

December 20, 2020

Bulletin #51

## ***Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church***

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Organist



### ***Genealogy of Jesus***

**\*Weekend Masses:**

**Saturday at 4:00 p.m.** [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]

**Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]

**\*Weekday Masses:**

**Tuesday and Thursday at 12:05 p.m.** [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday No Mass. Pastor's office work.**

**\*Confession:**

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment

**\*Baptism:**

Please call the Pastor as soon as baby is born; at least one Godparent must be Catholic

**\*Weddings:**

Please make arrangements at least **six** months in advance before any other plans are made

**\*Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Pastor at 304-233-1688

**\*Parish Council:** Lou Kourey, Rita Strawn, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns

**\*Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Ted Olinski, Holly Porter

**\*Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer

**\*Altar Servers:** Earl Duffy, Dalton Haas

**\*Altar Boys:** Shaun Hancher, Christopher AlKhouri

**\*Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President

**\*Women's Society:** Carol Dougherty, President



**\*Bulletin Announcements:** Submit all Bulletin Information to Msgr. Bakhos by Noon on Tuesday every week

**\*New Parishioners:** We welcome you with great joy & invite you to officially register as one of our parishioners

**\*Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven

## *Genealogy of Jesus*

Readings: Rom 1:1-12 and Mt 1:1-17

Biblical genealogies can be tedious, if not downright boring, to us. Why can't the author just get on with the story? Such impatience overlooks the fact that genealogies—ancient and modern alike—are more than mere lists of names. They tell stories in their own right.

One way genealogies do this is by being selective, drawing attention to certain forebears while omitting others. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus is a prime example of this. On the face of it, Matthew gives a straightforward, father-to-son catalogue of Jesus' progenitors from Abraham to Joseph. However, on four occasions (not counting Mary) this neat pattern is interrupted by the inclusion of maternal ancestors: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and "the wife of Uriah."

Why mention these women? Tamar was originally the wife of the patriarch Judah's son. But when he died childless, she married his brother (Dt 25:5). When this brother also died childless and Judah wrongfully withheld from her his remaining son, Tamar took matters into her own hands, seducing Judah into impregnating her by posing as a roadside prostitute. When the truth came to light, Judah confessed that Tamar was "more in the right" than he (Gn 38:26). The Testament of Judah goes further, ascribing Tamar's deed to the workings of divine providence.

Rahab is something of a puzzle. The only woman by that name known from the Bible is the Canaanite prostitute who sheltered Joshua's spies at Jericho. If this is the Rahab Matthew had in mind, she would have had to have been something like 200 years old when she became the mother of Boaz! However, as chronological implausibility plagues much of Matthew's genealogy, the reader is perhaps being invited to suspend disbelief in this instance and instead reflect upon Rahab's significance. Like Tamar, her action on behalf of Israel's future is evaluated positively, both by the Bible itself (Jos 2:1-24, 6:22-25) and in subsequent tradition. The 1st-century Jewish historian, Josephus, for example, suggests that Rahab showed mercy to the spies in response to "signs" God had given her.

Ruth, of course, is one of the most famous women in the Bible, having an entire book devoted to her. Like Tamar, Ruth was a non-Israelite who joined Israel by marriage. Also like Tamar, she was widowed childless and eventually restored herself through the institution of levirate marriage. But the two tales form a contrast as well, in that neither Ruth nor Boaz sinks to morally questionable means to resolve their dilemma—though the narrator pushes them rather close to the brink at the crucial moment (Ru 3:7-9).

Finally we come to Solomon, the archetypal "Son of David" upon whom the idea of a messianic dynasty hinges. The mother in question is Bathsheba, whom King David forcibly appropriated, impregnated, and then treacherously widowed in order to avoid becoming scandalized. By identifying her simply as "the former wife of Uriah," Matthew deliberately focuses attention upon David's crime and the divine punishment that resulted from it (2 Sam 12:15-18), a stark contrast to the grace and love which God lavishes upon Solomon (2 Sam 12:24-25; cf. 1 Chr 22:9-10).

So what was it about these women that drove Matthew to mention them? Interpreters have offered various proposals over the centuries. Jerome suggested that all four women were sinful and thus prefigured Jesus' mission to save humanity. Luther opined that all four were non-Israelites and therefore foreshadowed the inclusion of the Gentiles. Some modern scholars emphasize instead the irregularity of the circumstances that brought about the birth of their children. If that is emphasized, it affirms the wisdom of the thumbnail theological insight that "God writes straight with crooked lines." Or perhaps even "God is always writing straight and there are no crooked lines."

Whatever the validity of these hypotheses, by including them, Matthew implies that Jesus' story cannot be appreciated in isolation from the achievements of these women.

***This Weekend, December 19-20: Genealogy of Jesus***

**Saturday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m.:**

✠ Deceased of the Bentz, Fadoul, Sengewalt & Werner Families by Millet & Susie Fadoul

✠ Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

✠ Special Intention

**Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m.:**

✠ Mike Linton by the Women Societ of OLOL

✠ John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula

✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb and Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI) and GiGi

## *Weekdays Masses*

**Monday, December 21: No Mass. Pastor's day off**

**Tuesday, December 22 at 12:05 p.m.:**

✠ Rita and Fred John

✠ Kaiser and Jeannette Fadul

**Wednesday, December 23: No Mass**

## *Christmas Masses Schedule*

**Thursday, December 24:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 p.m.:** (For senior citizens ONLY 65 years and older)

✠ Joseph Linton (Anniversary) by his sons Steve and Mike

✠ Deceased of the Saseen and Schlog Families by Fran Saseen

✠ Shirley Elias Nickerson and the Deceased members of the Elias Family by their loving children

✠ Special Intentions for Tammy Strong and her Family

**2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Eve Mass at 5:30 p.m.:** (for young families with children)

✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave and Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Deceased Family Members of Rosella Saseen and Sylvia Long by their last will

✠ Special Intention

**3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Midnight Mass at 10:00 p.m.:** (For all paishioners)

✠ Sister Mary DiDomenico by George & Patty Fahey

✠ Kathleen Olinski and Alois Marchy by Mary Olinski-Ragase

✠ Intentions and good health of Mary Olinski-Ragase

**Friday, December 25 at 10:30 a.m.:** Christmas Day Mass (For all paishioners)

✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Patrick Sengewalt

✠ Kathleen Olinski and Alois Marchy by Mary Olinski-Ragase

✠ Intentions and good health of Mary Olinski-Ragase

<b><i>Next Weekend, December 26-27: St. Stephen, the 1<sup>st</sup> Martyr</i></b>
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**Saturday, December 26 at 4:00 p.m.:**

✠ ✠ Kathleen Olinski and Alois Marchy by Mary Olinski-Ragase

✠ Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

✠ Intentions and good health of Mary Olinski-Ragase

**Sunday, December 27 at 10:30 a.m.:**

✠ Living & Deceased of the Duffy and Fadoul Families by Earl & Linda Duffy

✠ Lucille Gibbons by Nettie Seidler

✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb and Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI) and GiGi

<b><i>2021 New Year Masses Schedule</i></b>
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**Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020:**

4:00 p.m.: New Year's Eve Mass (No Midnight Mass)

**Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021: New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)**10:30 a.m.: **New Year's Day Morning Mass***Merry Christmas & Happy New Year****Calendar of Events***

<b>Christmas Basket &amp; 50/50</b>	Drawing: Sunday, December 20, 2020 after Mass
<b>Bulletin ad renewal</b>	Please renew your ad at the back of the bulletin by sending your payment

***The Most Beautiful T-Shirts***

T-shirts have arrived and are on-sale now while supplies last. Priced at \$20 each, the proceeds will support our church. The shirt illustrates an electrocardiogram (EKG) with heart and Cedar Tree. **"My heart beats for Lebanon"**. The shirt is made of premium cotton fabric and is very stylish. Sizes include: S, M, L, XL, 2X and 3X. Shirts will be available for purchase and pickup before or after mass on Sunday, or call Susan at 304-218-3028. The shirt makes a wonderful Christmas gift!

Great news: We now have stylish face masks that match the "My Heart Beats for Lebanon" T-Shirt!! The masks are \$10 each and available after mass.

***Christmas Poinsettias in Memory of:***

- ☼ Leslie McGlumphy by Jerry McGlumphy & Children
- ☼ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol
- ☼ *Mary K. & Thomas Ferris by Denise Ferris*
- ☼ *Patricia Gompers by Matt & Vickie Gompers*
- ☼ *Don & Emilie Vince by Matt & Vickie Gompers*
- ☼ *Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family*
- ☼ *Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt and Family*
- ☼ *Silvio Perilli by the Perilli Family*
- ☼ *The Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty*
- ☼ *George & Martha Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Children*
- ☼ *Ralph & Mary J. Shipley & Deceased of Namon & Selema Joseph Family by Thomasina*
- ☼ *Robert Hunter Jr. & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina*
- ☼ *In honor of Kenny & Nancy Joseph*
- ☼ *George Weisner by Jean Weisner & Family*
- ☼ *Deceased of the Saseen & Schlog Families by Fran Saseen*
- ☼ *Deceased family of Elias & Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin*
- ☼ *Deceased family of Ray & Sara McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin*
- ☼ *Danny & Milly Mannus by their daughter NiNi Miller*
- ☼ *Shirley Elias Nickerson by her loving Family*
- ☼ *The Elias: Amelia, Nick, Mary, Helen, Margaret, Rose, Madeline, Jean and Shirley by their loving Family*
- ☼ *Nora Flenn by Theresa & Donzil Gain*
- ☼ *The Wakim Family by Chris and Jeannette Wakim*
- ☼ *Joseph Kawas by Emilie Kawas*
- ☼ *Rachel Nader Farrah by Emilie Kawas*
- ☼ *Mitchell R. Farrah by Emilie Kawas*
- ☼ *Abdoo and Dorrothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Connell*

***Christmas Basket & 50/50 Raffle***

Dear parishioners and friends,

A Christmas Gift Basket and a 50/50 Raffle will be your Christmas gift this year. You will receive letters by mail. The Christmas Basket includes these precious items:

8 cloth Christmas napkins, red with silver accents;

3 kitchen towels, 1 Christmas, 2 red;

2 red & white striped oven mitts;

A box of Belgium truffles;

A box of assorted pralines;

A box of peppermint bark.

Other items will be added to the basket. Good luck

<b>Christmas 50/50 Winner Prize:</b>	<b>\$704.00 cash. Good Luck. Drawing on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020</b>
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## ***Lower Your 2020 Income Tax Bill***

Dear Parishioners and benefactors,

The CARES Act passed by Congress a few months ago has certain tax benefits for Parishioners who choose to donate to their Churches. This will help to benefit all Parishioners who make their end of year charitable giving decisions. The Act allows a personal tax deduction of \$300.00 in charitable contributions, even to those who do not itemize. A more important and substantial benefit of the Act, is that Parishioners can deduct 100% of their charitable contributions from their adjusted gross income. In years past, the most one could deduct was 60%. This means that every Dollar the parishioners give to their Church can be fully written off on their taxes.

One way to lower your income tax bill for this year is to make charitable contributions, which can be deducted from your income if you are planning to itemize your deductions when you file your 2020 income tax. Gifts you make to charities, such as **Our Lady of Lebanon Church**, are tax deductible. But in order for you to claim the deduction on your tax return for **2020**, you must make the gift this year. That is important to keep in mind if you are planning on making a year-end gift. For example, if you are going to give money using a check, be sure the date on the check is on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Also, be sure to give the check to the church on or before that date. The IRS requires that you have a letter or receipt from the church that received the gift. By the **end of January 2021** all donors will receive a statement from **the Church** stating their names and the amount of gift received –through checks or weekly offering envelopes- from **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

## ***Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:***

December 21:	Millet C. Faddoul Jr.
December 22:	Millet C. Fadoul
December 25:	Shelly Hancher
December 27:	Luke Lenz, Jay Murad
December 29:	Jeff Bentz
January 1:	Nancy Joseph
January 3:	Rosemary Coury
January 6:	Gina Stees
January 7:	Jacob Fadoul Wilson
January 10:	Marjorie John, Mary Petros
January 11:	Jennifer Klein

## ***Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List***

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)

Susie Fadoul, Hailey John (granddaughter of Marge John, Louis “Butch” Elias, Dennis Porter, Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Justin Frenn, Elia

Frenn, John Shiben, Al Depto, Don Henning, Shirley & Jim George, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Mary Jo Terry, Barbara Hostage, Phil Geimer,

<i><b>Your Church Support Last Week</b></i>	
\$1,132.00	Sunday Collection
240.00	Bulletin ads
63.00	candles
1,000.00	Donation to the church
840.00	T-Shirts sales donation from Nick Ghaphery
110.00	Christmas Basket and 50/50 raffle
110.00	Christmas poinsettias
219.00	utilities
\$3,714.00	<b>Total Deposits:</b> <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> The Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns

## *What's New*

### *Statement for your tax deduction*

By mid January 2021, all those who donated -from January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020- the sum of \$250.00 or more to our church will receive from the church a statement and a detailed copy of their donations in order to be used for tax deduction. Those who donated less than \$250.00 will not receive a statement unless requested by them. Checks used to purchase food or items from the church are not tax deductible. Only \$250 or more are tax deductible according to the IRS. We appreciate all your donations and may God reward you abundantly.

### *Many Thanks*

--To the dedicated and responsible parishioners who sanitized the pews and every possible touched items on the way to Mass. May God reward you abundantly.

--To those of you who are wearing Masks properly at all times that you are inside Our Lady of Lebanon Church Building. This is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other flu & bacteria. Please note that your Nose & Mouth are to be covered at ALL times – especially when you are within 6 feet of another person.

## *Spirituality: The Devil is alive and active in our world*

The devil exists as a personal being under God's dominion and he tries to bring about man's ruin in an ominous manner by prompting him to rebel against God and by instigating him to separate himself from God. In spite of that, however, with God's help, man can resist Satan and remain faithful to God.

There are at least 300 references to the devil in the New Testament, with a variety of names that denote the nature and wickedness of the devil.

Jesus said to Satan: ***"Begone, Satan! For it is written: The Lord your God shall you adore and him only shall you serve."*** (Mt 4:9-10) St. Peter warned us saying: ***"Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary, the evil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour."*** (Ep.5:8) Pope Paul called Satan, ***"The treacherous and cunning enchanter who finds his way into us by way of senses, the imagination, lust, utopian logic, or disorderly social contacts in the give and take of life."*** (General Audience, Nov. 15, 1972)

Satan was described as fallen angel condemned to the ***"eternal fire"*** (Mt.25:41), ***"eternal punishment"*** (Mk 25:46); ***"everlasting fire"*** (Mk 9:43); ***"the fire is never extinguished"*** (Mk 9:48); ***"the smoke of their torments will go forever and ever"*** (Rev.14:11).

It is our free will to choose Satan and once we do he can conquer us. But, through the power of confession, we are forgiven again and again and again until our last breath. God is mercy. You can do the sin a million times and a million times you are forgiven, but you must make an effort to change and stop this sin.

God allows evil for you to conquer sin, but you must unite your will with his to recognize the situation. You ask, why would God allow all this to happen to me? God wants your soul. He wants you in heaven with him. If you have everything you want, how often do you pray? But if you lose everything and you suffer depression and despair, who do you turn to? God. So when someone insults you, hurts you and lies against you, praise God and look for the good in that individual because this is a test for you to conquer a certain sin.

We alone cannot defeat Satan, but with Christ, we can. When you fail he has given us the sacrament of confession for the forgiveness of sins.

## ***Wisdom: Count your blessings***

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following.

### **There would be:**

57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south, 8 would be Africans. 52 would be female, 48 would be male. 70 would be non-white, 30 would be white. 70 would be non-Christian, 30 would be Christian. 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States. 80 would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read, 50 would suffer from malnutrition. 1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth; 1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education; 1 (yes, only 1) would own computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

### **And, therefore . . .**

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

***If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.***

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this message, you have just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

As you read this and are reminded how life is in the rest of the world, remember just how blessed you really are!

## ***Story: Child of God***

A seminary professor was vacationing with his wife in Gatlinburg, TN.

One morning, they were eating breakfast at a little restaurant, hoping to enjoy a quiet, family meal. While they were waiting for their food, they noticed a distinguished looking, white haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests. The professor leaned over and whispered to his wife, "I hope he doesn't come over here." But sure enough, the man did come over to their table. "Where are you folks from?" he asked in a friendly voice. "Oklahoma," they answered. "Great to have you here in Tennessee." The stranger said. "What do you do for a living?" "I teach at a seminary," he replied.

"Oh, so you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a really great story for you."

And with that, the gentleman pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with the couple.

The professor groaned and thought to himself, "Great... Just what I need... another preacher story!" The man started, "See that mountain over there? (pointing out the restaurant window). Not far from the base of that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up, because every place he went, he was always asked the same question, 'Hey boy, Who's your daddy?' Whether he was at school, in the grocery store or drug store, people would ask the same question, 'Who's your daddy?' He would hide at recess and lunch time from other students. He would avoid going in to stores because that question hurt him so bad. "When he was about 12 years old, a new preacher came to his church. He would always go in late and slip out early to avoid hearing the question, 'Who's your daddy?' But one day, the new preacher said the benediction so fast he got caught and had to walk out with the crowd.

"Just about the time he got to the back door, the new preacher, not knowing anything about him, put his hand on his shoulder and asked him, 'Son, who's your daddy?'

The whole church got deathly quiet. He could feel every eye in the church looking at him. Now everyone would finally know the answer to the question, 'Who's your daddy?' This new preacher, though, sensed the situation around him and using discernment that only the Holy Spirit could give, said the following to that scared little boy.....

'Wait a minute!' he said. 'I know who you are. I see the family resemblance now. You are a child of God'. With that he patted the boy on his shoulder and said, 'Boy you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it'. With that, the boy smiled for the first time in a long time and walked out the door a changed person. He was never the same again. Whenever anybody asked him, 'Who's your daddy?' he'd just tell them, 'I'm a Child of God'." The distinguished gentleman got up from the table and said, "Isn't that a great story?" The professor responded that it really was a great story!

As the man turned to leave, he said, "You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably never would have amounted to anything!" And he walked away.

The seminary professor and his wife were stunned. He called the waitress over and asked her, "Do you know who that man was who just left that was sitting at our table?"

The waitress grinned and said, "Of course. Everybody here knows him. That's Ben Hooper. He's the former governor of Tennessee!"

Someone in your life today needs a reminder that they're one of God's children! Amen.

## ***A Time to Laugh (483)***

### ***Butchered Sermon***

Back in the day when butchers made deliveries, a mother was waiting for the butcher, who was late. She told her son Johnny, "I'm going upstairs. If the butcher comes, let me know. I want to talk to him."

Johnny forgot whom his mother wanted to see, so when the minister came to the door, he shouted upstairs, "Ma, that man's here now."

The mother answered, "I can't come now. Give him the money out of my purse, and tell him we didn't like his tongue last week, so we're going to change!"

### ***God Does Not Blabber***

A drunken man stumbled out of a bar and happened to bump into his pastor who was walking down the street. The man apologized, "I never meant for you to see me this way." The man's pastor seized the opportunity and asked the man, "Why does it matter that I see you when the Lord sees you all the time?"

The drunken man answered, "God isn't a blabbermouth like you are."

### ***Private Prayer***

A passenger jet was suffering through a severe thunderstorm. As the passengers were being bounced around by the turbulence, a young woman turned to a minister sitting next to her and with a nervous laugh asked, "Reverend, you're a man of God; can't you do something about this storm?" He looked at her and replied, "Sorry, lady, I'm in sales, not management."

### ***Pastoral Preparation***

A young man with a terrible stuttering problem determined to visit a renowned speech therapist in his city. The therapist had a very unconventional method (for modern times) of treating such problems. He had this young man talk with his mouth filled with marbles. Every week he would allow him to take one out. Amazingly, his speech began to improve. Finally, after he had lost all his marbles, he became a preacher.

### ***House without Beds***

An air force chaplain was transferred to another base and was allowed to decide between two houses. Along with his wife and four-year-old daughter, he inspected the two houses. As soon as they finished inspecting the first house, their four-year-old daughter told her parents that she did not like that house. No problem; they just went to the other house to inspect that one. The girl made it quite clear that she did not like that house either. There were no more choices, so her confused parents asked, "What is it that you don't like about these houses?" The disappointed girl answered, "Neither one of them has beds!"