



October 29, 2023

Bulletin #44

## Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Holy Cross

- \*Weekend Masses:      Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m.  
   Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- \*Weekday Masses:      Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.  
   Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
- \*Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass.
- \*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 Khourey, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad.
- \*Choir Members:        Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
- \*Bulletin Coordinator: Thomasina Geimer
- \*Altar Server:            Earl Duffy and Joe Roxby
- \*Altar Boy:                Christopher AlKhouri
- \*Cedar Club:             Linda Duffy, President
- \*Women's Society:      Jeannette Wakim, 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.

## ***7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Holy Cross***

Readings: Job 29:12-17; Rom 12:9-21 and Mt 25:31-46

A young lady named Sally, relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons. One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day.

On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's girlfriend drew a picture of a girl who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats. As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target.

Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall. Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus. A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced.

Dr. Smith said only these words: *"Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me."* (Mt 25:40)

No other words were necessary; the tear-filled eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ.

### ***Sponsor a Christian Student in Lebanon's Catholic Schools***

Dear Parishioners,

Please read the attached letter of our Bishop Elias Zaidan concerning sponsoring a student in the Christian catholic schools of Lebanon. **Cost: \$150.00.** We will have a second collection on Saturday and Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for this purpose. May your good deeds shine like the sun in the kingdom of heaven. We will forward all your donations to our chancery in Los Angeles. --Msgr Bakhos

### ***Jesus performed 37 Miracles.***

*We will publish them weekly in order to strengthen our faith that Jesus is indeed the Son of God who has divine power to heal and raise the dead by a Word from his mouth. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Him.*

#### **The 34<sup>th</sup> miracle of Jesus when he healed Two Blind Men**

Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho. A large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the side of the road. They heard that Jesus was going by. So, they shouted, "Lord! Son of David! Have mercy on us!" The crowd commanded them to stop. They told them to be quiet. But the two men shouted even louder, "Lord! Son of David! Have mercy on us!" Jesus stopped and called out to them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. "Lord," they answered, "we want to be able to see." Jesus felt deep concern for them. He touched their eyes. Right away they could see. And they followed him. (Matthew 20:29-34)

### ***Creating your legacy***

How can you manage your charitable giving more efficiently to benefit the charities you love and support, like our church established by our ancestors since 1906? The Parish Council opened an Endowment Fund Account designated exclusively for the church maintenance for years to come. All donations are tax deductible. Please let us keep our beautiful church well maintained and donate anytime toward this account or put the church in writing in your last will. To donate, please call the church office at 304-233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you in this life and in the next. --Monsignor Bakhos, pastor.

***This Weekend: Sat.-Sun., Oct 28-29: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Cross***

**Saturday, October 28, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ John Wilson (Anniversary) by Larry & becky Ferrera
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne

**Sunday, October 29, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:**

- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton and their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- ✠ Deceased of the Roxby and Olinski Families by Joe Roxby

***Weekdays Mass Schedule*****Monday, October 30:** No Mass. Pastor's day off.**Tuesday, October 31 Mass at Noon:**

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ June Fahey (Brthday) by George & Patty fahey
- ✠ Charlotte George (Birthday) by Margaret George (MN)

**Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> Mass at Noon: (All Saints Day) [Mass for All Souls]****Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> Mass at Noon: (All Souls Day) [Mass for All Souls]*****All Souls Masses thru Thursday, November 9th***

✠ Special Prayers during this week to:

Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>: ✠ Charlotte George (Birthday) by Margaret George (MN)Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> to: ✠ Libby G. Magnone (Birthday) by her sister Mary Zaid SteesThursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: ✠ Elizabeth Ferris Magnone (Birthday) by her daughters Mary Stees & Libby G. Magnone

✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol (Ok)

✠ Deceased of Zaidan Chahine by Youssef &amp; Jocelyne Chahine (PA)

✠ Deceased of the Chidiac Family by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac

✠ Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart

✠ Deceased of the Khourey &amp; Howard Families by Lou &amp; Charlotte Khourey &amp; Emmalena &amp; Louie

✠ Virginia Khourey Bryan &amp; Deceased of the Nabihah &amp; Habib Khourey Family by the Khourey Family

✠ Deceased of the Nader Family by Lou &amp; Charlotte Khourey &amp; Emmalena &amp; Louie

✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt &amp; Nutter Families by John &amp; Kathy Thomas (MN)

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe &amp; Helen, grandparents Shikrey &amp; Helen Saseen by her last Will

✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, &amp; her son Mark by her last will

✠ Janis &amp; George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

✠ John Wilson by Judy Wilson &amp; Family

✠ Rudy Hodulik, Theodore Hodulik and Wayne Wilson by Judy Wilson

✠ Julia Hodulik, Filka Hodulik by Judy Wilson

✠ Alice Wilson by Judy Wilson &amp; Family

✠ Tom Ferris by his nieces Mary Stees and Libby G. Magnone

✠ Zaid Hawa Ferris by her granddaughters Mary Stees and Libby G. Magnone

✠ Albert &amp; Annette Togliatti by GiGi Rice

✠ Sadie Bouharb &amp; Mary Harb by GiGi Rice

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

✠ Sarah Harb (sister of Benefactor Jamil Harb) by the Family

✠ Mike &amp; Sue Linton &amp; their parents Joe &amp; Frances Linton by Steve Linton

✠ Deceased of Tom &amp; Judy Brock, Jr.

✠ Chamse Rahi by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm &amp; Rahi Families

✠ Deceased of the Rouhana Family by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm &amp; Rahi Families

✠ Tina Rahi by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm &amp; Rahi Families

✠ Mary K. Ferris by her daughter Denise Ferris

✠ George &amp; Martha Saseen by George &amp; Susan Saseen &amp; Family

- † Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen & Family
- † Debbie Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family
- † Paul Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter
- † Patty Ross Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter
- † Christopher Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter
- † Deceased of Gus & Anna Shia by the Family
- † Tim, Ginny & Martha Shia by the Family
- † Tom Jochum by his Family
- † George, Dolores and Bert Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Philip & Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † Ray, Sara, Mick and Gary McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Elias & Selma, Edward & Edith, George & Betty Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Deceased of the Daniel and DiFabrizio Families by Rebecca & Michael DiFabrizio
- † Mike Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Georgette Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Sam & Bernadine Elias & Deceased Family members by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Alphonse & Violet Golebiewski & Deceased Family members by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Elias & Siham Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Zack, Andrea and Christian Riedel
- † Jim & LaVerne Thomas by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Zack, Andrea and Christian Riedel
- † Fouad Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Zack, Andrea & Christian Riedel
- † Rose Ann & Angelo Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Katheryn & Hermon E. Conti by Rosalie Conti
- † Herman E. Conti Jr, & Tony Matesic by Rosalie Conti
- † Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol Dougherty (OK)
- † Deceased of the Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty
- † Emily Vince by her Children & grandchildren
- † Donald Vince by his Children & grandchildren
- † Patricia Gompers by Matt & Vickie Gompers
- † George Alan Weisner by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Deceased of the Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Deceased of the Maroon & Mary Catherine Habeb Families by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Deceased of the Weisner, Bishop & Schmeichel Families by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Betty Abraham, Clara Carter & Evelyn Goodson by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Forgotten Souls in Purgatory by Jean Weisner
- † Betty Coram Purpura by Jean Weisner
- † Mary Thomas by Jean Weisner
- † Sophie Moses by Jim Moses
- † John G. Moses by Jim Moses
- † Jeffery Moses by Jim Moses
- † Loved Ones of the Bine, Gaudio & Paesani Families by Shirley Bine
- † Deceased of the Fadoul & Duffy Families by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Robert “Herk” Henry by Patrick Henry
- † Rosemary Henry by Patrick Henry
- † Alma Erbachen by Patrick Henry
- † Barbara Wenskey by Patrick Henry
- † Don Wensyel by Patrick Henry
- † Paul & Anna Orr & Jim Orr by Patrick Henry
- † Camille & Selma Rohanna by Kim & Jan Seabright

- † Harry Charles Seabright by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Frank Lish by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Louis C. Seabright by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Louise S. Gladkowski by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- † Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski
- † Elizabeth “Betty” Purpura by Robert & Sandra Coram
- † Noel Foreman by his wife Anne Foreman
- † Rose Maxwell Hazlett by her daughter Anne Foreman
- † Rose McKennan Hazlett by her sister Anne Foreman
- † Helen & Al Schroeder by Mark Schroeder & Jane Wine
- † Frank Schroeder by Mark Schroeder
- † Shirley Elias Nickerson & Deceased members of the Elias Family by their Loving Family
- † Donald Nickerson Sr. & Deceased members of the Nickerson Family by their Loving Family
- † Cathy Sharp-Howard by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † Betty Jane Fadoul by Millet Fadoul & Family
- † Susie Marie Fadoul by Millet Fadoul & Family
- † Our parents John & Cecilia John & D. William Burns by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Our grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph & Sarah Burns by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Our Aunts & Uncles, Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sister Mary Thomasina John & Roland & Julia Tappe by Ron & Susan Burns
- † All deceased of The Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus by Ron and Susan Burns
- † Deceased of the Gibbons and Otterbeck Families by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Robert Hunter Jr., & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer
- † Ralph & Mary (Joseph) Shipley by Thomasina Geimer
- † Phillip Geimer by his wife Thomasina Geimer
- † Deceased of the Namon & Salema (Awed) Joseph Family by Thomasina Geimer
- † Andrew Sr. & Mary Demsko by their daughter Rosemary
- † Andrew Demsko Jr. by his sister Rose
- † Rhoda Marie Perilli “Ginger Perilli” by Diana Gavin and Paula Perilli
- † Silvio “Joe” Perilli by Diana Gavin and Paula Perilli
- † Evelyn Goodson by her daughter Cathy Goodson
- † Albert & Annette Togliatti by GiGi Rice
- † Khalil, Sadie & Agatha Harb by GiGi Rice
- † Sarah Volk by GiGi Rice
- † Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- † Robert & Pearl Shutler by their daughter Janet Shutler
- † Robert J. Jr. & William F. Shutler by their sister Janet Shutler
- † Harry J. Nolte by his granddaughter Janet Shutler
- † Harry F. & Isabelle Nolte by their great-granddaughter Janet Shutler
- † Fred & Clara Shutler by their granddaughter Janet Shutler
- † Isaac & Bertha Nolte by their great niece Janet Shutler
- † Charles & Bettie Nolte by Janet Shutler
- † William T. Breit by the Michael Breit Family
- † Aurora Doris Lantagne by the Michael Breit Family
- † Elizabeth Ann Parsons by the Michael Breit Family
- † Bernard Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Marie Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Abdoo Saseen by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Deceased of Dr. & Mrs Nabiel AlKhouri Family

- ✠ Matthew Siebieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda and Family
- ✠ Constantino Cetorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda and Family
- ✠ Delia Contorti Cetorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda and Family
- ✠ Orval Blake by Larry & Lillian Blake Siebieda and Family
- ✠ Elena Blake by Larry & Lillian Blake Siebieda and Family
- ✠ Donnie Sigler (brother-in-law) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Albert & Anita Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ Nimon & Mariam Joseph by Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ George Alan Weisner & Robert A. Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ My mother’s siblings – Joseph Family by Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ Bryce Luginbill by Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ Deceased of the Sofka Family by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka
- ✠ Deceased of the Stanton and Sayre Families by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka
- ✠ Deceased of the Sofka Family by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka
- ✠ Dolores Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
- ✠ Ryzso Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
- ✠ Diane Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
- ✠ Jerrie Williams Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
- ✠ Lawrence & Teresa Ferrera; Mary Jean Comas; Janet Ferrera, Joann Slack; James Ferrera by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- ✠ George & Betty Joseph; Selma & Elias Joseph; Edward & Edith Joseph, Sara & ray McLaughlin; Gerard & Tessa Joseph; Gary & Mickey McLaughlin by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- ✠ Jack Harsan by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- ✠ Edgar & Ellen Dennis by Annette Wetzel

***Coming Parish Events***

Wednesday, November 1st	Thanksgiving Bake Sale: Baking Kibbee at 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thanksgiving Bake Sale: Baking Meat pies, Zatar bread, Sesame bread at 10:00a.m.
Saturday, November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Bake Sale: Orders Pick-Up
Sat-Sunday, Nov. 4 & 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> collection to sponsor a catholic student in Lebanon.
Thanksgiving Masses	Thanksgiving Eve: Wednesday, November 22: Mass at 5:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 23: Mass at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas Dinner after 10:30 am Mass (Dinner will be served at noon)

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

- October 30: Michael Duffy, Andreah Frenn Riedel
- November 4: Kenny Joseph, Libby G. Magnone
- November 8: Mark Wilson
- November 9: Liz Murad, Cindy Thomas
- November 11: Ryan Murad
- November 24: Rex Strawn
- November 26: Mary Lish

<b><i>Your Church Support Last Week</i></b>	
\$1,019.00	Sunday Collection
2,140.00	Donation to the church
70.00	Candles
10.00	Coffee hour

70.00	Christmas Dinner
\$3,309.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns, Liz Murad

## ***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)*

Anthony Wakim, Frank Duymich, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Sandra DeMuth, Ken Imer, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Jamie Stoneking (nephew of Charlotte and Lou Khourey), Patty Olinsky, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Earl Ragase, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

## ***What's New?***

### ***Bulletin Ad Page***

We are preparing the ad page at the back of our weekly bulletin. It is a good way to advertise your business and to support the church in defraying the cost of printing the bulletins. Please call Msgr Bakhos or Charlotte at 304-639-1372 if you would like to place a personal or business ad. Cost is \$120.00 for a single space ad (2.5 inches x 1.5 inches) for the entire year. You can purchase more adjacent ads.

### ***Thanksgiving Bake Sale***

Baking date:

Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>: Kibbee

Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Meat pies, sesame and zatar bread.

Orders Pick-Up: Saturday, November 4, 2023.

### ***Christmas Gift from our Church Gift Shop***

Order your Christmas Gifts to your family and friends from our Gift Shop. Please call 304-233-1688

Aprons	\$25.00
Born & Raised T-shirt	\$25.00
Heartbeat T-shirt	\$25.00
Dry Fit Festival T-shirt (youth)	\$25.00
Dry Fit Festival T-shirt (adult)	\$30.00
Festival Golf Shirt (youth)	\$35.00
Festival Golf Shirt (adult)	\$40.00

### ***Rummage Sale Items Drop off all Year Long***

Please bring with you to the church all the items you wish to donate toward the Rummage Sale. Items are accepted all year long. The Cedar Club and the Women Society raise funds to cover the expensive Building Insurance of our church. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

## ***Spirituality: Eucharist***

**THE SWEETNESS OF MAKING VISITS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT,  
AND MOTIVES FOR MAKING THEM.**

“If we really loved the good God, we should make it our joy and happiness to come and spend a few moments” before the tabernacle “to adore him, and ask him for the grace of forgiveness; and we should regard those moments as the happiest in our lives. Oh! How sweet and consoling are moments spent with the God of goodness. Are you in sorrow? Come and cast yourself at his feet and you will feel quite consoled. Are you despised by the world? Come here and you will find a good friend whose faithfulness will never fail you. Are

you tempted? It is here that you will find strong and terrible weapons to vanquish your enemies. Do you fear the formidable judgment that has made the greatest saints tremble? Profit by the time in which your God is the God of mercies, and while it is so easy to win your pardon from him. Are you oppressed by poverty? Come here and you will find a God infinitely rich, and who will tell you that his wealth is yours, not in this world, but in the next. 'It is there that I am preparing for you infinite riches; go, despise the riches that perish, and you will have those that never decay.' "Sinners, "ask him with tears and sorrow for the pardon of your sins, and you are sure to obtain it." You who are reconciled with him, "beg for the precious gift of perseverance. Oh! Tell him that if you are to offend him again, you would far rather die. Would you begin to taste the joy of the saints? Come here and you will know the happy beginnings of it.

"Ah! How good it is to enjoy the pure embraces of the Savior! You have never tasted them! If you had had that happiness you could not leave them. Do not be surprised, then, that so many holy souls have spent their life, day and night, in his house; they could not tear themselves from his presence. We read the history of a holy priest who found such sweetness and consolation in our churches, that he slept on the altar step so as to have the happiness of finding himself near his God on waking; and God, to reward him, allowed him to die at the foot of the altar."  
(The Cure d'Ars)

## *Wisdom*

When I got mad and hit my child "For his own good," I reconciled,  
 And then, I realized my plight: today, I taught my child to fight.  
 When interrupted by the phone, I said, "Tell them I'm not at home."  
 And then I thought, and had to sigh: today, I taught my child to lie.  
 I told the tax man what I made, forgetting cash that I was paid;  
 And then I blushed at this sad feat: today, I taught my child to cheat.  
 I smugly copied a cassette, to keep me free of one more debt.  
 But now the bells of shame must peal: today, I taught my child to steal.  
 Today, I cursed another race. Oh, God, protect what I debase,  
 For now, I fear it is too late. Today, I taught my child to hate  
 By my example, children learn, that I must lead in life's sojourn  
 In such a way that they are led, by what is done, not what is said.  
 Today, I gave my child his due, by praises for him instead of rue.  
 And now I have begun my guide: today, I gave my child his pride.  
 I now have reconciled and paid, to IRS on all I made.  
 And now I know that this dear youth, today has learned from me, of truth.  
 The alms I give are not for show, and yet, this child must surely know  
 That charity is worth the price: today, he saw my sacrifice.  
 I clasp within a warm embrace, my neighbor of another race.  
 The great commandment from above: today, I taught my child to love.  
 Someday, my child must face alone This world of fearsome undertone,  
 But I have blazed a sure pathway: today, I taught my child to pray.

## *Story*

Because I fly often, I have been able to meet many interesting people on planes. I usually look for opportunities to get to know people and, if possible, to share my faith in Christ with them. Evangelists often refer to this as "planting seeds of faith."

One early morning as I was sitting in my seat waiting for the plane to take off, I noticed a young woman walk through the door of the aircraft. I'm sure everyone else in first class must have noticed her as well because she was a very striking lady. She took her seat next to mine and reached into her carry-on bag for her daily newspaper.

As she opened her newspaper, I greeted her with a cheerful, "Hello, is Minneapolis your home or are you traveling?" Before she could answer, several huge men of monster proportions stepped onto the plane. Like the



striking young lady, you could not help but notice these men, as they were all close to seven feet tall and three hundred or more pounds.

“I’m here on business, I work for the World Wrestling Federation.” “Really?” I asked, now making sense out of the cast of characters hoarding the plane. “So, what kind of business are you in?”

“I’m one of the blonde bimbo managers that stands in the corner in a bikini,” she replied, somewhat sarcastically. Since I was not a regular fan of WWF, I had no way of placing her on that wrestling show, but I had an idea of what she was talking about.

After some small talk about the wrestling event the night before, there was a pause. So, I asked her a point blank question and got to the heart of the matter. “So, are you happy doing that?” I asked. My question took her by surprise. Her expression changed from aloof to serious. “What do you mean?” she asked.

“I mean are you happy doing what you do?” I reiterated. “Is that what you’ve always wanted to do? I’m a Christian and I’ve always been curious if people involved in that sort of entertainment are truly happy.” Staring straight ahead, she paused for a long time, reflecting on the question. No, I’m not, she finally answered. She proceeded to tell me that while working as a make-up artist for CNN, she was offered the WWF job. Recently divorced with a child, the opportunity to make more money was tempting. She related that what she had really wanted to do was to finish her education and pursue her relationship with Christ.

I expressed to her that she was part of an entertainment industry that is changing our culture negatively, and that it teaches our young men that women should be looked upon as sex objects. With a look of sadness, she told me she was not proud of what she was doing. “I was raised a Baptist and loved the Lord, she explained. “I have not been living for Him the way I used to. This is not what I planned to do with my life.” “God has a plan for your life,” I told her. “He has a way for you to walk with Him. You don’t have to do this.”

We talked during the flight. I suggested that perhaps God was using WWF’s coming to Minneapolis as an opportunity for us to have this conversation. I could tell by her expression that she was deeply moved by what I had said.

I wish I could say she made a decision that day about her future, but I cannot. Since Scripture tells us that one man plants, another man waters, and God causes the increase, all I could do was plant a seed or water a previously planted seed. Perhaps I was watering that day.

People often ask me, “Why do these kinds of things always happen to you?” I tell them things like this happen to everyone who asks God to use them. I am totally convinced that God is involved in our daily lives and that He desires to use us as His instruments of hope, healing, and good news, if we will only allow Him.

## *A Time to Laugh (85)*

### *Elderly*

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'

### *Dress-Up*

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, 'Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit.' 'And why not, darling?' 'You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning.'

### *Death*

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his versions of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.'

## ***School***

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. 'I'm just wasting my time,' she said to her mother. 'I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!'

## ***Bible***

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there dear?' With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

## ***Elderly Wisdom***

Two service technicians working for the gas company conducted an ongoing rivalry to break up the monotony of their jobs. One day, as they went around to the back of a house to read the meter, the woman who owned the house idly watched them from her kitchen window.

When they finished their business, the two technicians decided to race back to the truck-and burst into a run. As they reached their vehicle, they were surprised to see the woman from the house close on their heels, "What's wrong?" one asked.