston.

The NFCYM, which connects some 700,000 Catholic Scout members with the Church and provides Catholic materials for the Girl Scouts religious recognition program, set up shop near the official Girl Scouts' booth and the large WAGGGS exhibit -- a great space to "meet and greet" as they promoted their religious recognition materials.

Nary a public word about the Girl Scouts' link to groups promoting abortion, homosexuality, and sexual "rights" for teens. Or about the controversial speakers. For parents like Christy Volanski, the NFCYM's cozy

relationship with the Girl Scouts creates a smokescreen that obscures a disturbing reality.

The NFCYM website... gloss(es) over the Girl Scouts' involvement with pro-abortion advocates, suggesting erroneously that parents need not worry. As a result, parents who do see the problems with the Scouts find themselves stymied by pastors, bishops, and laypeople who interpret NFCYM's relationship with the Scouts as unqualified approval.

In answer to your question, I have presented you here with some of the basic facts and truths from a reliable source about what is going on in the Girl Scouts today. I know that my article will disturb some parents and grandparents who have their daughters and granddaughters in the Girl Scouts, but this truth has to be known. **Ignorance is not bliss!** 



Father John Lombardi, M.S.F., a retired priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, lives at Padua Place in San Antonio, Texas. His articles on apologetics have appeared in the *St. Louis Review* and *Today's Catholic*.



KINGDOM OF GOD



Holy Family Church Turns 50

by the Holy Family Staff

Holy Family Church in New Braunfels, Texas, celebrated its 50th anniversary as a parish on Saturday, September 13, 2014 with a Rite of Dedication Mass

celebrated by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The celebration was twofold with the installation of our new pastor, Father Ralainirina “Francois” Rakotovoavy.



*Archbishop Gustavo and
Father Francois.*

The concelebrants for the Mass were Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.; Father James Wasser, M.S.F.; Father Robert De Long, M.S.F.; and Father Alberic Lazerna. They were assisted by Deacon Raymond Ybarra and Deacon Sandy Morales.

The celebration continued after Mass with a reception held at the parish hall with 500+ in attendance. The Mass and reception were both standing room only. Some parishioners commented on feeling so blessed to have celebrated

the 25th anniversary and now the 50th anniversary, too.

Holy Family Parish was established on September 15, 1964. Its mother church was Our Lady of Perpetual Help in New Braunfels. Because of the distance involved, together with the growing number of parishioners, it became imperative to divide the mother parish.

In the past 50 years, the City of New Braunfels has more than doubled in population. New industries and small businesses have moved into the city, and this has helped to increase the overall job force.

In the territory assigned to the new parish, there existed a modest structure that served the congregation for its liturgical services. It had been erected in the western part of the city known as the Barrio Seco, and it was served by the mother church. This building was erected with the help of the Dittlinger Family.

It soon proved to be too small for the growing congregation. A new site, centrally located, was selected in the Buena Vista Addition. In 1959, a steel structure was erected. It was dedicated to serve the Catholic population in the west and southern boundaries of the city. Under the leadership of Archbishop Robert Lucey, Holy Family Church became a parish on September 15, 1964.

Since its erection, Holy Family Parish has steadily expanded. In 1966, a parish rectory was built, and a beautiful parish hall was added in 1972. Holy Family Parish then consisted of 460 families. The pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to the Missionaries of the Holy Family.



Father Francois helps to serve dinner rolls after Mass.

Since 1989, Holy Family Parish has doubled, and it now has 800+ families. Since its beginning as a parish, three members have entered religious communities, two as religious sisters and one as a priest. In December 2011, Father Robert De Long, M.S.F., a native of Chicago, was ordained in Holy Family Church.

There have been various ministries, organizations, and committees since 1989 that have been the backbone of this parish. There are also several new ones that have formed to continue to nourish our physical and spiritual needs in many different areas. Our Bilingual Religious Education Program and Youth Ministry Program continue the faith formation of the children, youth, and adults of the parish.

On July 1, 2014, our parish received and welcomed Father Francois Rakotovoavy, M.S.F. as pastor. Since Father Francois' arrival, he has been working hard to meet and be involved with the many different groups, ministries, and parish organizations. He has a deep interest and concern for religious education, as well as the parish youth and young adults.

His staff consists of Father James Wasser, M.S.F., Parochial Vicar; Deacon Raymond Ybarra; Deacon Sandy Morales; Mrs. Amelia Lankford, Parish Secretary; Mrs. Elvira Cordova, Parish Receptionist; Mr. Jim Pilus, Bookkeeper; and Mrs. Angie Kiesling, Director of Religious Education.

With the completion of our 50th anniversary, we reflect back on the yearlong celebration that began on September 15, 2013 under the leadership of our former pastor, Father Ignatius "Feddy" Himawan, M.S.F., and the members of the 50th anniversary committee. The celebration included many events such as: A Day of Giving, Christmas Program, School Supply Drive, and the Eucharistic Congress to meet the spiritual needs of our community.

The Congress was an inspiring event that included guest speakers Hector Molina and Tony Melendez to name a few. There was even a procession of the Blessed Sacrament with 100+ people following in prayer and song through the heart of downtown New Braunfels. Thank you to the Eucharistic Congress Committee who made it all possible.

Celebrating our 50th anniversary has given us the opportunity to share memories and stories. It has also given us a chance to recognize the families who have been here when it all began and to reflect on where we were and how far we have come as a parish.

To all past parishioners of Holy Family Catholic Church, we thank you for all the hard work you did to create the very foundation we are blessed to call our parish. To all the present parishioners, thank you for all that you do to continue to build on that foundation, recognizing it as a great gift of love. And thank you to all the future parishioners who will continue to preserve, take care of, and build on what has been passed on to you.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us! 

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Wake Up the World!

by Father Eka Yuantoro, M.S.F.

God calls us to be holy. The call to religious life is a gift from God Himself. He has called for all people to live in unity with His love. The grace of God is at work for priests, sisters, and brothers to proclaim and witness the love and mercy of God to the world.



Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life, beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014, and ending on February 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated Life. It is a wonderful time for those of us who are dedicated to the consecrated life. In 2015, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Perfectae Caritatis*, a decree on religious life from Blessed Pope Paul VI.

God calls us to be holy as He is the Holy One who created us. We should open our hearts to listen to His voice and work with the people of God who are crying and begging for His mercy.

According to *Perfectae Caritatis*, article 1: "From the church's earliest times, there were women and men who set out to follow Christ more freely and to imitate him more closely by practicing the evangelical counsels. They dedicated their life to building up the mystical body of Christ."

Pope Saint John Paul II promoted the World Day for Consecrated Life, and it always falls on February 2 when we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. This is to remind us that we, too, were presented in front of the altar where the People of God witnessed our vows to God and His Church. John Paul II said that we are invited to solemnly celebrate together the marvels which were accomplished in the Holy Family.

We are to discover, by a more illumined faith, the rays of divine beauty spread by the Spirit in the Holy Family's way of life, and to acquire a more vivid consciousness of this irreplaceable mission in the Church and in the world. (See *the Message of Holy Father John Paul II for the World Day of Consecrated Life 2004.*)

Consecrated life is a light in the world. We know that Pope Francis is a Jesuit, a member of a religious order. He is

the first pope to come from a religious order since Pope Gregory XVI who became pope in 1831.

Pope Francis told Father Antonio Spadaro, S.J., from *La Civiltà Cattolica*, that we should be real witnesses of a way of doing and acting differently. He wants religious priests, sisters, and brothers to witness Christ, and to become a light in the world for those who are living in the shadow of death. We are to consecrate all people by spending our lives with the poor and those hungry for love.

Pope Saint John Paul II used the term, the Culture of Death, in regard to those who are acting in ways against God's love by choosing death instead of life. The mission of the Church in the world, even for the contemplative religious, is to bring back those living in the shadow of death. We can do this by sharing the joy of God's love, the joy of doing His will and living life to the fullest. **(John 10:1-18)**

By the way they live, religious say to people, "What's happening?" Pope Francis said that the Church, therefore, must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of different ways of doing



Missionaries of the Holy Family priests in Papua New Guinea in 2008. Father Eka Yuntoro, M.S.F. is on the far left.



Missionaries of Charity sisters in Papua New Guinea in 2007. This is the order founded by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

things, of acting, of living! It is possible to live differently in the world today.

We know that many people need our help and guidance to find eternal life. Some people need support and prayer because they are in dangerous situations, facing persecution, or experiencing poverty. They feel that they are living in darkness. This is our opportunity to share and

evangelize. Through us, they may have an encounter with Jesus Christ Himself.

We hear every day about conflict, war, and murder in the Middle East, Ukraine, Asia, West and Central Africa, and Latin America. The United States is plagued by violence, too.

In some parts of the world, many people do not have the right to express

their religious freedom. Some become apathetic about the government and religious life because they are hungry and thirsty for love, but nobody is meeting their needs. Young people have grown distant from God because the Culture of Death feeds on their despair and intensifies feelings of alienation.

Their poverty comes in all forms: economic, educational, social, and moral.

We are called to imitate Jesus as Savior of the world. Religious communities need to return to the original, core spirituality of their founders and authentically live it out in daily practice. By doing so, we will attract people to us, including new religious vocations. This is made clear in *Perfectae Caritatis*.

In October 2013, members of our 15 provinces around the world met in Rome to begin a discussion of what it means to be a Missionary of the Holy Family. The discussion continues today. The first reflection is how we interact with the world, sharing its joys and hopes, pains and anxieties, and challenges and achievements without losing our identity.

The second reflection focuses on our vocation of living in community. We

need to live like the Holy Family with Jesus at the center of our lives. We are united in a common calling within a fundamental charism, which is a consecration and a participation in the Spirit to live faithfully according to the constitutions of our founder, Servant of God Father John Berthier. This is an



Statue of Our Lady of La Salette. Servant of God Father John Berthier, founder of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, was a La Salette priest.

experience that should be joyful, and we are to bring this joy to the People of God.

The third reflection is based on renewing our call to evangelize by making our “mission ground” more dynamic. Pope


Francis talks about an inculturation of the charism. In other words, how do we engage the culture in a dialogue about God, faith, ecology, poverty, and morality? Many answers for our religious community will be found by our members in rereading and pondering our *Constitution & General Direction*.

The fourth reflection involves our priorities and pastoral focus, which is our apostolic tasks of family, vocations, and missions. Working with the youth, we have an opportunity to increase religious vocations and strengthen family life. The youth are the Church today, right now. They need guidance to find their own personal vocation to whatever state in life God is calling them.

The final reflection is by no means the least. It involves the optimal structures of government and leadership to animate every member of the Missionaries of the Holy Family and those whom we serve. Ultimately, we are to be a community of brothers united in Christ, "walking in the path of God at the service of the gospel and the mission of the church." (*Constitution 1, 31, 89*)

Wake up! Everyone is called to be holy because God Our Creator is holy. The Kingdom of God is made real -- by peace, justice, joy, and love -- when Jesus Our Redeemer lives within our hearts and brings salvation.

At the heart of the Church is vocation. The earliest idea of what is today called "church" starts with the Greek word "ekklesia," found in the Gospel of Matthew, which means those who have been "called out." Jesus called His disciples to follow Him and proclaim the Good News. He asks the same of us, and this alone should fill us with joy!

We must continue to invite people to the Lord's Table, guide them into a relationship with Jesus Christ, and prepare them for life everlasting. By doing so, we are participating in the New Evangelization. By doing so, we are being holy. (**1 Peter 1:13-16**) 

Around The Province...



Mary Martin, standing, retired as the Administrative Assistant for the Missionaries of the Holy Family on August 29, 2014. She served for 10 years, and she helped create the Advancement Office. We are very grateful for everything she has done! Stephanie Griesenauer is our new Administrative Assistant. Welcome!

Jack & Mary Faye Rempé became Permanent Members of the Holy Family Prayer Association in July 2014. They received their certificate during a quarterly Prayer Association Mass at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri.





THE POETRY CORNER



My Little Dog

by the late © Father Herman Defler, M.S.F.

My little dog. He wasn't much to look at, but he was quite the stinker. Sometimes I'd get angry at the things he'd get into... but not really.

My little dog. He wasn't much to look at, but cute as a trick. He really loved me in his own little way.

My little dog. He wasn't much to look at, but I knew he did not mean it when he got into trouble. I knew he'd done something wrong... so he hid for awhile. Then when I found him, he'd look at me with those eyes, "Yes, I did it, so what?" half in defiance, half looking for forgiveness. Then I'd scold him, then hug him and forgive him.

My little dog. He wasn't much to look at, a bundle of hair on short legs, big black eyes, and a nose in the middle. Looked like three black marbles on a blanket of white. And a little tail that went like 60. When he was tired playing, he'd curl up next to me and go to sleep. Content just to be there. I loved him.

My little dog. He wasn't much to look at, but some little angel in heaven saw him and wanted to play with him, because he's gone.

My little dog. He wasn't much to look at, but now there's a little hill in the backyard. And, yes, a little cross to show where we put my little dog.

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“Children have the right to be raised by a mother and a father.”

*- Pope Francis
(The Complementarity
of Man and Woman,
17 November 2014)*



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