



Special Bulletin

Christmas 2023

Merry Christmas From all of us

Christmas Masses Schedule

Sunday, December 24:

4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass

10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25th: Day of Obligation

10:30 a.m.: Christmas Day Morning Mass

New Year Masses Schedule

Sunday, December 31st, 2023:

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

Monday, January 1st, 2024: New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)

10:30 a.m.: New Year's Day Mass

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

- ***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, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad
- ***Organist:** Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D.
- ***Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, 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

Genealogy Sunday

Readings: Is 11:1-19; Rom 1:1-12 and Mt 1:1-17

“An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.”

(Matthew 1:1-17)

Several years ago, while visiting Ireland, I visited the immigrant museum in Cobh. My ancestors had boarded ships in that very port as they escaped to the New World, seeking a better life. I had the knowledge of their journey but certainly lacked an appreciation of their experience. But the museum changed all that. The entrance was fashioned like the ramp of a ship. Once inside, video screens and audio tapes enveloped me, and suddenly the journey of my grandparents came alive. My appreciation for their courage was magnified, and I realized just how much I owed to them.

Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Rachel -all our ancestors in faith- form the seamless fabric of faith that led to Jesus taking on flesh. The Jewish people were enslaved by the Egyptians; the blood of a lamb and the guidance of Moses set them free. In our day, we have become enslaved by pleasure, greed, and a host of other vices, and we need to be set free. In their exile, the chosen people told the story of God's love over and over again lest they forget. In our own exile from God and from the spiritual life, we need to tell and retell the story of how Jesus came to set us free. Our heritage, our spiritual family tree, holds the story of our salvation. We must never forget those whose faith and sacrifices have prepared this day.

Meditation: Call to mind and heart the ancestors who told you the story of salvation and passed on to you the treasure of faith.

Prayer: Lord God, I have been blessed by many people in my past who have helped me to hear your word. Let me be as faithful as they in passing on your word to those who will come after me.

Glorious Birth of our Lord

Readings: Is 8:23, 9:1-6; Heb 1:1-12 and Lk 2:1-20

Christmas comes early in the commercial world. The Halloween goodies are barely gone from the shelves of the department stores and supermarkets before the Christmas ornaments, wreaths, toys, and holiday foods appear. By the time Advent comes along, we may be tired of Christmas -unless we focus on trying to answer the question: “What are we waiting for?”

A lady learned quite a lesson some years back at Christmastide. Newly widowed, she threw herself into preparations for Christmas. Though her job kept her busy, and the upkeep of the house now rested solely on her shoulders, she made up her mind that she would “do” Christmas the way she always had. She would do all the decorating, write out all the cards, select and personally wrap all the presents, cook a huge dinner for the extended family, and on and on.

She tried so hard to make Christmas her way. Then on Christmas Eve, she came down with a bad case of the flu. She spent Christmas day in bed. And for the first time in the busy holiday season, she had some peace and quite. In those quiet hours, she realized that Christmas is not about rushing around, not about doing and doing and doing until you get completely exhausted.

From her couch, she looked over at the crèche with the delicately formed statues of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, and she began to weep. Right there before her was the reason for Christmas, and she had almost missed it.

You've heard the saying: “Jesus is the reason for the season!” Whatever helps us to focus on that reality is good for us. Whatever distracts us from that reality cannot be good for us.

Jesus has already come. During this season, we read that he indeed was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, fulfilling the prophecies of old. Does Jesus Christ come again every time we celebrate Christmas? A Christian is one who follows Jesus, who walks with Jesus, not because of a personal decision or because of an emotional need -or to be forgiven or to be included or to be loved- but because of a “call from above.” During Advent, this period when we wait -in prayer and in silence and in reflection- for that wondrous Christmas feast, focus on rebirth. Ask Jesus Christ to be reborn in you -spiritually, powerfully. Ask Jesus -who came to

us as a human person in order to understand us, and in order that we might understand him- to come again! Ask Jesus Christ to light the fire of love that he once offered to us, as infants or as adults. As we light candles to demonstrate the need for God's light to shine upon us as Christians, let us ask Jesus Christ to light a fire in our

Reflection on my 32nd Anniversary to the priesthood

My Dear Parishioners and Friends

During the flight from Lebanon to Sydney Australia in August 1988, I put myself in the hand of the Lord asking Him to guide me to where He wants me to be in the future.

Three months later, I received a written sign that says, "You are a priest preaching a congregation." I was 37-year-old at that time.

When I met the Maronite Bishop of Sydney for the first time without knowing him, he confronted me saying, "Are you coming to be a priest?"

Immediately, I realized that the Holy Spirit is telling me something. I entered the seminary and I was ordained to the priesthood on December 21, 1991.

After serving the Lord for 32 years, I wish I was called earlier in life. I am telling you it is a great honor to serve the King of kings for He is the "Truth" and His "Grace is enough" for you. Most of the time I find myself singing with the psalmist, "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty. (Ps 84:1) Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. (Ps 23:6) One thing I ask of the Lord this is I seek that I may dwell in His house all the days of my life (Ps 27:4) praising Him.

In priestly life, dealing with different people is not easy. But when you walk with the Lord, your rock and your shepherd, you lack nothing because He leads you beside quiet waters and refreshes your soul. Even though you walk through the darkest valley, you will fear no evil, for He will be with you and His rod and His staff comfort you (Psalm 23).

I am grateful to God and the Blessed Mother for the many graces and blessings I received from them. I am glad in my priesthood especially when serving a miraculous church like ours and great parishioners like you. I promised the Blessed Mother to serve her "bridal palace" as long as my health sustains me. So, pray for me as I pray for you daily.

With much gratitude, thanks and prayers,

You servant in Christ, Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac †📖†

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., Dec 23-24: Genealogy Sunday

Saturday, December 23, Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by Christmas Novena

† Bob Sengewalt by his wife Sally

† Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

† John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula

† Special Intention

Sunday, December 24, Masses:

1st Mass at 10:30 a.m.: Normal Sunday Mass followed by Christmas Novena

† Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton

† John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)

2nd Mass at 4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass

† Deceased of the Saseen & Schlog Families by Fran Saseen

✠ Susie Marie Fadoul (Anniversary) by her Children: Janet, Millet C., Jonathan & Millet Lou

✠ Shirley Elias Nickerson and the Deceased of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong

3rd Mass at 10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

✠ Tony Matesic (Anniversary) by Rosalie Conti

✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ John Shiben by Denna O. Shiben (FL)

Monday, December 25: 10:30 am Christmas Day Mass

✠ Melo Wakim by the Wakim Family

✠ John Shiben by Denna O. Shiben (FL)

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 26 Mass at Noon:

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

✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will

✠ Brandon Weaver (grandson of Leo Bleifus)

Wednesday, December 27 : No Mass. Office Work

Thursday, December 28 Mass at Noon:

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton

✠ John Shiben by Denna O. Shiben (FL)

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne

Friday, December 29: No Mass. Visitation of the Sick

Next Weekend: Sat.-Sun., Dec 30-31: New Year

Saturday, December 30, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

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

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne

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

Sunday, December 31, Masses:

1st Mass at 10:30 a.m.: Normal Sunday Mass:

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton

✠ John Shiben by Denna O. Shiben (FL)

2nd Mass at 4:00 p.m.: New Year Eve Mass (No Midnight Mass)

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton

✠ John Shiben by Denna O. Shiben (FL)

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne

Christmas Poinsettias in Memory of:

Please donate toward decorating the altar with poinsettias during Christmas. Every poinsettia cost \$25.00

☼ Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

☼ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by Denise Ferris

☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Denise Ferris

☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Janet Shutler

☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Frank & Anna Marie Duymich

☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Michael Duymich

☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Larry & Lillian Siebieda

☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by

☼ In Loving Memory of Philip Geimer by his wife Thomasina

☼ In Loving Memory of Ralph & Mary (Joseph) Shipley by Thomasina Geimer

☼ In Loving Memory of Robert Hunter Jr. & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer

- ☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Dr. & Mrs Nabiel Alkhouri and Family
- ☼ In Loving Memory of the deceased of the Murad and Tatalovich Families by Jay & Liz Murad
- ☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Stephanie Richards
- ☼ In Loving memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson & the Deceased members of the Elias Family by their Family
- ☼ In Loving Memory of the Schlog and Saseen Families by Fran Saseen
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Ray & Sara McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Elias & Selma Joseph Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ☼ In Loving Memory of John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Jean Weisner
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Nimon & Miriam Joseph & Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families
- ☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt and Family
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Abdo & Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Connell
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Danny & Millie Manner by NiNi Miller
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Chamse Rahi and the Deceased of the Rouhana and Rahi Families by their Families

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

- December 25: Shelly Hancher
 December 27: Luke Lenz, Jay Murad
 January 1: Nancy Joseph
 January 6: Gina Stees
 January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson
 January 10: Marjorie John, Mary Petros-Hill
 January 11: Jennifer Klein
 January 23: Dale Seidler Jr.

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,471.00	Sunday Collection
6.00	Bake sale
57.00	Candles
97.00	Donation to the church
\$1,631.00	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?

Congratulations

- To Lindsay Lenz for graduating from West Virginia University with bachelor in psychology.
- To Shawn Hancher for graduating from Grad School of the Creative Arts at WVU with Master degree orcherstral conducting.

Lower your 2023 Income Tax Bill

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 2023 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 **2023**, 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 31st, 2023. Also, be sure to give the check to the church on or before that date. If your gift is **\$250** or more, and you plan to claim the gift as a deduction on your tax return, the IRS requires that you have a letter or receipt from the church that received the gift. By the end of January **2024** all donors -who donated \$250 or more- will receive a statement from **the Church** stating their names and the amount of gift received –through checks or weekly offering envelopes- from **January 1st, 2023 until December 31st, 2023**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

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.

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: God and Pumpkin

From one pumpkin to another.

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?"

The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin." God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for the world to see."

Wisdom: How poor we are?

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked. "Oh Yeah," said the son. "So, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

With this the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are."

Story: The Power of Prayer

Does God Still Speak To Us?

A young man had been to Wednesday night Bible Study. The Pastor had shared about listening to God and obeying the Lord's voice.

The young man couldn't help but wonder, *"Does God still speak to people?"*

After service he went out with some friends for coffee and pie and they discussed the message. Several different ones talked about how God had led them in different ways. It was about ten o'clock when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, *"God, if you still speak to people, speak to me. I will listen. I will do my best to obey."*

As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought, to stop and buy a gallon of milk. He shook his head and said out loud, *"God is that you?"* He didn't get a reply and started on toward home. But again, the thought, buy a gallon of milk.

The young man thought about Samuel and how he didn't recognize the voice of God, and how little Samuel ran to Eli. *"Okay, God, in case that is you, I will buy the milk."* It didn't seem like too hard a test of obedience. He could always use the milk.

He stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started off toward home. As he passed Seventh Street, he again felt the urge, *"Turn down that street."* *"This is crazy,"* he thought and drove on past the intersection. Again, he felt that he should turn down Seventh Street. At the next intersection, he turned back and headed down Seventh. Half jokingly, he said out loud, *"Okay, God, I will."*

He drove several blocks, when suddenly, he felt like he should stop. He pulled over to the curb and looked around. He was in semi-commercial area of town. It wasn't the best, but it wasn't the worst of neighborhoods either.

The businesses were closed and most of the houses looked dark like the people were already in bed.

Again, he sensed something, *"Go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street."* The young man looked at the house. It was dark and it looked like the people were either gone or they were already asleep. He started to open the door and then sat back in the car seat. *"Lord, this is insane. Those people are asleep and if I wake them up, they are going to be mad and I will look stupid."*

Again, he felt like he should go and give the milk. Finally, he opened the door, *"Okay God, if this is you, I will go to the door and I will give them the milk. If you want me to look like a crazy person, okay. I want to be obedient. I guess that will count for something but if they don't answer right away, I am out of here."*

He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside. A man's voice yelled out, *"Who is it? What do you want?"*

Then the door opened before the young man could get away. The man was standing there in his jeans and T-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face and he didn't seem too happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. *"What is it?"*

The young man thrust out the gallon of milk, *"Here, I brought this to you."*

The man took the milk and rushed down a hallway speaking loudly in Spanish. Then from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her holding a baby. The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face. The man began speaking and half-crying, *"We were just*

praying. We had some big bills this month and we ran out of money. We didn't have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking God to show me how to get some milk." His wife in the kitchen yelled out, "I ask him to send an Angel with some. Are you an Angel?"

The young man reached into his wallet and pulled out all the money he had on him and put it in the man's hand. He turned and walked back toward his car and the tears were streaming down his face. He knew that God still answers prayers.

(Anonymous)

A Time to Laugh (95)

OOPS!

Fred had been a faithful Christian and was in the hospital, near death. The family called their pastor to stand with them. As the pastor stood next to the bed, Fred's condition appeared to deteriorate, and he motioned frantically for something to write on. The pastor lovingly handed him a pen and a piece of paper, and Fred used his last bit of energy to scribble a note. Then he died. The pastor thought it best not to look at the note at that time, so he placed it in his jacket pocket.

At the funeral, as the pastor was finishing the eulogy, he realized that he was wearing the same jacket that he was wearing when Fred died.

He said, *"You know, Fred handed me a note just before he died. I haven't looked at it, but knowing Fred, I'm sure there's a word of inspiration there for us all."*

He opened the note and read aloud, *"Hey, you're standing on my oxygen tube!"*

Be a good Christian!

A man is in bed with his wife when there is a rat-a-tat-tat on the door.

He rolls over and looks at his clock, and it's half past three in the morning.

"I'm not getting out of bed at this time," he thinks, and rolls over. Then, a louder knock follows. *"Aren't you going to answer that?"* says his wife. So, he drags himself out of bed, and goes downstairs. He opens the door and there is man standing at the door. It didn't take the homeowner long to realize the man was drunk. *"Hi there,"* slurs the stranger, *"can you give me a push?"*

"No, get lost, it's half past three. I was in bed," says the man and slams the door.

He goes back up to bed and tells his wife what happened and she says, *"Dave, that wasn't very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from the baby-sitter and you had to knock on that man's door to get us started again? What would have happened if he'd told us to get lost?"*

"But the guy was drunk," says the husband.

"It doesn't matter," says the wife. *"He needs our help and it would be the Christian thing to help him."*

So, the husband gets out of bed again, gets dressed, and goes downstairs. He opens the door, and not being able to see the stranger anywhere he shouts:

"Hey, do you still want a push?" and he hears a voice cry out *"Yeah please!!!"*

So, still being unable to see the stranger he shouts: *"Where are you?"*

And the stranger replies: *"I'm over here, on your swing."*

Famous Quotes (3)

Actor:

--An actor is a guy who takes a girl in his arms, looks tenderly into her eyes, and tells her how great he is.

--The only thing an actor fears more than losing his mind is regaining it.

--The one nice thing about actors—they don't go around talking about other people.

Admiration:

--Admiration is the daughter of ignorance. (Benjamin Franklin)

--Distance is a great promoter of admiration! (Denis Diderot)

Adolescence:

--Adolescence is that period when a young man can show you the best crop of hair he'll ever own.

--Adolescence is the awkward age in the life of a youngster. They're too old for an allowance and too young for a credit card.

Adults:

--A boy becomes an adult three years before his parents think he does ... and about two years after he thinks he --does. (Lewis Hershey)

--Adults are really not wiser than children; they're just more cunning.

Advancement:

--Build momentum by accumulating small successes. (Anonymous)

--I found that the men and women who got to the top were those who did the jobs they had in hand, with everything they had of energy and enthusiasm and hard work. (Harry S Truman)

Adventure:

--When you're safe at home you wish you were having an adventure; when you're having an adventure you wish you were safe at home. (Thornton Wilder)

--One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time. (André Gide)

Adversity:

--Man needs difficulties; they are necessary for health. (Carl Jung)

--In prosperity our friends know us; in adversity we know our friends. (J. Churton Collins)

--Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows. (William Shakespeare)

--Night brings our troubles to the light rather than banishes them. (Seneca)

--Trouble is only opportunity in work clothes. (Henry Kaiser)

--The man who is swimming against the stream knows the strength of it. (Woodrow Wilson)

--Great occasions do not make heroes or cowards; they simply unveil them to the eyes of men. Silently and imperceptibly, as we wake or sleep, we grow strong or weak; and at last some crisis shows what we have become. (Brooke Foss Westcott)

--Adversity has the same effect on a man that severe training has on the pugilist—it reduces him to his fighting weight. (Josh Billings)

--No untroubled day has ever dawned for me. (Seneca)

--They say a reasonable amount o' fleas is good for a dog. It keeps him from broodin' over bein' a dog mebbe. (Edward Noyes Westcott)