



March 30, 2025
Bulletin #13

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



Sunday of the Paralytic

- ***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and 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 1st 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 Kourey, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
- ***Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
- ***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- ***Altar Server:** Joe Roxby
- ***Altar Boy:** Christopher AlKhoury
- ***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.

Lenten Meditation

Accepting the Cross

Jesus said to all, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23

Jesus offers no exceptions to this requirement. The “cross” he is talking about is nothing other than daily life itself: the car that runs out of gas, the insufferable coworker or the rude waiter, the grown child whose grown-up choices break a parent’s heart -these crosses stand before us. Then there are those crosses manufactured within: our hardness of heart, our petty deceptions to make us look better to the world, our resistance to the good and the true, even when we know they are in our best interest. And if we have just been diagnosed with terminal cancer or lost our job, Jesus means those crosses, too.

Nor is it just a matter of plowing doggedly ahead, gritting our teeth, making it through another day. Here’s where the denial of self comes in. By accepting the day, whatever its crosses, we deny the self who would prefer to grumble that it isn’t fair, that we’re getting screwed, that life shouldn’t be so hard. Some generosity of will is necessary to embrace our life as it is. In so doing, we will follow Jesus and discover that the rewards of his company are far greater than the losses we suffer.

Sunday of the Paralytic

Readings: Is 35:1-8; 1Tim 5:24-6:5 and Mk 2:1-12

We might discover our true selves somewhere in today’s gospel where Jesus heals the paralyzed man. Do we see a reflection of ourselves in the paralytic; are we somehow incapable of or unwilling to move nearer toward God, toward others? Do we allow fear, pride, anger, laziness or apathy to immobilize our efforts at service? Have we allowed sin to atrophy our hearts and spirits? If so, then the good news as delivered by Mark assures us that healing and forgiveness will come with believing, and our believing will be deepened if we are willing to entrust in Jesus. This will require that we shake off our lethargy, stand up, pick up our mats and go. In so doing, we must also be willing to roll up and tuck away all of our excuses for inactivity in our mats so as to be free to be about the business of the gospel.

If not in the paralytic, then some of us may find ourselves among those who would criticize and accuse Jesus for not following the protocol they had expected of a Messiah, for challenging their traditions, and for being a forgiver and a healer rather than a warrior and a fomentor of rebellion against Rome. For these, the word, stands as a reminder that the methods and purposes of God are not dictated by human standards or expectations. The word also invites us to remain open and willing to recognize the workings of God even when these are realized through the least likely people in the most surprising and even untraditional ways.

Turn off your cellular phone before you enter the church

It is a Common Sense that people silence or turn off their cellular phone before entering the church to pray and focus on prayers. Many public places display signs asking “Turn off your cell phone.” It is the right of every worshiper not to be disturbed while praying. Two signs are posted inside our church to this regard. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding. —Monsignor Bakhos

This Weekend, March 29-30: Sunday of the Paralytic

Saturday, March 29; Mass at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Sunday, March 30; Mass at 10:30 am:

- ✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

This Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, March 31: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, April 1; Mass at noon

- ✠ Lorraine Marchy (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

Wednesday, April 2; No Mass. Office work.

Thursday, April 3; Mass at noon:

- ✠ Robert & Laurel Kate Matiasek by their last Will
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

Friday, April 4; Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction

- ✠ Intention of Janet Shutler, Randy Weisner and Msgr. Bakhos for sponsoring the Lenten Meal
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Next Weekend, April 5-6: Sunday of the Blind Man

Saturday, April 5; Mass at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Vincent Jacovetty (Birthday) by George & Patty Fahey
- ✠ Mary E. Custer (Anniversary) by her sister Helen Benline
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Sunday, April 6; Mass at 10:30 am:

- ✠ Our parents Joe & Nell Duffy and George & Rose Fadoul by Mickey & Linda Duffy
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Diocesan Appeal Fulfilled (additional)

Many Thanks for all the following generous parishioners who fulfilled their Easter Obligations so far. Our church's Quota is \$3,000 to be sent to our Diocese to help paying the cost of different projects mainly educating our seminarians to be our future priests. May the Lord who sees in secret accept your fasting and almsgiving and forgive your sins during this Lenten Season:

- Libby G. Magnone in Memory of Mary Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone and Thomas Ferris
- In Honor of Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena and Louie Khourey
- Nettie Seidler in Memory of her loving Family
- Kathleen George in Memory of her husband Tom George
- Denny Albaugh in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Albaugh Family
- Mary Beth Weisner in Memory of George Alan Weisner, Mariam Joseph and Nimon Joseph
- Alicia Peklinsky in Memory of Chamse Rahi and the Rouhana Family

Easter Lillies (additional)

- ✠--Kathleen George in Memory of her husband Tom George

Coming Parish Events

Friday, April 11 Stations of the Cross	5:30 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross, Spiritual Reflection, and Benediction. Then social hour sponsored by George & Susan Saseen & the Frenn Family
Holy Week schedule	Monday thru Thursday, April 14-17:

April 14-17	Mass at 5:30 pm every day. (no noon Masses)
Good Friday, April 18	Solemn Burial of the Lord at 5:30 pm followed by Meatless dinner prepared by the Cedar Club.
Easter, Sunday, April 20	10:30 am Easter Mass
Sunday, May 4	May Procession. Ma'lia Shia will be the May Queen.
May 10 - May 18	Masses for the Deceased and Living Mothers and grandmothers. Please submit your Mass Form to Msgr. Bakhos to publish your intentions.
Sunday, May 11	Mother Day
Spring Bake Sale	Kibbee baking: Wednesday, May 14 Meat pie baking: Thursday, May 15 Order pick-up: Saturday, May 17
Sunday, June 15	Father's Day
Mahrajan (Festival)	Sunday, August 10, 2025. Outdoor Mass at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass.
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	???????

Fridays during Lent

Date:	Volunteers Who are sponsoring the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:
5 th Friday, April 4	Meal Sponsors: Janet Shutler, Randy Weisner and Msgr. Bakhos
6 th Friday, April 11	Meal Sponsors: George & Susan Saseen & the Frenn Family
Good Friday, April 18	Meal Sponsors: The Cedar Club & Parishioners
Easter Sunday, April 20	Happy Easter

Festival (Mahrajan) News (Sunday, August 10 from 11 to 6pm)

--**Outdoor Mass** at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass. No Mass at the church this day.

--Lebanese Festival Photographs Needed:

The Lebanese Festival Committee is asking for any exceptional photographs you have from the 2024 festival. The committee would like to use the photographs to update the brochure and other advertising materials. We are specifically looking for photos of families enjoying the festival, guests dancing, and the OLOL Dance Troupe dancing. Please contact Monsignor Bakhos or Susan John if you have photographs that you would be willing to share for publication.

--EXCITING NEWS!!! The Lebanese Festival 50/50 RAFFLE Tickets are now ON-SALE!

...The festival 50/50 Raffle tickets are now on-sale for \$20 per ticket! We have only printed 1,000 tickets. If all tickets are sold, there is an opportunity to win \$10,000 Cash! Tickets can be purchased from Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Once received, Monsignor will fill-out the raffle ticket and mail the stub to the buyer. THANK YOU for helping us achieve our 50/50 Raffle goal!

Masses for the Living & Deceased Mothers & grandmothers From Saturday, May 10 until Sunday, May 18:

Masses for the Deceased Mothers and Grandmothers

✠ Special Remembrance on these special days:

--on May 11: Gladys Howard by Lou, Charlotte and Louie Kourey

--on May 11: Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

--on May 17: Earl Ragase (Birthday) by his wife Mary Ragase

--on May 18: Rose Olinski (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase

✠ Deceased mothers & grandmothers of Jamil Harb (MI)

✠ Louise N. Kourey & Gladys V. Howard by Lou & Charlotte and Emmalena and Louie

✠ Emily Nader & Nabiha "Lena" Kourey by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Kourey

✠ Minnie Church Riggs & Cassandra "Cassie" Howard by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Kourey

- † Sadie Chidiac (mother), Kathrine & Hasibi (grandmothers) by Msgr. Bakhos
- † Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart
- † Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- † Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- † Eva M. Coury by her son Richard Coury
- † Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- † Mary Ann Coury by Richard Coury
- † Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin and Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Pearl (Nolte) Shutler and Isabelle (Frey) Nolte by Janet Shutler
- † Clara Shutler by Janet Shutler
- † Shirley Elias Nickerson and Amelia Elias by their Loving Family
- † Mariam Joseph and Mary Catherine Habeb by Jean Weisner and Family
- † Chamse Rahi and Marie Rouhana by the Peklinsky Family
- † Dorothy Schweizer by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter
- † Viola Porter by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter
- † Martha Saseen by her son George Saseen
- † Elizabeth Harasuik by her daughter Susan Saseen
- † Mary K. Ferris by Denise Ferris
- † Georgette Joseph, Nancy Valles and Betty Allen by Vickie Joseph
- † Anne Bott and Angela Henning by Don & Roberta Henning
- † Dolores M. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Ginny, Martha, Anna Shia and Edna Jochum by their children and grandchildren
- † Lucille Gibbons by Bob & Paula Gibbons
- † Elizabeth A. Magnone, Giovanni Magnone, Josephine Ferris, Nancy Coffield, Isabel Wolfe, Mary K. Ferris, Bess Garcia, Mary Stees and Zaid Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
- † Charlotte George and Beatrice Stiles by Margaret George (MN)
- † Maryanna George by Margaret George (MN)
- † Cecilia Habdo Mays and Sada Habdo by Carol Dougherty (OK)
- † LaVere Thomas and Siham Fredd by Dr Adel, Diane and Justin Frenn
- † Anita Martha Weisner and Mariam Joseph by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Helen Schroeder by her son Mark Schroeder and her daughter Jane Wine
- † Dolores Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
- † Fran Huffman by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Lucy Gibbons and Ann Otterbeck and Sadie Coury by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Nell Duffy and Rose Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Eileen M. Hatty, Mary Ann Hatty and Cecilia F. Hatty by Judge Michael P. Hatty & Family
- † Rose Ann Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Lance Crawley by Rosalie Conti
- † Agnes Jacovetty by Patricia & George Fahey
- † June Fahey by George & Patricia Fahey
- †

Masses for the Living Mothers and Grandmothers

- † Barb McLaughlin by Brad McLaughlin and Kristen Graney
- † Barb McLaughlin by Nathan and Shane Graney
- † Charlotte Khourey by her children Emmalena and Louie
- † My sisters by Msgr. Bakhos
- † Susan Saseen by her granddaughter Ginny Naswadi
- † Nancy Valles by Vickie Joseph
- † Josie Fertig, Arlene Magnone, Caroline McDowell, Carla Ferris, Lacey Magnone, Amanda Buzzard, Maria

Rayl, Brea Wayt, Angela Snyder, Sherry Sullivan by Libby G. Magnone

† Diane Frenn and Brenda Riedel by Dr. Adel and Justin Frenn and Andreah, Zack & Christian Riedel

† Margaret Jean Joseph Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner

† Dolores Oser by Debbie & Mark Huffman

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Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

March 30: Greg John
 April 1: Patrick Sengewalt
 April 6: Ronald Weisner
 April 8: Jesse John
 April 11: Randy Weisner
 April 12: Justin Frenn
 April 13: Adel Frenn
 April 14: Mark McLaughlin, Lori Chickos
 April 20: Angela Petros
 April 28: Ann Marie Weisner Serafin
 April 29: Jeannette Wakim

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,681.00	Sunday Collection
275.00	2 nd collection: Diocesan Appeal
74.00	Candles
17.00	Coffee hour
170.00	Donation to the church
100.00	Mahrajan
25.00	Easter Lillies
\$2,342.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

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)

Brian Bleifus, Earl & Linda Duffy, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Becky Ferrera, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

What's New?

Welcome New Parishioners

We welcome every Christian and every Family into our church. We are happy that you are benefiting spiritually from our rich eastern catholic faith and tradition. We will be honored to serve you in all your needs. Please write your address on a sheet of paper and drop it in the collection basket so that we can mail you information about our events. Thanks you for your cooperation. —Monsignor Bakhos

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 Building Insurance of our church which exceeds \$22,000. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

Our Diocese Events

MYA Midwest Regional Conference (April 4th – 6th)

Where: St. Sharbel Church, 43888 Hayes Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48038

When: April 4th - 6th.

Information: Fr. Tony Massad 810-691-7055

Activities, meetings, and presentations will take place at the parish.

Hotel address: Hilton Garden Inn Detroit Utica 44700 Hayes Road Clinton Township, MI 48038

The theme for our conference this year will focus on the Jubilee Year in the Church. We will explain the biblical foundation of the Jubilee year, when and why it became a tradition in the Catholic Church, and how we can incorporate the blessings of this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope with a focus and meditation on praying and living the Lord's Prayer "Our Father".

Registration is open: <https://www.ololmya.org/event-details/midwest-mya-regional-conference>

Schedule: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fOyPJMOq5w965q-fhFgiicoDQTTSAUOrp8vfjzStp2Q/edit?usp=sharing>

Maronite National Youth Conference (June 23-28)

Where: La Roche University, Pittsburgh

Age groups: 12-18 year old

Registration starts on: January 17, 2025

Information: www.maroniteyouth.org! Questions: office@maroniteyouth.org

NAM awarness

Our Diocese needs two parishioners interested to be the liason of the National Apostolate of Maronites Convention. Please call Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to be appointed. Thanks for your cooperation If anyone like to join the National Apostolate of the Maronites, please call Msgr Bakhos.

Pilgrimage to Rome & Sicily (August 25 to September 4)

On the occasion of the Jubilee Year 2025, our Diocese is planning a pilgrimage trip to Rome and Sicily.

When: From August 25 until September 4

Package includes: stay at 4 star hotels, meals, visit important sites, English speaking guide, bus transportations.

Cost: \$3,900 for double occupancy per person. Additional \$1,000 supplement for single occupancy.

Reservation due date: May 31, 2025. There are only 50 spots open. First come, first serve.

Reservation: please call Ivette Jackson 323-336-3168 or Jamileh Koury 918-626-9193 info@eparchy.org

Order of Saint Sharbel Retreat (September 12-14)

Dear Msgrs. and Fathers,

The **Order of Saint Sharbel Retreat** will be held on **September 12 – 14, 2025** at the **Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center in Pittsburgh, PA.** This will be a weekend for each Member of the Order of Saint Sharbel to deepen their personal relationship with Christ. Attached you will find the flyers for your reference.

Please share the information with your Order of St. Sharbel members.

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ, Bishop A. Elias Zaidan. Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

Trivia Teaser: Words Game

See if you can figure out what these words have in common.

Banana, Dresser, Grammar, Potato, Revive, Uneven, Assess.

Look at each word carefully. You'll kick yourself when you discover the answer. This is so cool.....

Answer: In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word. Did you figure it out?

Question & Answer (#8)

Question #8: “What does the Church mean when it refers to God as ‘the Father?’” Ron. age 15

Answer:

The Church means that, although God is a pure spirit and not literally male, we speak of God in male terms because God’s relation to us is like that of a Father. This doesn’t mean men are better than women, only that some aspects of “maleness” better express some aspects of God’s relationship to us than “femaleness.” Both men and women are, however, made in God’s image.

Why does the Church call God “Father?” One reason is Jesus. Our relation to God is a sharing in Jesus’ relation to God. He knew and revealed God as Father. Therefore, that’s how we should know and relate to God. Jesus couldn’t know God as Mother for a simple reason: He already had a Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. As Jesus’ brothers and sisters, we too have Mary as a spiritual Mother. And God is our spiritual Father, a fatherhood more real than even our biological relationship with our own earthly fathers.

Another reason we call God “Father” has to do with His relation to us as His creatures. If we think of the whole creation as our mother — as, say, “Mother Earth” or “Mother Nature” — then God’s relation to us is like that of a father.

Think of it this way: God is related to creation like a husband to his wife or bridegroom to his bride. We, as individuals, are sort of God’s offspring through the rest of creation, the way children are offspring of their father by their mother. God brings us into existence “outside” of Himself but “inside” (or as a part) of the rest of creation, His spouse, so to speak. This is like how a father procreates new life outside himself, within his wife. And creation sustains us and provides a place for us to live. This is like how a mother procreates new life inside herself from her husband, like how she nurtures and cares for children within her womb.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that God’s Fatherhood includes the perfections of human fatherhood and motherhood. And the Bible also sometimes describes God’s love in maternal ways (Isaiah 49:15; 66:13). So we shouldn’t be afraid of all maternal imagery as a way of understanding God’s love for us, provided it is properly understood. However, neither the Bible nor the Catechism ever calls God “mother.” And even when maternal images are used in the Bible, God remains “He” not “She” (CCC #239). Naturally, there is much more, but this overview should give you at least a basic understanding of this important issue.

Giving in Scriptures

(Hold Me Excused)

Several years ago, a seven-year-old child of missionaries newly appointed to Bolivia was startled by the extreme poverty and slums surrounding the little church in which he worshipped with his parents.

The children next to him wore ragged, patched clothing, and no shoes. Many were dirty and had obvious physical ailments. Yet, when the offering box was passed, child after child dropped a few coins in it. The missionaries’ son, surprised, turned to his mother and asked, “But why are they giving away money when they are so poor?”

We can answer that question “I will not offer to the Lord my God that which has cost me nothing.”

HOLD ME EXCUSED!

The “young” man said, “Gosh, I’d give more, but I’m not established in my work. And besides, I have a lot of mouths to feed.”

The “middle-aged” man said, “I wish I could give what I’d like to give, but things are so uncertain. I could lose my job to a younger man any day now.”

The “old-timer” said, “I’ve got just enough to live on. I did my share when I was young. Now, let the young people carry on.”

So, who’s left? The kids? They’re too busy learning what they are supposed to do when they become “adults.”

Spirituality: Road to life

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like a president. I recognized His picture

when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him. But later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable it was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hang on!

Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!" I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure, and when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand. I gained love, peace, acceptance and joy; gifts to take on my journey, My Lord's and mine. And we were off again.

He said, "Give the gifts away. They're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it; but he knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly to shorten, scary passages. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ. And when I'm sure I just can't do it anymore, He just smiles and says... "Pedal."

YOUR CROSS

Whatever your cross, Whatever your pain
There will always be sunshine, After the rain.
Perhaps you may stumble, Perhaps even fall,
But God's always there, To help you through it all.

Wisdom: Today & Tomorrow (3)

Too many people put off something that brings them joy just because they haven't thought about it, don't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming or are too rigid to depart from their routine.

I got to thinking one day about all those women on the Titanic who passed up dessert at dinner that fateful night in an effort to cut back. From then on, I've tried to be a little more flexible.

How many women out there will eat at home because their husband didn't suggest going out to dinner until after something had been thawed? Does the word "refrigeration" mean nothing to you?

How often have your kids dropped in to talk and sat in silence while you watched 'Jeopardy' on television?

I cannot count the times I called my sister and said, "How about going to lunch in a half hour?" She would gasp and stammer, "I can't. I have clothes on the line. My hair is dirty. I wish I had known yesterday. I had a late breakfast. It looks like rain." And my personal favorite: "It's Monday." She died a few years ago. We never did have lunch together.

Because Americans cram so much into their lives, we tend to schedule our headaches. We live on a sparse diet of promises we make to ourselves when all the conditions are perfect!

We'll go back and visit the grandparents when we get Stevie toilet-trained.

We'll entertain when we replace the living-room carpet.

We'll go on a second honeymoon when we get two more kids out of college.

Life has a way of accelerating as we get older. The days get shorter, and the list of promises to ourselves gets longer. One morning, we awaken, and all we have to show for our lives is a litany of "I'm going to", "I plan on", and "Someday, when things are settled down a bit."

When anyone calls my 'seize the moment' friend, she is open to adventure and available for trips. She keeps an open mind on new ideas. Her enthusiasm for life is contagious. You talk with her for five minutes, and you're ready to trade your bad feet for a pair of Rollerblades and skip an elevator for a bungee cord.

My lips have not touched ice cream in 10 years. I love ice cream. It's just that I might as well apply it directly to my stomach with a spatula and eliminate the digestive process. The other day, I stopped the car and bought a triple-decker. If my car had hit an iceberg on the way home, I would have died happy.

Now...go on and have a nice day. Do something you WANT to.....not something on your SHOULD DO list. If

you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make, who would you call and what would you say? And why are you waiting?

Story

During the waning years of the depression in a small community, I used to stop by the farmer's roadside stand for farm fresh produce as the season made it available. Food and money were still extremely scarce and bartering was used, extensively.

One particular day the farmer was bagging some early potatoes for me. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between the farmer and the ragged boy next to me.

"Hello boy, how are you today?" "Hello Mr. farmer, Fine, thank you. Just admiring those peas...sure look good." "They are good, boy. How's your Mother?" "Fine. Getting stronger all the time." "Good. Anything I can help you with?" "No, Sir. Just admiring those peas." "Would you like to take some home?" "No, Sir. I don't have anything to pay for them with." "Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?" "All I have is my prize marble here." "Is that right? Let me see it." "Here it is. She's a dandy." "I can see that. Hmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?" "Not exactly...but, almost." "Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble." "Sure will. Thanks, Mr. farmer." Mrs. farmer, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said: "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. This boy just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes or whatever." "When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, perhaps." I left the stand, smiling to myself, impressed with the man. A short time later I moved to another State but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys and their bartering. Several years went by each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that State community and while I was there learned that the farmer had died.

They were having his viewing that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon our arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could. Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...very professional looking. They approached Mrs. farmer, standing smiling and composed, by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary, awkwardly, wiping his eyes. Our turn came to meet Mrs. farmer. I told her who I was and mentioned the story she had told me about the marbles. Eyes glistening she took my hand and led me to the casket. "Those three young men, that just left, were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things my husband "traded" them. Now, at last, when my husband could not change his mind about color or size...they came to pay their debt. "We've never had a great deal of wealth of this world," she confided, but, right now, my husband would consider himself the richest man in USA." With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three, magnificently shiny, red marbles. We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds.

Jokes (160)

The Saints

There once lived a man so godly that even the angels rejoiced at the sight of him. But, in spite of his great holiness, he had no notion that he was holy. He just went about his humdrum tasks diffusing goodness the way flowers unselfconsciously diffuse their fragrance and street-lamps their glow.

His holiness lay in this that he forgot each person's past and looked beyond each person's appearance to the very center of their being where were innocent and blameless and ignorant to know what they were doing. Thus he loved and forgave

everyone he met -and he saw nothing extraordinary in this for it was the result of his way of looking at people. One day an angel said to him: "I have been sent to you by God. Ask for anything you wish and it will be given to you. Would you wish to have the gift of healing?" "No", said the man "I'd rather God did the healing Himself."

"Would you want to bring sinners back to the faith of righteousness?" "No," he said, "It is not for me to touch human hearts. That is the work of angels." "Would you like to be such a model of virtue that people will be drawn to imitate you?" "No," said the saint, "For that would make me the center of attention."

"What then do you wish for?" asked the angel. "The grace of God," was the man's reply. "Having that, I have all I desire." "No, you must ask for some miracle," said the angel, "Or one will be forced on you." "Well, then I shall ask for this: let good be done through me without my being aware of it."

So it was decreed that the holy man's shadow would be endowed with healing properties whenever it fell behind him. So everywhere his shadow fell -provided he had his back to it- the sick were healed, the land became fertile, fountains sprang to life and color returned to the faces of those who were weighed down by life's sorrow.

But the saint knew nothing of this because the attention of people was so centered on the shadow that they forgot about the man and so his wish that good be done through him and he forgotten was abundantly fulfilled.

Acupuncture and Porcupines

Many have not given acupuncture enough credibility. Those who doubt its effectiveness need only look at the porcupine. Rarely does one see a sick porcupine.

Destructive Healing

One nice morning two men were out fishing on a large lake. It was a beautiful morning-seventy-eight degrees and sunny with a light breeze-and the fish were biting. They had caught their limit and were enjoying the day. One fisherman noticed a man walking on the shore. He could not believe his eyes. He said to his friend, "If I did not know any better, I'd say that was Jesus over there."

The man on the shore waved them in. They rowed to the shore, and indeed it was Jesus. They began talking with him, and one man asked him if he really could heal sick people.

Jesus said, "Yes, of course, I'm good at that."

The man then asked him to heal some chronic physical problems he had. Jesus touched the affected areas, and one by one each place was restored to healthy functioning. The man never felt better. He was more alive than he had ever felt and had a renewal of youthful energy.

Jesus then looked at the other fisherman.

The man's eyes got wide, and he said, "Don't you come near me. I'm on 100 percent disability."

Famous Quotes (55)

Matthew Chapter 6: 1-4 (Teaching About Almsgiving)

Jesus said:

But take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you.