

The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Our Lady's Timeless Message: see page 3

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The MESSENGER

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Statue of Our Lady of Fatima,
sculpted by the late
Mr. José Thedim in 1947.

Back Cover: International Pilgrim Virgin
Statue of Our Lady of Fatima,
sculpted by the late
Mr. José Thedim in 1947.

Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

As we begin the Year of Our Lord 2017, we find ourselves living in difficult and challenging times. In November 2016, we concluded the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy that directed our attention on the ways we are to serve and care for the needs of others in mind, body, and spirit.

Moving forward as disciples of Jesus Christ, we can make a difference by the way we continue to live our lives. Of course, we wonder: *“What is in store for us?”*

We need to remember what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to submit to God’s will. They questioned and feared what they could not understand, but their strong faith and trust in God helped them to overcome. Looking at ourselves, no doubt we share some of their experiences.

The Holy Family is the example for us on how to keep a close relationship with our God by daily prayer and loving and serving others.

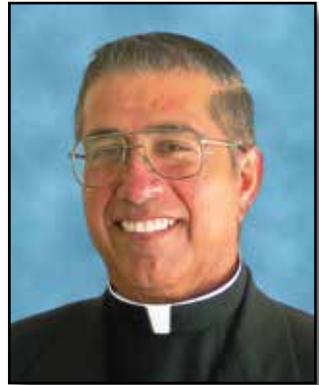
Making Jesus the foundation of our lives can help us to know and love God more completely, while we experience His blessings of peace and joy more fully in our hearts.

God bless your family!

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.

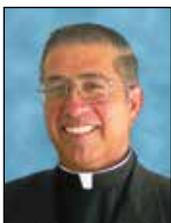
What is the Family Forever Society? It's very simple! Members of this special society are people who have remembered the Missionaries of the Holy Family in their wills or estate plans. Their bequests are called Legacy Gifts.

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 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



Miracle of the Sun: 1917-2017

by Father Jim Beegan, M.S.F.

Editor's Note: *The Fatima Centennial Tour, sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, made a stop at one of the parishes served by the Missionaries of the Holy Family, Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri. The photographs in this article are from this special event, which took place on Sunday, 13 November 2016.*

Background

In the Year of Our Lord 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared six times, May through October, to three young children in the village of Fatima, Portugal: Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. Our Lady asked them to pray the Rosary for sinners, for world peace, for an end to World War I, and for the conversion of Russia.

By 1917, World War I had been raging for three years. In the same year, the Communists seized power in Russia and killed the entire Russian royal family. In one of her Fatima apparitions, Our Lady promised that a great miracle would take place during the final apparition in October of 1917. It would be a public miracle great enough to convince even the greatest of skeptics. On 13 October 1917, more than

70,000 people converged on the village of Fatima in the hope of seeing the great miracle. It was a dark, windy day, and it was pouring rain. Then, at one point, Lucia looked up at the sky and shouted, "Look at the sun!"



The crowd looked to see the clouds rolling back and revealing the sun, which was a disc of white light that

anyone could look at without blinking. It started to dance in the sky like a bright, silver top. Then the dancing stopped, and it began to spin.

As it whirled, bright rays of green, violet, and red filled the sky. Finally, the sun started to plunge in a zigzag path toward the earth. It seemed to the crowd that the world was coming to an end. Many of the people fell to their knees and cried out to God for mercy. Just as the sun seemed about to strike

the earth, it stopped and returned to its proper place and its proper brightness. The crowd noticed that both the ground and their clothing were now bone-dry, even though they had been soaked with rain before the great miracle began.

After the Apparitions

Lucia (age 10), Jacinta (age 7), and Francisco (age 9) took Our Lady's message very seriously. As young as they were, they devoted themselves to prayer and heroic acts of penance for the conversion of sinners. Both Francisco and Jacinta died within two and a half years after the apparitions. Lucia, however, went on to become a Carmelite nun, and she died at the age of 97 on 13 February 2005.

On 13 May 1982, the 65th anniversary of the first apparition, Pope John Paul II traveled to Fatima where he met with Sister Lucia. He told her that he owed his life to Our Lady of Fatima after a would-be assassin shot him on 13 May 1981 in Saint Peter's Square in Rome.

The bullet followed a strange, unpredictable path through the pope's body. It avoided any internal damage that might have resulted in death. During the weeks and months of his recovery,

the Holy Father read and reread the documents about Fatima. He sent the bullet that nearly killed him to Fatima where it was placed in the crown of Mary's statue.

On 25 March 1984, Pope John Paul II consecrated Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as Our Lady herself requested. John Paul died on 2 April 2005. On 27 April 2014, he was

canonized as Pope Saint John Paul II.

Living the Message

Today, we are still living in the Age of Fatima. We need to pray for lost sinners and for an end to the spread of atheistic



Communism and radical, militant Islam. We must storm heaven with prayers for our American society, which has become more and more depraved each passing day by a Culture of Death. The message of Fatima needs to be

shared with the world. It simply calls us to repentance for our sins and for the faithful to pray the Rosary daily, which is a beautiful meditation on the life of Jesus Christ from Sacred Scripture. With the Rosary, we ask Our Lady to pray for us and with us to Jesus.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, our spiritual mother, has given us a great spiritual weapon in the Rosary. If we pray the Rosary daily, we will receive untold blessings in our lives, and we will draw closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The power of the Rosary to fill our lives with God's presence is truly extraordinary.

Sister Lucia, the only one of the three Fatima children to live into adulthood, once said: *"There is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."*

The Rosary & Victory at Lepanto



Back in the year 1570, Turkey was threatening to invade Christian Europe with a large Muslim army. This nation, at the time, had the most powerful navy in the world. Catholic naval forces

from Spain, Naples, and Venice joined together to fight against the Muslim Turks. Christian and Muslim naval forces engaged in battle off the coast of a town in Greece called Lepanto. This Battle of Lepanto took place on 7 October 1571.

Meanwhile, the Holy Father in Rome, Pope Pius V, called on Catholics everywhere to pray the Rosary for divine intervention during this time of crisis. As the pope prayed the Rosary continuously, vigils of prayer and processions were taking place in all the churches of Rome.

It was a hard fought battle with the Catholic forces having to fight against tremendous odds. Nine thousand (9,000) Catholic sailors and soldiers were killed in the battle, and dozens of ships were lost. But, the Catholic forces were ultimately victorious!

The Turkish Muslims were completely routed, and 12,000 Christian prisoners, who had been held as slaves, were liberated. Europe was saved, and the naval power of the Muslim Turks faced gradual decline. The Holy Father ordered that every year there should be a feast celebrated in honor of Our Lady's role in helping to save Christian Europe. To this day, October 7 is the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Rosary & Hiroshima

Another extraordinary miracle took place on 6 August 1945, shortly before the end of World War II. On that day, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. There was a Catholic Church in Hiro-

shima called Our Lady of the Assumption. Four European Jesuit priests, who were very devoted to the Rosary and Our Lady of Fatima, were in the church rectory at the time the bomb fell.

When she appeared at Fatima, Our Lady asked that the Rosary be prayed for the spread of the Gospel and the defense of the Church against its enemies. Never in world history has there



Shortly after hearing the bomb explode, they opened the door and looked outside. The entire city was devastated, and half a million people had died. The church rectory, however, was preserved and no harm came to the four priests.

Later, when the American military arrived in Hiroshima, one of the army doctors told the priests that they would soon die of radioactive poisoning. But, this did not happen. All four of the priests died natural deaths many years after the bombing.

Conclusion

Outside of the Mass, the Rosary is the most important and popular prayer for Catholics throughout the world. With its 20 Mysteries based on Sacred Scripture, it is a complete meditation on the lives of Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother.

been a greater need for us to pray for these two intentions than now in this 21st century. The Church is today suffering fierce persecution throughout the world.

Yet, at the same time, there is a deep hunger among so many people to hear the proclamation of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the greatest champions of the Rosary was Saint Louis de Montfort, 1673 - 1716. Among his writings were these words:

"If you pray the Rosary faithfully until death, you shall receive an unfading crown of glory. Even if you have one foot in hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil, sooner or later you will be converted and save your soul – provided you pray the Holy Rosary devoutly every day until death for the purpose of obtaining contrition and pardon for your sins." +JM+



A PROFILE OF SERVICE

Born During The Rosary

by Father Aloysius Irawan, M.S.F.

Editor's Note: Father Aloysius, "Father Al," is from our Java Province in Indonesia, and he arrived in the United States in September 2016. He is currently helping us at Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, and following are his answers to my interview questions. Father Al was also featured in a Mission Sunday article in the *Saint Louis Review*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, in October 2016. This excellent article is available online at www.stlouisreview.com/article/2016-10-13/indonesian-priest.

Where were you born?

Hello, my dear brothers and sisters! My name is Father Aloysius Bagus Irawan,

my father was on military duty in Irian Jaya, the most eastern island in Indonesia. So my mom was accompanied by

my grandfather who was retired from the army. My mother is a woman of constant prayer, and she has a strong devotion to Our Lady, especially Our Lady of the Rosary. When she was praying the Fourth Mystery of the Rosary, she gave

birth to me. Was it a sign of love from Mother Mary? I do not know. However, I was born as the *fourth* child while my mother was praying the *Fourth* Mystery of the Rosary.

How many siblings do you have?

I have five siblings, two brothers and three sisters. My oldest brother is Agustinus Satya Nugroho, 46 years old. He



M.S.F. I was born in a military hospital in Jakarta, West Java, Indonesia, on 28 June 1977. I come from a Catholic family. My papa, Antonius Soewandi, was in the army. He passed away when I was seven years old. My mama is Xaveria Dyah Pratiwi, and she is a housewife.

When my mother gave birth to me,

is an employee at a company in Jakarta. He is married to a Muslim woman, and now they have four children. My second brother is Albertus Djaka Yudanto, 44 years old. He has a job at Samsung Company in Jakarta. He is married, and he has two children.

My oldest sister is Agnes Arie Warastri, 42 years old. She works at a hospital as a nurse, and her husband works in a bank. They have two children. My middle sister is Agatha Arie Ristanti, 37 years old. She is an accountant at a company in Jakarta. She is married, but she does not have any children yet. She and her husband live in our mother's house to care for my mom. My youngest sister is Maria Arie Widiastuti, 36 years old. She is not married yet, and she is working as an accountant.

Where did you go to school as a child?

I began my education when I was seven years old. I went to a primary school in Central Java for six years. Then I attended Santa Maria Catholic Junior High School for three years. After graduation, I attended Catholic Senior High School for three more years, and then I applied to Seminary Berthinianum.

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

I had the desire to be a priest since my childhood. After receiving my First Communion, I was allowed to become an altar boy. I never missed serving Mass. Every day, I would go to church and assist the priest during the celebration of the Mass.

Our parish priest always had a little wine left over after Mass. As children, we were always competing with each other to get the left over wine from the priest. We really wanted to experience the taste of wine. One day, I said to myself, *"I want to be a priest and drink wine every day!"* Yes, it was a very simple motivation, but I believe Jesus was guiding me.

In my extended family, I have one cousin who is a Franciscan nun and two nephews who are diocesan priests. As a young boy, I wondered why our family members were becoming diocesan priests. Why not a missionary priest? Inspired by many missionaries, especially those from Holland and Germany who were very dedicated to their vocations, I decided to become a missionary priest.



Why did you choose the Missionaries of the Holy Family?

On one occasion, after attending morning Mass in our parish, I saw a brochure on the church bulletin board with an invitation to become a priest with the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF). I was impressed with the words from the Bible written in the brochure: *"The harvest is abundant, but laborers are*

few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

Inspired by our founder, Servant of God Father John Berthier, I wanted to serve and turn “to all who are far away and to whomever the Lord our God may call” (Acts 2:39). According to our faith, people far away can be those who live on other continents, as well as those who live nearby but are spiritually distant from God. I was ordained a priest on 18 July 2005.

When did you begin to study the English language?

English isn't my native language. However, in Indonesia, we actually have English class in primary school for three to four hours a week. I studied English intensively when I went to the Philippines for graduate school. One of the requirements set by the university was an English Proficiency Test. I studied English during my time at the Univer-

have?

I have two master's degrees. The first one is in Moral Theology, and I graduated in 2007. For the second one, my provincial superior sent me to the Philippines in 2013 to study Clinical Psychology. I graduated in June 2015, so I can now help and serve people in the field of psychology in the pastoral care of families. Praise God!

What is your favorite book of the Bible and why?

I am very interested in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Jesus taught by using parables. Why? By using parables, Jesus invites us to see things differently, not just one way. We know this expression: “Don't judge a book by its cover.” Instead of seeing from the outside or superficially, we are challenged by Jesus to see with our heart. That is the reason why He used parables.

Who is your favorite saint and why?

My favorite saint is Saint Aloysius Gonzaga. From the *History of the Saints*, I know that he left his powerful family to become a Jesuit priest and died as a young man caring for plague victims. In his short life, he burned brightly for Christ, which is why Pope Benedict XIII named him the patron saint of youth at his canonization on 31 December 1726.

To date, what is your favorite memory as a priest?

There is too much to share! One of my favorite memories is working at the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City, Philippines. I gave



sity of Santo Tomas, Philippines. Furthermore, I lived at a parish for almost three years in the Philippines, and the people used *Taglish* (Tagalog-English) as their daily language.

What educational degrees do you

psychological assessments and clinical interviews for the patients. One day, I saw a little boy, about seven years old, running from his ward. He came up to me and hugged me; he was a new patient. I stopped my work to play and joke with him.

One of the nurses called him to return to his room. I followed them and saw that the nurse began to tie his hands and feet to his bed. He was crying loudly. I was really shocked to see what happen and felt truly sorry for the boy. I asked the nurse, *“Why are you tying his hands and feet? Please have pity on him!”* The nurse answered, *“Father, this boy has a tendency to commit suicide. He would bite his own body when no*



one was watching. He will do anything to hurt himself.”

I talked with my advisor about this incident because it touched my heart. This was a learning experience for me,

but not an easy one. On the one hand, I am a priest trained in the values of compassion, mercy, and empathy. On the other hand, I am also a Clinical Psychology professional trained to use guidelines, formulas, objective data, and interpretation.

What is your impression of the United States?

It is an honor for me to come to the United States. Since 6 September 2016, I have been in the United States, primarily in Saint Louis, Missouri. I have a good impression about this country. America is a big nation divided into 50 states. All facilities, transportation, and communications are modern. It doesn't take a lot of time to complete a specific activity. Security, regulations, and rules, however, are strict.

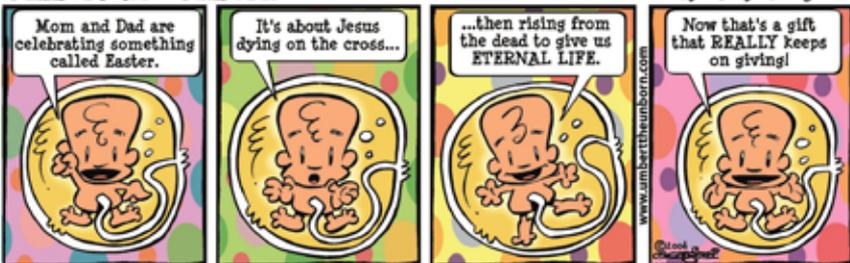
The people I have gotten to know are friendly, disciplined, and compassionate. I have met good people here. I also enjoyed the annual retreat with my fellow missionaries of the North American Province in San Antonio, Texas in October 2016.

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

I would ask God for the grace of wisdom! God bless your family. +jMJ+

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





A TRIBUTE OF SERVICE

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him, O Lord

Father Jack Kilburg, M.S.F.

September 23, 1929 – November 6, 2016

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Father Jack Kilburg, M.S.F., age 87, died on Sunday, 6 November 2016, in Seguin, Texas. He was laid to rest at Saint Wenceslaus Cemetery in Eastman, Wisconsin.



Father John (Jack) Kilburg, M.S.F. was born on 23 September 1929, in Wauzeka, Wisconsin. He was the son of Alfred Peter Kilburg and Irene (Schmidt) Kilburg, both from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Father Jack's siblings included three younger brothers as well as five younger sisters.

Father Jack entered into active duty with the United States Marine Corps on 6 November 1951, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While serving in the Marine Corps, he received various medals: the Korean Service Medal (with three stars), United Nations Medal, and the National Defense Medal. He was honorably discharged from active service duty on 4 November 1953.

Following his military service, and prior to entering the seminary, Father Jack

received his certification in teaching CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) and worked in the Peace Corps in Brazil. After returning home, he entered the Missionaries of the Holy Family.

He made his First Profession of Vows

at Holy Family Seminary on 8 August 1975. Father Jack studied at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri, and was ordained at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis on 26 May 1979.

As a priest with the Missionaries of the Holy Family, Father Jack served in various parishes throughout the United States and Mexico. His longest assignments were in Ocompo Y Cuatro Ciénegas, Mexico. He also served in Corpus Christi and Edinburg, Texas, as well as Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Granite City, Illinois. His last assignment was at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seguin, Texas.

Father Jack is preceded in death by his parents and five of his eight siblings: Alan Kilburg, Sharon Kilburg, Caro-

lyn Henry (also brother-in-law Arnold Henry), Michael Kilburg, and Richard Kilburg. Survivors include his sisters Priscilla Kelley (husband Larry), Inez Paynter (boyfriend Al Mollo), and Linda Crowley (husband Ken). Other survivors are his sister-in-law Florence Kilburg, numerous nieces

and nephews and cousins, other loving family members, and many friends.

Father Jack will be truly missed by his immediate and extended family, his religious community of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, and all those touched by his loving ministry.



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

mail any contributions in Memoriam of Father Jack Kilburg, M.S.F. to the Provincial Office of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, 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 2017, three priests of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.



Fr. Dan Hawkins, M.S.F.
40 years



Fr. Feddy Himawan, M.S.F.
25 years



Fr. Eka Yuantoro, 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!

Around The Province...

In September 2016, Archbishop Robert Carlson blessed the new playground for Saint Frances Cabrini Academy. The school is on the campus of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri, which is served by the Missionaries of the Holy Family.



*Thank You & God Bless You, to everyone who made a financial gift in 2016.
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.*



MISSION REFLECTION

Party in Madagascar

by Father Francois Rakotoavoavy, M.S.F.

In Madagascar, in the summer of 2016, I celebrated my 16th anniversary as a priest of Jesus Christ, along with two of my brother priests: Father Denis Velomana, M.S.F. and Father Clement B. Regis, M.S.F. At the same time, five priests celebrated their 25th anniversaries, one deacon was ordained a priest, and three seminarians made their final vows.

Approximately 2,000 people came to Mass, including two bishops. The celebration lasted four hours, but, because

of all the fun and singing and dancing, it seemed like only 90 minutes! Four priests from our General Government in Rome were there, including Very Rev. Edmund Michalski, M.S.F. who is the Superior General.

We currently have 45 men in Formation discerning the priesthood in the Madagascar Province of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. Praise God! We live our lives according to **John 15:9** – *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.”* +JM+







YOUTHFUL OUTLOOK

The Turkey Hunter

by Miss Brianna

I started hunting when I was about nine years old. Before I went hunting for the first time, my stepdad Andrew and my dad Rich took me to a farm to practice shooting. After I learned the gun rules and how to aim, we all prayed a *Hail Mary* for a safe hunting experience. My dad was not able to join us on my first hunt, but he has taken me on other hunting trips, since it is something we really enjoy doing together.

On my first day hunting, Andrew and I woke up at 4:00 a.m., got ready, and headed out to the property to look for wild turkeys. I remember praying on my way there for our safety. While we were driving, I looked at the thousands of stars in the sky and thought just how beautiful they were. Every time I hunt, I remember that moment and think about how God created all of those stars.

By the time we got to our hunting grounds, I was already dead tired



Miss Brianna with her first turkey at the age of 9.

from having to wake up so early! But my adrenaline was pumping because I was so excited. When hunting, we have to be extremely quiet so the turkeys and deer will not hear us. In silence, I thought about what I should be doing, and we sat under a tree for a moment and prepared ourselves.

While we were waiting, I was holding onto my Scapular and praying. While I was praying an *Our Father*, a large turkey walked right in front of us! With my hands shaking, I quickly finished my prayer and held the gun close to my face. Then the turkey walked right in front of my scope. With my breath caught up in my throat, I uttered another short prayer, and pulled the trigger.

The gunshot echoed through the woods, and the turkey dropped! I sat under the tree shocked. God had definitely helped me to get my first turkey. I was so excited that as soon as Andrew took the gun, I ran out to the turkey and started yelling "*Thank You!*" into the



Miss Brianna with her mom, stepdad, and first turkey in 2013.



Miss Brianna with her second turkey at the age of 11.

sky. Andrew came over to me, and he picked up the turkey. We went home feeling blessed.

God helped me so much with some-

thing I love to do, and I know He will always be there to help you, too. Just keep Him in the center of everything you do. God bless your family. +jM+

Around The Province...



◀ Celebration of the annual feast day of the patron saint of Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, 28 September 2016 (which is also the month and the day the Missionaries of the Holy Family were founded).

Some members of ▶ the Missionaries of the Holy Family gathered after Mass during their annual retreat in San Antonio, Texas, October 2016.





FILL THE EARTH & SUBDUE IT

Blue is the New Gold

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

For the past decade, many nations have been concerned about how to get fresh water and keep it. Even some Hollywood movies had this theme.

For example, *Quantum Solace* is a James Bond movie. Another film is *Sahara Desert*. Pope Francis wrote about the need for fresh water in his encyclical *Laudato Si* (Care for

Our Common Home). Access to fresh water is a crisis situation around the world because of pollution and its ability to turn fresh water into poison (LS, no. 29).

Ismael Serageldin, Vice-President of the World Bank, said that the wars of the next century will be about water. George William Sherk, Patricia Wouters, and Samantha Rochford have said the same in the article, *Water Wars in the Near Future? The Challenge of the Next Millennium*. They cite the example of China and Turkey voting against mutual control with other countries over fresh water in their area. China does not want Cambodia, Laos, Thai-

land, Vietnam, and Myanmar to have any control over the Mekong River. In the Middle East, Turkey is against Syria and Iraq.



Fresh water is called the “blue gold.” Fresh water is very expensive because many countries do not have access to pure water. Some of the rivers are already contaminated with poison

from homes and industry. A documentary movie, *Home*, explained how the blue gold is very important in the lives of all people.

About 70% of the earth’s surface is covered with water, but only 3% is fresh water. Glacier ice at the North and South Poles account for 2% of the earth’s water, and it is fresh water, but it is too far away from where people live. Only 30% of the water from the ground, rivers, and lakes is fresh. Some industries use fresh water that is turned into poisonous or waste water. The same thing happens in our homes.

The *Quantum Solace* movie is fiction,

but the issue is real. According to the World Bank, Bolivia has a big problem with the lack of fresh water. Will access to the blue gold become controlled by big, private businesses in the future? In Donna, Texas, water became contaminated long ago and now the health effects have become manifest. Could there be a link between cancer and the contaminated water supply?

The United Nations' Development Program (UNDP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) talk about the blue gold as a human right. Fresh water is our life, because we cannot live without it, regardless of race or language. They try to protect people who do not have access to pure water. A crucial topic is: *Who will control the water?* Other issues being discussed internationally are:

World population. After the Second World War, population increased significantly from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 6.1 billion in 2010. Fifty years from now, the population could jump to 9.3 billion. We all need to consume water every day. How can we save pure water for the future? Along with this, we must keep in mind God's plan for us to be fruitful and open to life. Right to life, after all, is the very heart of *Laudato Si* by Pope Francis.

Rising per capita consumption of water. The Industrial Revolution changed life-

styles and the consumption of water. Some companies exploit water without thinking about the future. The govern-

ments of sovereign nations must work together to maintain a healthy water supply for the present and future generations.

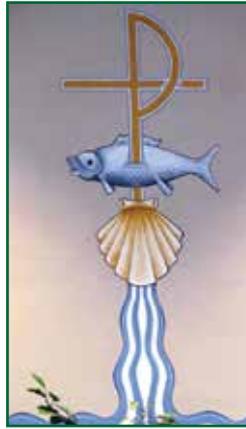
Mismanagement of water.

The water crisis is essentially a crisis of government. While every nation wants to manage their water supply, some in government may be more interested in quick money.

If only the wealthy have a say in the matter, poor people will no access or limited access to pure water.

Changing global or regional climate patterns.

What can individuals, industries, and nations do to be better stewards of God's creation? Many governments say the current water crisis is due to "global climate change." Regardless of what it is called, it is our problem now; the crisis will not just go away. We all have a responsibility to make sure everyone has access to clean water, now and in the future.



I had a good experience when I visited

the village of Rejosari Kudus, Central Java Province, Indonesia. They have a tradition about getting pure water from a lake or other water sources into their area. The water is for all the people in the village, including farms and animals. They know that water is very expensive because of the boom industries in their area, so the people try to protect it with a traditional wisdom by using bamboo to surround the water sources.



They draw out water from a well, and they fill a big jar for all the people to use. People from different generations, color, position or status, and religion gather in the village meeting hall (balai desa) to start the ceremony, which includes a procession. After they fill the jar with water, they pray according to their religion. Finally, they celebrate with a party. It is symbolic, but it is a way of praising God who gives many gifts to them every day.

At night, they are still gathered in the village meeting place to reflect on the greatness of God and how to protect the gifts that God gives them. They hold onto this tradition of keeping and

praying for water for the generations to come. It is a simple wisdom. They also discuss ways to protect the water sources from exploitation by companies who want to own it all by monopoly. This traditional wisdom is insightful because it shows an appreciation for the “blue gold,” the future, and establishing the Kingdom of God.

Recently, more than 96 countries around the world came to a meeting in Paris, France. They tried to forge a peaceful, mutual law or international agreement regarding access to water and other issues affecting care for our common home and our stewardship responsibilities. If people remain diligent about protecting the blue gold for everyone, now and for future generations, the world should experience peace or at least create opportunities for peace.

Remember: We live because of water, we are saved with water, and water gives us a new life. This is called the water of Baptism. So, we should keep it flowing with the graces that come from Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe. God bless our common home, and God bless your family! **+JM+**

Care for Our Common Home or *Laudato Si* is available for reading directly from the Vatican website, www.vatican.va. Just look for the category of Encyclicals under Pope Francis.

Around The Province...

Here are some recent activities at
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seguin, Texas.





HOLY FAMILY LIFE

Psychology of Relationships

by Father Aloysius Irawan, M.S.F.

In my psychological research and testing of seminarians, much of what I found is very important for all of us, lay-people and religious. My training is in the area of Formation.



The seminary experience strives to provide men with the support and direction necessary to enhance their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church. At the same time, lasting bonds of fraternity should develop through prayer, study, pastoral work, and in-house activity.

However, in a 2012 article by V.J. Lynch, it was noted that a large number of priests, religious brothers, and seminarians have psychological issues. Those with excessive self-absorption and emotional sensitivities adversely affect community life, have difficulties in relationships with superiors and

peers, and have interpersonal problems in their work with parishioners.

In a 2010 article by Douglas Crawford, he emphasized five (5) elements that exist in every human being that can also act as a foundation for assessing and forming candidates for religious life. These are behavior, affect, sensation, interaction, and cognition:

- (1) Behavior.** The priest is someone who must have an appreciation for, and knowledge of, his behavioral limitations and gifts. He must be able to maintain a personal balance and flexibility in his life when carrying out his responsibilities. He must have a balanced sense of courage and be able to behave with integrity.
- (2) Affect.** The religious priest must be able to use enthusiasm, humor, and empathy in encouraging others to find Christ. He must be able to demonstrate an emotional ability and skill that engenders trust and dispels prejudice. He must have the capacity to show affective maturity (true and responsible love) and temperance (moderation or self-restraint).
- (3) Sensation.** Sensation refers to the

ability to feel, hear, and act. The priest must manifest appropriate



psychosexual maturity. He must be able to see himself as a whole person who maintains a psycho-physical equilibrium.

- (4) **Interaction.** Interaction refers to the process of communicating with others. The priest should strive to foster loving human relationships by showing respect, demonstrating trustworthiness, encouraging others, giving himself to the Church, strengthening families, and reflecting the behavior of Christ.
- (5) **Cognition.** Cognition refers to one's thoughts. The priest should be able to set goals, communicate roles, discern and evaluate his needs, promote justice, and perform loving acts of charity. He must have the capacity to display critical thinking, to grasp abstract issues, and to show appropriate decision making skills.

In a 2010 article by Buck and Wicks, it was assumed for a long time that spiritual formation should be increased until it approached a negative incli-

nation of an individual's personality. However, such a focus can lead to discouragement. By integrating aspects of positive psychology -- including contentment, growth, and mastery into these relationships -- gifts of untold value may be unwrapped, and a balanced picture can be achieved.

Based on many experiences, I noted that emotional intelligence is an important aspect of formation. It will have an effect on the whole personality of a seminarian as a candidate for priesthood in the religious life. A religious priest needs good emotional intelligence. Dealing with a rapidly changing world, internal and external challenges, and complex problems, he must be intelligent emotionally.

As a formator, I look for trends. While candidates may be clever, when they live together as a community, they may not have good personal relationships with others. Based on this experience, we know that intelligence is not enough. A seminarian must also have *emotional intelligence*.

In preparing for my thesis, I considered the theoretical foundation of Reuven Bar-On's *Five Dimensions of Emotional Intelligence*. People who are emotionally and socially intelligent are able to understand and express themselves, to understand and relate well with others, and to successfully cope with the demands of daily life.

This observation is based, first and foremost, on the ability to be aware of their emotions and of themselves in general, to understand their strengths and



weaknesses, and to be able to express feelings non-destructively. This model of emotional intelligence is made up of five (5) skill areas: intrapersonal, interpersonal, stress management, adaptability, and general mood.

In terms of a coping mechanism, I studied the writings of Lazarus and Folkman from 1984 to 2012. Coping is defined as *“constantly changing cognitive and behavioral efforts to manage specific external and/or internal demands that are appraised as taxing or exceeding the resources of the person.”*

In other words, coping is the effort to manage psychological stress. Emotional intelligence again becomes an important concern in the formation of seminarians. It is the innate potential to feel, use, communicate, recognize, remember, learn from, manage, and understand emotions (Sen, 2008). If seminarians have a good level of emotional intelligence, they can develop the ability to handle their stress and problems in life by using positive coping mechanisms.

Emotional intelligence helps seminarians develop interpersonal skills. They need to know how to build and encourage productive relationships, even in the most difficult situations. Emotional intelligence is closely related to personal behavior.

Harry Stack Sullivan is a psychiatrist who developed a theory of psychiatry based on interpersonal relationships. He believed that anxiety and other psychiatric symptoms arise in fundamental conflicts between the individual and his human environment. Personality development also takes place by a series of interactions with other people. Sullivan emphasized that society creates personalities. The human being does not exist as a simple personality; it can only exist in relation to others. A person's formative period or early years of life is important for the development of personality. If one lives in an unstable environment, his or her personality will be maladjusted.

Life consists of interwoven tensions from the beginning of life to the



later stages of existence. As a person matures, he or she learns to reduce tensions using self-system, personification, and cognitive experiences. Finally, based on my research, I found that:

- A. Emotional intelligence, coping mechanisms, and interpersonal behavior are three important and interconnected aspects during the formation of seminarians.
- B. The level of emotional intelligence of seminarians affects them when they are dealing with problems and pressures. In other words, a person can handle every issue of his life, either positively or negatively, depending on the level of his emotional intelligence.
- C. Two types of coping mechanisms, problem-focused coping and emotion-focused coping, are usually used by seminarians to handle their problems during formation. Those who have a high level of emotional intelligence use problem-focused coping. Those with low levels of emotional intelli-

gence tend to avoid conflict as their defense mechanism.

- D. Assertive and aggressive behavior is a type of interpersonal relations. Intimate interpersonal relationships -- frankness, self-confidence, initiating, affection, and mutual concerns -- help seminarians actualize their personalities. Aggressive behavior -- dependency, shyness, verbal and physical hostilities -- result in emotional distress.
- E. A range of programs and training to improve emotional intelligence, personal relationships, and positive self-defense mechanisms must be considered in the formation process of seminarians.

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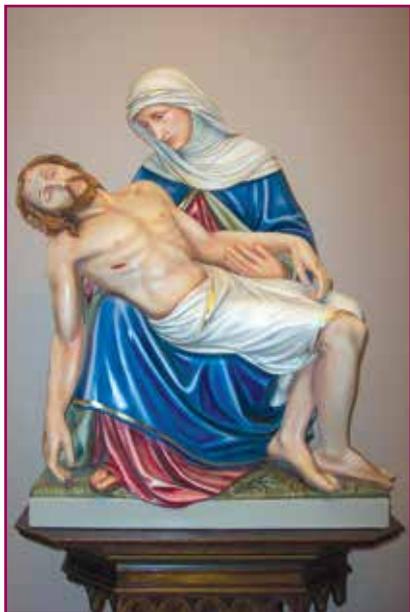
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Heresy of Relativism

by Mary Mattammal, mother and grandmother

Justifying abortion gives testimony to the pervasiveness of the heresy of relativism in our culture today. Relativism says that if you believe an action is moral, then it is moral. Anything can be moral if you want it to be; there is no absolute morality or truth. The truth is that God is the author of life, as well as the commandment: *"Thou shalt not kill."* Abortion is the murder of the most vulnerable, defenseless being on this earth. God created life, and only God has the right to end life. Any woman who takes the life of her unborn child is making herself a god, having power over life and death, a power that belongs only to God. It is an idolatrous act. Just because a situation is psychologically painful, or inconvenient, or even life threatening, it does not give a woman the right to kill her baby. Her path to salvation lies in letting her baby live, and God will be with her. [+jMj+](#)

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.



THE POETRY CORNER



Mother: A Prayer, A Gift Received

by Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F.

Death seems dark and all embracing.
It encompasses our being and could leave us empty.
Yet, let us ask but one question today,
"If this is so, then why do we pray?"

The answer is clear, yet clouded by uncertainty,
As we come here today to mourn for our mother.
The hour is now. The reason is true.
We've come to pray out of love for you.

As a mother who loved, you were there to nurture.
So your children here present can cope with their future.
As a relative to many, you proved your worth,
You were there for them in death and in birth.

As a friend to all who are here today,
We'll never forget your loving way.
Yes, mother, it is true.

God first created and now comes for you.

He comes not out of anger and discontent,
Rather, He comes out of love to reward a "life" well spent.
Go on now, my dear, to heaven and smile,
For we too shall receive Eternal Life in just a short while.

Yes, thank you, Father, for giving us this day
To truly understand just why we pray.
So we pray today to Our Father above,
For giving us you, dear mother, a true gift of love.

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*Our Blessed Mother and her children:
see page 3*



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