



April 13, 2025
Bulletin #15

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



Palm Sunday

- ***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 Khourey, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
- ***Choir Members:** Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
- ***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- ***Altar Server:** 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.

Lenten Meditation

Virtue Won't Save Us

“Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days’ wages and given to the poor?” (John 12:5)

It is good to remember that Christ, not our own virtue, will save us. It is also good to remember that Jesus loved Bethany, enjoyed the celebrations of life there, and was delighted by the ointment that eased his tired feet. He was not against the good things of the earth because he knew they were for the glory of God and the help of souls.

Zacchaeus was a rich man Jesus met. What did Jesus say to him? Not “I reject you” or “Woe to you,” but “I want to go to your home today.” And Zacchaeus, struck by the open heart of the One who had called him, said that half of his holdings would go to the poor.

And Jesus Christ did not say, “Only half?” Yet he was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver by a person who pretended to have a concern for the poor. Judas’ concern, we know, was not for the poor. It was for himself.

Palm Sunday

Readings: Zech 9:9-17; Phil 1:1-13 and Jn 12:12-22

With the Hebrew children, the Church today takes part in the prophetic triumph of Christ, who enters the holy city of Jerusalem in order to pass from this world to the Father.

The narratives of the passion read today are certainly the early kernels of our Gospel. Each evangelist has his individual set of values and emphases when telling this simple yet dramatic story. Careful to show that Christianity was no rebellious or criminal movement, the evangelists highlight the plot that led to the death of Jesus, the innocent Servant crucified for sinners. For the Jewish people, the conformity of this death with the scriptures is demonstrated not only by the central event of the passion itself, but also by its details. The historical framework of the crucifixion set into the Jewish celebration of the Pasch is of particular significance. There is a sacrifice, a new rite of covenant, which is to replace the immolation of a lamb. And, for Christians, there is the exemplary value of prayer, lowliness, suffering and endurance -all of which went to the perfecting of Jesus’ human nature.

In the light of the Cross, other elements of faith are emphasized: the relationship of Jesus with Judaism; the origin and nature of the Church’s mission; the role of the Apostles in general, and that of Peter in particular.

These varying accounts cannot be reduced to a mere listing of events. Stamped by the personality of each evangelist, each forms a unified narrative of which the dominant theme is the mastery of God over the assaults of evil, an evil which reached its apex in the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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, April 12-13: Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 12; Mass at 4:00 pm: Procession with Palm branches

✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ 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 13; Mass at 10:30 am: Procession with Palm branches

✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

✠ Chamse Rahi (Birthday) by Alicia Peklinsky and the Storm, Howarth and Rahi Families

✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Passion Week Mass Schedule

Monday of Passion Week, April 14 at 5:30 p.m.:

Rite of the coming to the Harbor & Spiritual Reflection & Mass (No Stations of the Cross)

- ✠ Robert Saseen (Illinois) by his friends the Tarazi Family of Wheeling
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

Tuesday of Passion Week, April 15 at 5:30 p.m.:

Rite of the Coming to the Harbor & Spiritual Reflection & Mass (No Stations of the Cross)

- ✠ Robert J. Shutler Jr (Anniversary) by his sister Janet Shutler
- ✠ Nancy Ferris Coffield (Anniversary) by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

Wednesday of Passion Week, April 16 at 5:30 p.m.:

Rite of the Lamp & Spiritual Reflection & Mass (No Stations of the Cross)

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

Thursday of the Mysteries, April 17 at 6:00 p.m.: (choir will serve the Mass)

Mass of the Lord's Supper & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. No Social Hour

- ✠ Robert Saseen (Illinois) by his friends the Tarazi Family of Wheeling
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

Great Friday of the Crucifixion, April 18 at 6:00 p.m.: (choir will serve the Burial)

No Morning or Evening Mass Today in All Catholic Churches

- 10:30 a.m.: Rite for the Signing of the Chalice (No Mass)
- 6:00 p.m.: Solemn Burial of the Lord followed by a complimentary Meatless Community Dinner sponsored by the Cedar Club.

Next Weekend, April 19-20: Easter Sunday

Saturday, of the Light, Easter Vigil, April 19: (choir will serve the Mass)

- 10:30 a.m.: Rite of Forgiveness & Communal Reconciliation
- 4:00 p.m.: Easter Vigil Mass & "Rite of Peace" (No Midnight Mass)
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Pat Sengewalt
- ✠ Shirley Elias Nickerson and the Deceased members of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection, Easter Sunday, April 20: (choir will serve the Mass)

- 10:30 a.m.: Easter Day Mass & "Rite of Peace."
- ✠ Mr. Nicholas Ghaphery and Nimnoom and Widad by Elias, Rania, Ibrahim Ghafari & Family
- ✠ Robert Saseen (Illinois) by his friends the Tarazi Family of Wheeling

Diocesan Appeal fulfilled

--NiNi Miller in Memory of Danny & Milly Manners

Coming Parish Events

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
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	???????

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 on August 10th.

--**Table Reservations** (ready to be reserved):

1-Under the Tent = \$130. One (1) table and eight (8) chairs under the tent.

2-Open-air = \$65. One (1) wooden picnic table in open-air (under the trees).

Reservation due date: May 15, 2025. Please call Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to reserve a table.

--**50/50 RAFFLE Tickets \$10,000 Prize** (Ready for sale):

...The festival 50/50 Raffle tickets are now ready for 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 defraying the expenses of the Festival.

--**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.

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 & Louie Khourey

--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. Khourey & Gladys V. Howard by Lou & Charlotte and Emmalena and Louie

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

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

✠ 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 & Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

✠ Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

✠ Pearl (Nolte) Shutler & Isabelle (Frey) Nolte by Janet Shutler

✠ Clara Shutler by Janet Shutler

✠ Shirley Elias Nickerson & Amelia Elias by their Loving Family

✠ Mariam Joseph & 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 & Betty Allen by Vickie Joseph
- † Anne Bott & Angela Henning by Don & Roberta Henning
- † Dolores M. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Ginny, Martha, Anna Shia & Edna Jochum by their children & 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 & Sada Habdo by Carol Dougherty (OK)
- † LaVere Thomas and Siham Fredd by Dr. Adel, Diane & Dustin Frenn
- † Anita Martha Weisner & Mariam Joseph by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Helen Schroeder by her son Mark Schroeder & her daughter Jane Wine
- † Dolores Palotay by the Palotay & Jarrett Families
- † Fran Huffman by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Lucy Gibbons & Ann Otterbeck & Sadie Coury by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Nell Duffy & Rose Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Eileen M. Hatty, Mary Ann Hatty & 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
- † Mary (Joseph) Shipley & Salema (Awed) Joseph by Thomasina Geimer
- † Annette Togliatti by GiGi Rice
- † Sadie Harb by GiGi Rice
- † Viola Jeannette Yeater and Viola J. Belt by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † Laura Z. Wakim and Edna Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † Margaret Glaser by her Family
- † Ella Boehm by her Family
- † Mary Popovich, Kay Popovich and Anna Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Helen Fielding, Freda Hartman and Angela Montalbano by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Emily Shia Vince and Anna Shia by their children and grandchildren
- † Patricia Gompers by the Matt Gompers Family
- † Sharon Rose Wetzal and Lilly Hebdo by Rose Sharon Hebdo
- † Cecilia John and Carol Burns by their loving children Susan and Ron Burns
- † Sadie John, Tamamie Joseph and Sarah Burns by their loving grandchildren Susan and Ron Burns
- † Milly Manners by NiNi Miller

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 Andrea, Zack & Christian Riedel

- † Margaret Jean Joseph Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
 † Dolores Oser by Debbie & Mark Huffman
 † Nikki J. Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich, PJ Lenz, Lindsay and Luke Lenz
 † Nikki A. Popovich by Joe Popovich

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

- April 13: Adel Frenn
 April 14: Mark McLaughlin, Lori Chickos
 April 20: Angela Petros
 April 28: Ann Marie Weisner Serafin
 April 29: Jeannette Wakim
 May 5: Eden DeMuth
 May 6: Nikki Lenz
 May 16: Jacqueline Petros
 May 17: Tina Kitlak, David Weisner
 May 18: Millet L. Fadoul
 May 20: John Fadoul

Your Church Support Last Week

\$915.00	Sunday Collection
70.00	Candles
1,860.00	Mahrajan
360.00	Utilities
\$3,205.00	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

Question & Answer (#10)

Question #10: “Will God always love you no matter what you do?” Kim, age 16

Answer: Yes, but this does not mean you will get to heaven *no matter what you do*. A parent who loves a teenager too much to let him live a destructive life may kick the teenager out of the house. If the teen doesn't seek forgiveness, he may never be allowed back. This is not a perfect analogy (because God doesn't “kick us out” of heaven; we choose to be separated from Him), but it helps demonstrate the point how God does not force salvation on us. He gives us free will to either accept or reject His love. However, He does continually send us grace that works on our hearts and consciences because it is His will that all be saved (1 Tim. 2:4).

If we do not want to be saved and prove this by disobedience, we will not be saved. This does not mean that God doesn't love us. He loves us more than we can know. However, salvation is conditional based on our response to His love. Why? Because “salvation” ultimately means being with God. And God will not force anyone to be with Him who doesn't want to be with Him.

<i>Giving in Scriptures</i>

Old Working Capital

Old Sam wasn't surprised by a visit from Horace Trader. Sam had observed Horace's sheepish glances as he dropped his weekly five dollar bill in the plate.

“Sam, I want you to know how it is with me,” began Horace, “I can't give to the church like the pastor tells us to.”

“Horace, I view your commitment as a private matter between you and God.” Sam answered.

“Look, “I have no close relatives: the church will get everything when I die,” said Horace.

“Your intentions are good,” Sam acknowledged, “and expectations from estates are always uncertain. A lot can happen to you between now and then. All of us should remember the church in our wills.”

“Yes, but I need all the cash I can hang onto for working capital,” continued Horace; “I have to be ready to grab a bargain, when I find it.”

“Your business is a lot like our church,” Sam said. “The church needs working capital to save souls, to comfort the distressed, and to aim our youngsters in the right direction. You don't want to lose a trade; the church doesn't want to lose a soul.”

“Are you suggesting that the church would rather have its share now than to gain a fortune later?” asked Horace.

“Yes! And mostly for your benefit,” answered Sam. “This ‘promise now and pay later’ that you practice deprives you of the good feeling that comes from giving generously. Horace, try giving a fair share to the church's working capital and you will feel like a new man.”

<i>Spirituality: the Rosary</i>
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The two declarations: “Be it done to me according to Your word” and “Father, if this cup cannot pass, Your will, not mine, be done,” set into motion a mission that changed the course of world history. Here, the divine joined forces with the human to initiate God's plan for the salvation of our world. Mary's “let it be,” and Jesus', “yes, Father!” exemplify what a mother and son accomplished for mankind in a brief span of time. The events that capulate their lives are shown in the four gospels and highlighted in the mysteries of the rosary.

Reciting Hail Marys as rosary beads slip through our fingers may or may not draw us closer to Christ. However, meditating on the mysteries brings alive their joint mission as we move through the history of our Lord's birth, the forming of his future Church, the descent of the Holy spirit, and the empowering of his apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations. It's all there in the 20 decades of the rosary which now include the “luminous” mysteries, added recently by Pope John Paul II, entailing Jesus' public life as preacher, healer and miracle worker.

We might say, “Fine, but how can I ever hope to become like Mary the mother of God? What could I possibly have in common with the Queen of Heaven?”

You might be surprised. For far too long, Catholics have relegated Mary to a heavenly throne, out of touch with our present day trials and tribulations. Kneeling before her statue, we hail Mary as our queen. We are

in awe of her beauty as depicted in fine art, chiseled in stone, replicated in ivory and featured on holy cards and medals. Her beauty, as it should be, is awesome. However, if we examine her everyday life as revealed in the Gospels, we find that she was of the poor little ones of God. We come to know her not only as the one chosen to bear the Savior of the world, but as a trusting teen-ager, a friend, and an intercessor.

In the Sorrowful Mysteries we experience through Mary's eyes, her son's mockery, scourging and crowning with thorns. We envision their meeting on the road to Calvary as their declarations, "Be it done unto me," and, "Your will, not mine be done," echo in our ears. We relive with Mary her son's crucifixion, and join our heartache with hers as we recall mankind's gruesome treatment toward the son of God.

In the Glorious Mysteries we conjure images of Christ's resurrection, the great stone being rolled away from his grave site along with Mary Magdalene's shock and awe at seeing her risen Savior.

We imagine the descent of the Holy Spirit and the sweeping wind that whipped through the upper room, as tongues of fire danced upon the heads of Mary and the apostles. We envision Christ's glorious ascension into heaven as his apostles stand astounded at his departure and mourn his leaving.

Within these Glorious Mysteries, we as Catholics also profess our belief in Mary's ascension into heaven and acknowledge her title as "Queen of Heaven and Earth" as decreed by our Church. Here we join our hearts with simple men and women of old whom God chose and commissioned to carry forth the Gospel message of Christ.

Lest we forget, it was to Mary that Jesus, age 12, confided, "I must be about my Father's business," revealing a glimpse of his divinity. It was at Mary's bidding that Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. It was to Mary that Jesus, with a dying breath, entrusted not only the apostle John, but all the children of the world.

Contemplating the lives of Jesus and Mary, we embrace Christ's great plan for his Church. As members of the Body of Christ, we too are called to dedicate ourselves in courage, faith and trust just as they, in their humanity were called to do -and did.

Joined with Christ through our baptism, and empowered through confirmation, we, just like Peter and Paul, James and John, Mary Magdalene, the woman at the well (whom some consider our first evangelist) and other disciples, we are called to communicate the "Good News" to a hurting world. Never in the history of our Church have there been so many ministries open to the laity as there are now to serve our neighbors. Whether it is supporting a single mother, sponsoring a refugee, protecting the life of the unborn, improving our environment, practicing ecumenism, instructing the ignorant, helping build houses for the poor, feeding the hungry, aiding the elderly, sponsoring a convert to the faith, visiting those in prison, consoling a distraught teen or encouraging a spouse with a troubled marriage. These ministries are the bedrock and heartbeat of our parish and diocesan mission.

The apostle Paul compared our spiritual gifts to parts of a body that, when working in union with other parts, form a powerful force. We become that force. We become God's hands, feet, mind and spirit here on earth. We are privileged to complete the unfinished work of our Savior.

Marian spirituality grasps, cherishes and delves deeply into every aspect of our Lord's life enjoined with Mary's providing us with old, new and many personal insights into his love for humanity.

Pick up that Rosary. Invoke the power of the Holy Spirit. Think, think, think about the life of our Savior. Take time to meditate and experience Marian spirituality at its richest.

Wisdom: Today is a gift

My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue-wrapped package. "This," he said, "is not a slip. This is lingerie." He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip. It was exquisite, silk, handmade and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached. "Jan bought this the first time we went to New York, at least 8 or 9 years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion." He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the drawer shut and turned to me. "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion."

I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him and my

niece attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them on the plane returning to Florida from the town where my sister's family lives.

I thought about all the things that she hadn't seen or heard or done. I thought about the things that she had done without realizing that they were special.

I'm still thinking about his words, and they've changed my life. I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting on the deck and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time in committee meetings.

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experience to savor, not endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them. I'm not "*saving*" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, the first camellia blossom.

I wear my good blazer to the market if I feel like it. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$23.00 for one small bag of groceries without wincing.

I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties; clerks in hardware stores and tellers in banks have noses that function as well as my party going friends. "*Someday*" and "*one of these days*" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now.

I'm not sure what my sister would've done had she known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted. I think she would have called family members and a few close friends. She might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think she would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, her favorite food. I'm guessing. I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I put off seeing good friends whom I was going to get in touch with someday. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and daughter often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives.

And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that every day, every minute, every breath truly is... a gift.

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400.

It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening the bank deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!!!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME.

Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds.

Every night, it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose.

It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you.

Each night it burns the remains of the day.

If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against tomorrow.

You must live in the present on today's deposits.

Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success!

The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.

Remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is mystery.

Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present!!

Story: Marines

As I came out of the supermarket that sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car, with the door open.

The old man was looking at the engine. I put my groceries away in my car and continued to watch the old gentleman from about twenty-five feet away. I saw young man in his early twenties with a grocery bag in his arm, walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too and took a few steps towards him. I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something.

The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand-new Cadillac and then turn back to the old man and I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying, "You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age." And then with a wave of his hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief and mop his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her and appeared to tell her it would be okay. I had seen enough and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight and as I got near him, I said, "Looks like you're having a problem."

He smiled sheepishly and quietly nodded his head. I looked under the hood myself and knew that whatever the problem was, it was beyond me. Looking around I saw a gas station up the road and told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and went inside and saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them and related the problem the old man had with his car and offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us, he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine) I spoke with the old gentleman. When I shook hands with him earlier, he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, "What outfit did you serve with?"

He had mentioned that he served in Corea and retired from the Corps after the war was over. As we talked, we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me and I told him I would just put the bill on my credit card. He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it and I stuck it in my pocket. We all shook hands all round again and I said my goodbyes to his wife. I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me. One of them pulled out a card from his pocket looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me then, that they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again, we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.

For some reason I had gone about two blocks when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time. The name of the old gentleman was on his card in golden leaf and under his name, "Congressional Medal of Honor Society."

I sat there motionless looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together, because one of us needed help. He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to greatness and courage and an honor to have been in his presence.

"Remember, old men like him gave you FREEDOM for America." America is not at war. The U.S. Military is at war. America is at the mall. If you don't stand behind our troops, PLEASE feel free to stand in front of them! God Bless America, our Veterans and Troops. Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.

Jokes (162)

Grace

An old woman observed how, with scientific precision, her rooster would begin to crow just before the sun rose each day. She therefore came to the conclusion that the crowing of her rooster caused the sun to rise.

So when her rooster suddenly died she hastened to replace it with another lest the sun fail to rise the following morning.

One day she fell out with her neighbors and threatened to move out of the village with her sister several miles away.

When her rooster started to crow next day, a little later, the sun began to rise serenely above the horizon, she was confirmed in what she had known all along:

the sun was now rising here and her village was in darkness. Well, they had asked for it!

It did cause her to wonder, though, that her former neighbor never came to beg her to return to the village with her rooster. She just put it down to their stubbornness and stupidity.

Love

When Robert, a fourteen-year-old lad fell in love with his fourteen-year-old neighbor, he sold off everything he had and even took on odd jobs to earn enough money to buy his sweetheart the expensive watch she wanted.

His parents were dismayed but decided it was best to say nothing.

The day for the purchase arrived and Robert returned from his shopping expedition without spending his money. This is the explanation he gave: *"I took her to the Jeweler's and she said she didn't want the watch after all. She fancied other things more, like a bracelet, a necklace, a gold ring."*

"While she was moving around the shop making up her mind, I remembered what our teacher once told us, that before getting something we must ask ourselves what we wanted for. That's when I realized that I did not really want her after all, so I walked out of the shop and came away."

The Talking Centipede

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet.

So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet.

So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time.

This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"

Famous Quotes (57)

Jesus' teaching about fasting:

When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden.

And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you. (Mt 6:16-18)