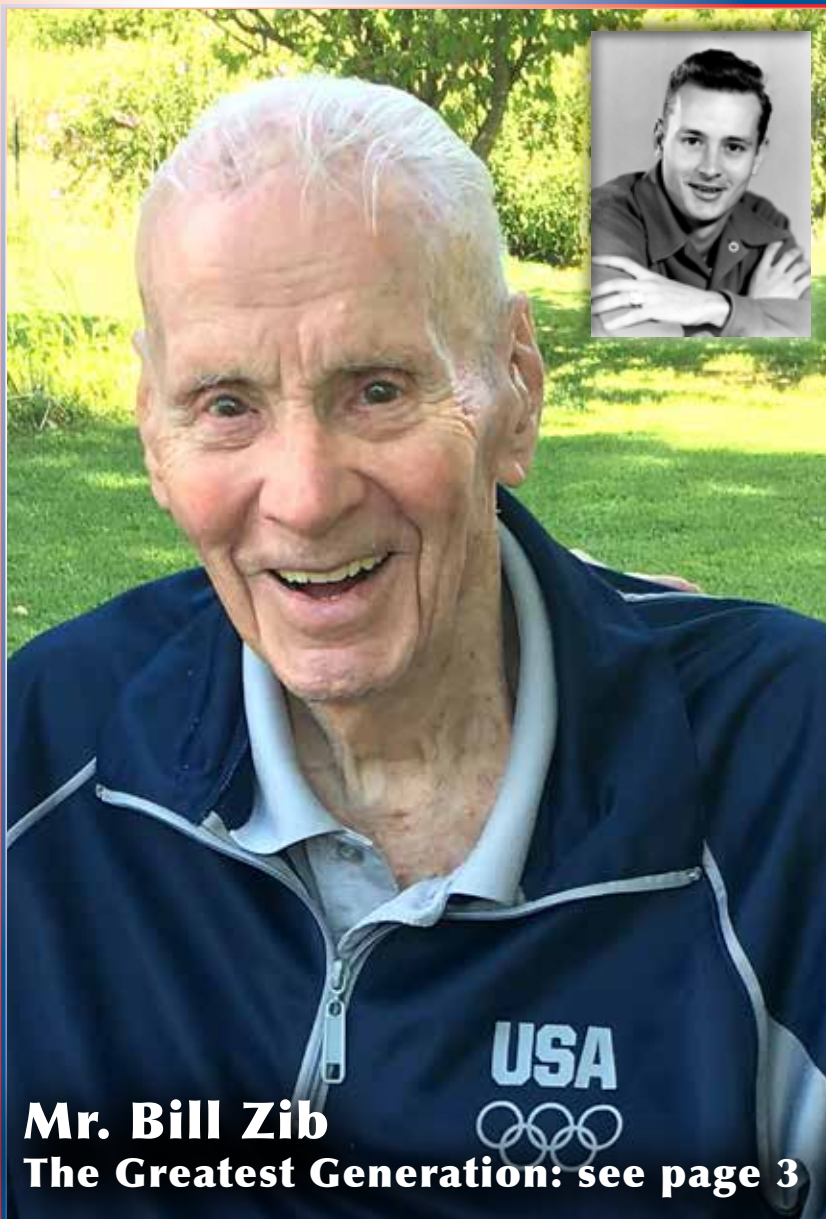


# The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



**Mr. Bill Zib**

**The Greatest Generation: see page 3**

# The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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## The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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### **Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF)**

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# Provincial Perspective

Dear Family,

Listening to our local and world news, we find that we are living in difficult and trying times. All this affects the culture around us, and we wonder what is in store for us. We long to find a little peace to refresh and renew our wearied minds and hearts.

**Frequently reflect on the Holy Family** of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph living out their lives, submitting to God's will. They questioned and feared what they could not understand. But, their strong faith and trust in God helped them in every situation.

Looking at ourselves, no doubt we share some of the Holy Family's experiences. They are the perfect example of how to keep a close relationship with God by praying daily and by loving and serving one another. Making Jesus Christ the foundation of our lives will bring the gift of true peace to our families.

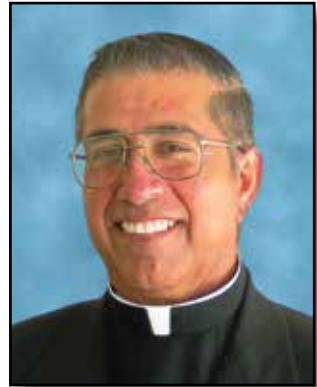
By living our lives centered on the Gospel words of Jesus Christ, and by a genuine desire to respect, protect, and love one another, we can make a difference in our world. We will then find our lives filled with more grace and truth.

Praying that the New Year, the Year of Our Lord 2018, will be a most blessed one for you and your family. Thank you for everything!

Sincerely in the Holy Family, I am

*Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.*

Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.  
Provincial Superior



*Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.*

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## An Invitation

# The Family Forever Society

by Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.

What is the Family Forever Society? It's very simple! Members of this special society are people who have remembered the Missionaries of the Holy Family in their wills or estate plans. Their bequests are called Legacy Gifts.

While most Legacy Gifts are made with the intention of the Missionaries of the Holy Family receiving benefits in the future, some Legacy Gifts are realized in the present. Gifts of securities or stock, real estate, and other tangible property are usually transferred before December 31 of any year so the benefactor can realize tax breaks for charitable donations.

Most Legacy Gifts are used as principal for our Retirement Trust Fund. While we do have a modest trust fund to help cover the rising cost of healthcare needed by the elderly and disabled members of our religious community, it is currently under funded.

**Please consider joining our Family Forever Society.** To receive a free booklet on preparing your will, please send your request to me at 3014 Oregon Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63118, or call me at 1-888-484-9945. If you are remembering us in your will, please remember us as: *Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family - North American Province.*

Our Holy Family priests and brothers will always hold you and your loved ones in prayer. Isn't that what a Family is supposed to do? Thank you and God bless you... *forever.*



Forever Yours in the Holy Family,

*Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.*

Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.  
Provincial Superior, North American Province



## FOREVER YOUNG

### Mr. Bill Zib A Saint Wenceslaus' Bohemian

On October 2, 2017, the Feast Day of the Guardian Angels, Mr. Bill Zib turned 92 years young. He is a parishioner at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, and he is a member of the Greatest Generation, those who served our nation in World War II. He shared with us some details about his fascinating life.



Bill in his birthday suit.

#### When were you born?

I was born on October 2, 1925.

#### Were your parents “Bohunks”?

Yes, of course! A Bohunk is a person from Bohemia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. For us, Bohunk is a good-natured term, a common reference.

#### Where were you born?

I was born in the home of my parents, close to Saint Wenceslaus Church, at 3133 Oregon Avenue in Saint Louis,

Missouri. At the time, my parents lived upstairs. But, eventually, my grandma lived upstairs and the rest of the family lived downstairs.

I was baptized at Saint Wenceslaus, and I attended the church grade school. After elementary school, I went to Roosevelt High School in Saint Louis, a public school. After my service in the Navy, I enrolled at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia. However, wherever life took me, Saint Wenceslaus has always been my home parish.

#### How many siblings do you have?

I only have one sister. Her name is Dolores, and she is four years younger than me. She still lives in the Saint Louis area.



Bill as a young man.

#### Whom did you marry?

I married Ilse Mang. She was not a Bohunk, just a hunk! A German girl, and my best friend married my wife's sister, too! Ilse and I married in 1948.



Bill and his beautiful bride.

She died in 1996.

I first met her at random with some friends near Roosevelt High School. At the time, I was the captain of a men's baseball team sponsored by McMahon Pontiac in the 1940s, and we traveled a lot. We won a championship in Pittsburgh, and, back in Saint Louis, we went to a bar to celebrate, but I told the boys, "Sodas only!"

Ilse and some of her friends recognized me and knocked on the bar window. I let her inside and our friendship continued to grow.

### **What did you do for a living?**

I worked for a printing and paint business in Saint Louis, Sinclair & Valentine. I started out as a printer, but then I was promoted to paint salesman. My father-in-law told me, "Get a real job!"

I had a good career as a paint salesman, though, even leading the nation twice for annual paint sales with Sinclair & Valentine.

### **How many children and grandchildren do you have?**

I have two sons, Phil and Billy. Billy had one son, Behn, who is my only grandchild. Billy died of cancer in 1991 when Behn was just five years old.



Bill, Ilse, and their first son Phil.



Bill Zib with his grandson Behn Zib.

### **You made a run at playing Major League Baseball. Do you have any stories?**

I played first base, and I was a switch hitter. I tried out for the Chicago Cubs and the Saint Louis Cardinals, and I



Bill, front row and fourth from the left, captain of the McMahon Pontiac baseball team.

was in their farm systems. Enos Slaughter, a right fielder for the Cardinals and a Hall of Famer, once joked with me, *“Why are you hitting left handed?”*

As a switch hitter, I can hit right and left handed. So, to make Enos happy, I showed him that I could hit from the left side of the plate and the right side.

I met the Stan Musial family in church at Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish in the Saint Louis Hills neighborhood of Saint Louis. Stan Musial was a classy man, on and off the field.

As a student at Saint Wenceslaus Grade School, we were playing baseball on the playground, and I hit a home run that knocked out a window at Kutis Funeral Home. So, we turned around and batted the other way. On my next time at bat, I hit another home run that knocked out a stained glass window of Saint Wenceslaus Church!

**I got into big trouble!** Fortunately, my parents, William and Mary Zib, knew Tommy Kutis, owner of Kutis Funeral Home. My dad and Tommy went to school together. Because of their friendship, Tommy Kutis only charged me 10 cents for replacing the window at Kutis Funeral Home.

Father William Hamtil, pastor at Saint Wenceslaus, was not pleased with me, either, to say the least. At 92, I am still doing penance for that stained glass window! Because of this infamous childhood memory, I would always tell my wife and kids at church, *“Don’t get wild!”* My beautiful wife would then tell me, *“Bill, stop whining!”*



Bill served his country in the Navy in World War II.

### **What memories do you have of serving in the Navy?**

I served four years during World War II in the U.S. Navy, 1942 – 1946. I served on the USS Thurban as a Boatswain’s Mate First Class, which means I supervised the deck crew. I was promoted to Coxswain of an LCVP (Landing Craft Vehicle, Personnel) Higgins Boat. I was in charge of the boat, particularly the navigation. In other words, I was the driver, and my boat carried sailors for amphibious landings.

I served in seven battles in the Pacific Theater, including the Battle of Tarawa (near Japan), where two of my landing craft were blown apart by Japanese gunfire on the same day. At the time, the Japanese occupied the Tarawa islands. Counting both of my landing craft, there were a total of 54 Marines on board, and 36 of them died.

Eddie Albert, the film and television actor, was using a machine gun to protect me and others who were blown out of the landing craft. I hit my head

on something, and I was bleeding. When Eddie got shot and went down, I put my hand under his chin and swam to the nearest shoreline. That was the last I saw of Eddie, but I later learned he made it out okay.

Along with two other Navy sailors, I was stranded on a small island, but the local natives provided us with food and shelter. The natives hid us from the Japanese soldiers during the day. Luckily, we were able to communicate with them because their chief once served in the Dutch Army and knew a little English.

At night, when the tides would go down, they would transfer us to different parts of the island to keep us safe from the Japanese soldiers. We were stranded on the island for a total of eight days until we were picked up by another Navy ship.

Since I spent much of my time in World War II fighting against Japan, I did learn a little Japanese, but most of it is bad language, so I will just skip those stories!

Regarding Eddie Albert, many years after the war, I wrote to his agent in 2005 to let Eddie know how proud I was of him. Unfortunately, Eddie was sick with pneumonia at the time, and he died two weeks later. God bless him.

I played baseball on the military team, and I had the honor of batting against the great Hall of Fame pitcher, Bob Feller. It was an exhibition, and anyone who had the courage to take some

swings against him was welcome to do so.

Bob Feller was a right handed pitcher, so I went to the plate batting left handed. The first pitch was a strike. I did not swing because he threw so fast, I did not see the ball! On the second pitch, I actually got a piece of it and fouled it off. I then switched to batting right handed. On the third pitch, I went down swinging. So my claim to fame is that I hit a foul ball off of Bob Feller!

### **What in life is most important to you?**

I always wanted to do my best for my wife and kids, including the men under my command in the Navy.



Bill with Saint Wenceslaus pastor, Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F., in June 2017.

### **How is the world different today than when you were growing up?**

There is a lot less discipline today. As a child, if I needed a spanking, I got one at home. If I was misbehaving at school, the nuns would crackdown on me.

*"The rod of correction gives wisdom, but an undisciplined child disgraces his mother."* Proverbs 29:15



**If you could change the world today, what would you do first?**

Well, a couple things. First, I would encourage frequent Confession or the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is very important, even if it is just to get burdens off your chest.



Mr. Bill Zib, a courageous member of America's Greatest Generation.

*I'm not going to Father Hamtil for Confession!"*

Second, I would clean up all the corruption in the world. Third, I would support our police in ways that would help them to keep public safety and feel good about their jobs.

**If God said that He would grant you one wish, what would it be?**

Now I have to tell you another story: One of my friends, as a young student, did not enjoy going to Confession. Father Hamtil was the pastor at the time. When my friend got out of the confessional, he was so relieved that he jumped over two church pews. One of my Mom's friends saw this, and she said, "I can't do that kind of penance!"

I want God's protection for my family, immediate and extended. I want to keep my family together in Heaven. I just want to make sure everyone is taken care of forever. +JM+

**Around The Province...**



Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F. gives a special blessing to the veterans of Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Saint Louis on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2017.



## YOUTHFUL OUTLOOK

### “Here I Am, Lord. Send Me!”

by Miss Bailey

Shortly after I was born, when my mother was released from the hospital, the first place she took me was to church. She placed me in front of the tabernacle and gave thanksgiving to God. This was the moment my faith journey began.

My childhood was filled with memories of going to Mass with my family, praying before meals or at any time, and attending Faith Formation classes (a favorite!), also known as CCD classes – the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

For kindergarten and first grade, I was at a Catholic school. It was a wonderful experience for the beginning of my education. I was taught how to pray the Rosary after being taught how to count. In the second grade, I was enrolled in a public school.

Since my parents separated when I was little, I didn't have the chance to make my first Holy Communion as a first grader. It wasn't until the sixth grade that I was able to do so. That was a wonderful experience all its own.

When I went to Confession for the first time, I was so moved by the Holy Spirit that I was crying from the moment I walked in, to the moment



Bailey as an altar server.

I walked out. It was extremely healing for me. I was overwhelmed with the realization that God would forgive my sins, and He was going to love me despite all that I had done. Even though I didn't have much to confess the first time, I am extremely grateful to have a faith that gives me the opportunity to seek and obtain forgiveness.

In eighth grade, I chose to be an altar server and a lector. I fell in love with serving God at the altar. The most humbling experience for me is serving at Mass while holding the paten as the priest gives out the Blessed Host, the Body of Christ. I still serve today whenever I can, and I plan to become a Eucharistic Minister soon.

During the time leading up to my Confirmation, there were impactful moments in my spiritual life. I began to question God and His existence,

and I found myself seeking answers to questions people dare not ask. As a public school student, I wanted to hold God close to me wherever I went. I was attending as many retreats as I could, such as Youth Explosion, Steubenville Conferences, and many more.

When I walked the halls of my public school, I felt alone and empty inside. During lunch, I wanted to pray before I ate, but I was too afraid to do it in front of my friends for fear of them laughing at me. I realized my friends had no problem cursing at the table, so why should I have a problem praying before I ate my lunch? I was determined to show my faith every day in any way I could.

During my freshman year, I attended a Steubenville Retreat. At the end of Mass, the priest asked for those people who feel a calling to serve God as a member of the Church to please come forward and receive a blessing. I looked down at my hands. In my right hand, I envisioned the word "Yes." In my left hand, I envisioned the word "No." I could not see myself saying no to God, so I stood up and walked down the aisle to the altar to be blessed.

I still feel called by God to serve Him in His Church, but I have no idea where God will lead me. The only thing I do know is that God is going to bless me

in many ways, and I will always be sure to tell Him, "YES!"

When that still wasn't enough for me, I decided to go back to a Catholic school after my freshman year in high school. My parents did not hesitate, and they had me enrolled. It was during my sophomore year that my faith grew to new heights, and I was absorbing as much as I could about Catholicism.

It was during this school year that I made my Confirmation. I cried all the way up the aisle to Archbishop Gustavo, professed my belief in God, and cried all the way back to my pew. I was overwhelmed with the feeling of choosing God, choosing Him over any other faith, choosing to love Him, choosing to follow Him. I was choosing to be Catholic, all on my own. That moment was everything to me, and I often think of it when I need to be reminded of how much I am loved by God.



Bailey in altar robes.



Bailey in her high school uniform.

In my junior year, I assisted second graders in Faith Formation, and I fell in love with them. The answers the chil-

dren had for questions, which even the adults could not answer, were breathtaking. They are so innocent and pure, and I knew that I needed to be involved with teaching children.



Bailey with her Faith Formation students.

I graduated with honors at the top of my class from high school. I am grateful for what I have been taught, especially the knowledge of my Catholic faith.

I am now a sophomore in college, and I still feel close to God every minute of the day. This year, I signed up to teach Faith Formation to sixth grade students, and what a wonderful experience it has been. They give me joy, and even help me to grow in my faith. They keep me honest and humble, and they

have helped me to realize that I actually do know my faith well enough to teach them the Truth.

Once, when I was 15, I was an altar server at the funeral of a little girl. I

thought about some of my friends who no longer walk with God. I am aware that life is not always positive and that pain is inevitable, but how we accept suffering is an option, a choice.

I choose God in every aspect of my life. As you read my story, please say a prayer for me as I patiently await God's call for my vocation in life. I pray that everyone will be touched in a positive way by my faith journey to grow closer to Him. God bless your family! +jMj+

## *Around The Province...*



Some members of the Missionaries of the Holy Family gathered together after the Closing Mass of their annual retreat in October 2017 in San Antonio, Texas.

# Men of God: Religious Forever

In this Year of Our Lord 2018, four priests and one brother of the Missionaries of the Holy Family are celebrating anniversaries of their ordination (priests) and perpetual vows (brother).

We thank God for our priests and brothers, and we beseech Him to send us many more. If you would like to send a Tribute Gift in honor of one or more of these Men of God, please send it to 3014 Oregon Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118. Thank you and God bless your family!



Fr. Phil Sosa, M.S.F.  
50 years



Br. Rolland Kapsner, M.S.F.  
45 years



Fr. Andrea Spatafora, M.S.F.  
35 years



Fr. Camillo Botello, M.S.F.  
15 years



Fr. Peter Prasetyo, M.S.F.  
10 years

## Do You Want More Holy Priests?

Please join the *Holy Family Circle* and help foster vocations to the priesthood! Find your level of joyful giving below, complete the form, and mail it or a copy to 3014 Oregon Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118.

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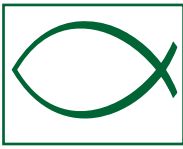
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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My Level of Joyful Giving per month: \_\_\_\_\_



## A PROFILE OF SERVICE

### Feed the Hungry

by Celia Barragan

On May 14, 2015, the *U.S. Catholic* magazine printed an article about Pope Francis and his stand on feeding the hungry. It pointed out that Jesus' first miracle occurred when He turned water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana. Another time, Jesus turned five loaves of bread and two fish into a meal for 5,000 people. Pope Francis asks us to work toward feeding the hungry around the world.

*"The planet has enough food for all, but it seems that there is a lack of willingness to share it with everyone,"* he said during a homily for the general assembly of Caritas Internationalis. Pope Francis reminds us to not forget about those around the world who are suffering from lack of food and drinking water. They live in our city, and we are responsible for helping them. Jesus asks us to feed the hungry, and He explicitly tells the disciples, *"Just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."* (Matthew 25:45)

Both the Gospels and the Pope's sermon



Sylvia Knoblauch inspects the canned items in the food pantry.

remind us that helping the hungry should be done out of love: the love of God and love for one another. Only love is a strong enough force to overcome our self-interest and help us make the sacrifices that are necessary to stabilize the problem of hunger and make sure everyone has enough food to eat. Like Pope Francis' command to feed the hungry, working to make this happen takes love and self-sacrifice.

**Sylvia Knoblauch has been doing this for 17 years.** She started by volunteering at the food pantry at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Seguin, Texas. At the time, Sylvia and the office secretaries were providing 10 bags of groceries per week to citizens of Guadalupe County. The bags were distributed from the church office. They would prepare the bags as needed or requested. The need kept growing, however, so distribution was moved to the parish center.

Today, the food pantry feeds between



Bagged food pantry grocery items in the parish center.

250-300 families each month. Thanks to the San Antonio Food Bank, the Feeding America Program with Wal-

more donations on Friday. To those who spearhead the efforts, such as -- Sylvia Knoblauch and Evaristo & Liandra Hernandez -- it can be a full time job without pay. It is truly a job done out of love and self-sacrifice.



Sylvia Knoblauch with members of the Lions Club. Sylvia is second from the left.

Mart, the Seguin Sunset Lions Club, Woodmen of the World, and many donors, the food pantry is able to obtain the food it needs each week. Numerous trips are made to the San Antonio Food Bank where the majority of the food is purchased or donated. We are fortunate when the food is delivered to the church.

Countless volunteers make the food pantry possible. Volunteers include those who pick up food from Wal-Mart through the use of their personal trucks, those who bag the food on Monday, those who distribute the food on Tuesday, and others who receive



Some of the food pantry volunteers.

**The food pantry is always looking for volunteers.** Drivers are needed, as well as anyone wishing to give a few hours of their week to prepare the bags of food on Monday, Tuesday, or Friday. Come help on one day or all three days each week. Give whatever time you have to give, and we will appreciate it very much.

Be involved. Care for those who have nothing. Feed the poor. Thank you and God bless your family! **+jMJ+**

# Family Baptism

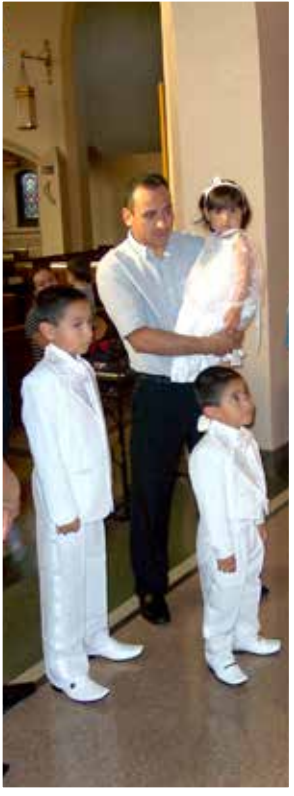


*In October 2017, three members of the Martinez Family were baptized together at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri by Father Jim Wasser, M.S.F.*





# Family Baptism



*May these  
Children of  
God be blessed  
and protected  
forever!*



## BE RECONCILED TO GOD

# The Forgotten Sacrament

by Father Jim Beegan, M.S.F.

Two questions faithful Catholics often hear from Protestants, non-believers, and, unfortunately, fellow Catholics are:

- 1) Why do Catholics have to confess their sins to a priest?
- 2) Why can't Catholics simply make a confession directly to God?

Since Vatican II, lines for Confession in Catholic churches have become much shorter, while the lines for Communion have become much longer. Why is this?

Many Catholic theologians believe there has been a loss of a sense of sin. This has occurred not only in society in general, but also among members of the Catholic Church. There is also a deficiency in Catholic catechesis or teaching about the nature of sin and the healing power of the sacrament of penance, which is also called the sacrament of confession or the sacrament of reconciliation.

### The Crisis

Obviously, there is a very great need to

restore a genuine sense of sin among our Catholic people. They need to be catechized more fully; teaching needs more substance. There needs to be a greater understanding of the official teachings of the Catholic Church regarding sin and repentance. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a good place to begin.



All human beings, in our society and in our Church, have a fallen human nature and a darkened intellect. These are the legacy of our first parents, Adam and Eve, and together they create a weakness or inclination toward sin.

Of great importance is the need for Christians to understand that Jesus Christ Himself instituted the sacrament of penance for the forgiveness of sins. This is very biblical.

### Institution of the Sacrament

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his apostles who were His first priests, "Whatever you bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven." (See Matthew 16:13-20 and 18:15-20.)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells these same apostles, *“Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”* (See John 20:19-23.)

Having a special representative to plead with God for the forgiveness of the sins of the people can be found in the Old Testament, too. In the *Book of Baruch*, the Jewish exiles in Babylon repented of the sins that had led them into humiliation by their enemies. They asked the priests back in Jerusalem to intercede for them saying, *“Pray for us to the Lord, our God, for we have sinned against the Lord, our God.”* (See the Book of Baruch, chapter 1.)

Therefore, there is a great need in these modern times to make clear, to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, what the sacrament of penance is really about in a comprehensive manner.

### **The Reality of Sin**

First of all, we need to be aware that there is an infinite, all holy God. He created the world and everything in it. He also created the first two human beings, Adam and Eve, without sin. When they sinned against God out of their own freewill, they became separated from Him.



All human beings are descended from Adam and Eve, and we have inherited this same defect called original sin, which inflicts us with a weakened will and a darkened intellect. As a result, we often have a tendency to sin, and we do not fully comprehend the consequences of our sins.

### **Remedy for Sin**

Jesus Christ came into this fallen world 2,000 years ago as its redeemer and savior. He established the sacrament of baptism, which makes it possible for all His baptized followers to receive pardon for their sins.

In the sacrament of baptism, our soul is



cleansed from all sin, both the original sin we inherited from Adam and Eve and any personal sins we committed. But what about our spiritual lives after we have received baptism?

Father John Trigilio and Father Kenneth Brighenti, authors of books on the teachings of the Catholic Church, explain it this way:

*The sacrament of penance is for spiritual healing. Just as tumors are benign or malignant, the Catholic Church teaches that sins are either venial or mortal. Mortal sins are very serious and, until*

*confessed, they kill all spiritual life in the soul.*

Mortal sins are intrinsically evil, and some examples are murder, adultery, blasphemy, and homosexual acts such as sodomy.

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***Mortal sins are intrinsically evil, and some examples are murder, adultery, blasphemy, and homosexual acts such as sodomy.***

---

Other sins are called venial because they are lesser sins that do not kill all spiritual life in the soul. However, they do weaken and diminish our spiritual health and make us less effective disciples of Jesus Christ.

Mortal sins ordinarily must be confessed to a priest in order to obtain forgiveness. The confession of venial sins is also a good practice, but it is not absolutely necessary for forgiveness. Because Jesus gave the apostles the power to forgive sins in His name, He must have wanted them to use it.

### **Sacrament of Penance**

The sacrament of penance has been the remedy given by Christ to His followers for the forgiveness of sin. Before receiving this sacrament, Catholics ought to make a thorough examination of conscience. Particularly important is to recall any mortal sins committed and confess those to the priest.

The penitent would also do well to stir up a genuine sense of sorrow for venial

sins which have been repeatedly committed. After confession, the penitent will be given a penance to fulfill and absolution by the priest. Often, spiritual advice will be given on how to be a more faithful disciple of Christ.



### **Conclusion**

Scott Hahn has written an outstanding book on the sacrament of penance entitled *Lord, Have Mercy: The Healing Power of Confession*. In it, he writes:

*The sacrament of reconciliation has fallen into disuse. Some parishes have pulled back to a half-hour per week of posted times for confession. Yet never has the world known such a need for the sacrament. Some people seek escape from their sins through drugs or codependent relationships. Others hope to find relief through counseling or other therapies.*

*While all these might help us mask the symptoms, none ultimately can cure the disease of sin. Only by confessing our sins do we allow the Lamb of God to take them away. Through confession, we begin to heal. We begin to get our story straight. We come home through the open door to resume our place in God's family. We begin to know peace.*

So, go to confession and then go in peace. God bless you. [+jMJ+](#)

## *Around The Province...*



Father Feddy Himawan, M.S.F. gave a retreat for the Ladies of Mary of Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri in March 2017.

## *Around The Province...*



Father Al Irawan, M.S.F., here with parishioner Stella Ozuna, enjoys his new assignment at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, Texas.



## HOLY FAMILY LIFE

### 10 Days in Europe

by Father Francois Rakotoavoavy, M.S.F.



For the first time in the history of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, we had an international gathering for members of our community to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Profession of Vows. Our pilgrimage took us to Rome, La Salette in France, and Chatonnay in France. Our founder, Servant of God Father John Berthier, was born in Chatonnay.

The idea to do this came from our General Government in Rome, especially the Commission of Formation led by Father P. Agustinus Purnama, M.S.F., Vicar General. Fifteen priests from six different provinces around the world came to celebrate together for ten days in July 2017.

We met in Rome and had conferences together. One special guest for the priests from Madagascar was Father Egon, a former Superior General of our community.

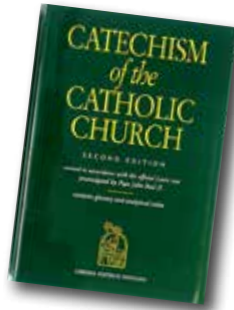


He is a German priest. Father Egon came to Madagascar 25 years ago to receive our First Profession of Vows. All the priests shared some of their experiences of living in community and working as Missionaries of the Holy Family.

During our pilgrimage, we celebrated Mass in the hometown of our founder. Everyone was very happy and thankful to God, and we feel renewed in working with God's grace to guide our community into the future. We encourage our General Government to continue these international gatherings for the next generation of priests.

On behalf of all members of the Missionaries of the Holy Family who took part in this pilgrimage, I thank Very Reverend Edmund Michalski, M.S.F., Superior General, and his team for a wonderful time of faith and fellowship.

+jMJ+



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catechism

On October 11, 1992, on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Saint John Paul II promulgated the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* with his apostolic constitution, *Fidei Depositum*. October 11, 2017 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Catechism*.

The *Catechism* was written to: “faithfully and systematically present the teaching of Sacred Scripture, the living Tradition of the Church, and the authentic Magisterium, as well as the spiritual heritage of the Fathers and the Church’s saints, to allow for a better knowledge of the Christian mystery and for enlivening the faith of the People of God” (FD III).

There are many ways for us to celebrate this momentous anniversary by familiarizing ourselves with its content, the deposit of our faith. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is arranged into four parts:

- 1) The Creed
- 2) The Sacred Liturgy, with pride of place given to the Sacraments
- 3) The Christian way of life, beginning with the Ten Commandments
- 4) Christian Prayer

Pope Saint John Paul II writes, “The four parts are related one to the other: the Christian mystery is the object of faith (first part); it is celebrated and communicated in liturgical actions (second part); it is present to enlighten and sustain the children of God in their actions (third part); it is the basis for our prayer, the privileged expression of which is the *Our Father*, and it represents the object of our supplication, our praise, and our intercession (fourth part)” (FD III).

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## CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY

# Truth Beyond Statistics

by Celia Barragan

When we love those in need, we are loving Jesus. It is a mystery beyond science, a truth beyond statistics. But it is a message that Jesus made crystal clear: when we love them, we love Him.

surrounding neighborhoods the opportunity to shop for children's items without "breaking the bank." He wanted to improve the lives of families by offering affordable resources parents need.



Nazareth is known as the childhood home of Jesus. How appropriate that this should be the name of our store which takes care of children.

**From this desire was born the Nazareth House Resale Shop.** The dream became a reality with the generous monetary backing of the +Patrick & Rose

Patek Family and the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation. Frank Rangel constructed the building, and a group of wonderful volunteers headed by Josie Guerrero made all of the necessary preparations.



Father David Tonary, M.S.F., pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Seguin, Texas, had a desire to provide families from the parish and

On July 11, 2015, the doors opened to the public, which is the feast day of Saint Benedict, the patron saint of school children and students.



The store is open Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Every week, new items are available for newborns to boys and girls up to the age of 16: clothing, toys, games, shoes, strollers, playpens, furniture, and



so much more. Donations of gently used clothing for children are always welcomed.

The Nazareth House Resale Shop is a non-profit organization. Out of the overall proceeds, \$6,000 goes to the education of the parish CCD (faith formation) students. Any financial donations are earmarked for educational scholarships for high school seniors. Students who have participated in the faith formation program during their 12 years of education are eligible to apply for a scholarship.

The Nazareth House Resale Shop continues to be made possible due to


countless hours by volunteers who wholeheartedly give of their time and



resources. Come by and see for yourself the blessings which have been bestowed upon the Church and the people she serves.



Some Nazareth House volunteers with the manager, Josie Guerrero (white apron).

Nazareth House Resale Shop is located at 708 North Guadalupe Street, which is close to the church, and the telephone number is (830) 433-4205. Welcome to our little Nazareth House! God bless your family. 

*Thank You & God Bless You, to everyone who made a financial gift in 2017. We, the priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, extend our deep gratitude to all our benefactors. You are remembered in our prayers.*



# Living with the Poor

by Father F.A. Eka Yuantoro, M.S.F.

After four years into his papacy, Pope Francis declared the first World Day of the Poor. He took the name of Francis after Francis of Assisi to follow the example of this saint who

became poor to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Saint Paul teaches us that *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.”* (2 Corinthians 8:9)

We celebrated the first World Day of the Poor on Sunday, November 19, 2017, in anticipation of the feast of Christ, King of the Universe on Sunday, November 26, 2017. Jesus is a king for the poor, and we learn this in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 25:31-46.

Pope Francis invites us to do something for the poor, not with words, but with deeds. Saint Francis of Assisi left everything behind to share the Good News with the poor. He was able to see and serve God in the poor. Even though it is very hard for our contemporary



world to see and listen to the cry of the poor, it is our opportunity to build the Kingdom of God.

### Outside the Poor there is No Salvation

*Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus* is a Latin phrase which means “outside the Church there is no salvation.” I like to use the phrase *extra Pauperam nulla salus*, which means “outside the poor there is no salvation.”

Jon Sobrino wrote the book, *No Salvation Outside the Poor*. He explained that if we are called disciples of Jesus, then we must share the Good News with people who are marginalized and living in the scandal of global poverty. Similarly, Pope Francis is challenging us to do the same. If the sincerely poor around us are asking for help, we cannot just say, *“Go in peace and we will pray for you.”* This is not the answer.

Nobody wants to be born poor, but this is a reality for many. They do not have food, clothing, housing, and an opportunity for a better life. Some of



them are victims of violence, human trafficking, and abuse by a broken political-social-economic system. Pope Francis said that poverty lives in the faces of men, women, and children exploited by mean interests, crushed by the desires of others for power and money.

Regarding the poor and the beatitudes in the Gospels of Saint Matthew (chapter 5) and Saint Luke (chapter 6), there



are differences. Saint Luke tells about the human conditions of the poor, while Saint Matthew refers to the “poor in spirit,” which does not exclude people of wealth. Pope Francis notes that poverty is an interior attitude that avoids looking upon money, career, and luxury as our goal in life and the

condition for our happiness. Materialistic people tend to forget to thank God for the many blessings He has already given them.

Jesus lived with the poor. He was born in a manger and visited by poor shepherds. For his presentation in the temple, his parents were able to give a small offering for his purification (Luke 2:24). Jesus as the Son of God lived with the poor to show us the mercy of God.

In the mystery of the cross and resurrection, we see that Jesus died among the poor and victims of oppression. On the cross, he took on the cold and nakedness of people who suffer without clothing, housing, and food. He offered his holy body and blood as ransom for our sins so that we can live and find eternal glory. Jesus showed us how to live as the poor do, as the widow who put two small coins in the temple treasury box (Luke 21:1-4). She offered everything, herself and all that she had to live on, to God.

Jesus is still living with the poor today. There are four categories or faces of the poor:

- 1) Economic poverty means lacking the basics of life, such as food, water, clothing, and housing.
- 2) Moral or spiritual poverty can take place on many levels, including sexual abuse, acts of perversion, and human trafficking.
- 3) Social poverty is the reality of being isolated or depressed, with no connection to public services or support from other people.
- 4) Educational poverty exists when there is little or no access to a quality education to break the cycle of poverty.

The Church has to live among the people and to sacrifice as Jesus did. Pope Francis noted this from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* when celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this book, which contains the official teachings of the Church, in October 2017:

*“...Poverty, understood in this way, is the yardstick that allows us to judge how best to use material goods and to build relationships that are neither selfish nor possessive.”*

The Church of the Poor is a very ancient concept of the Church. Saint Paul described it very well when he proclaimed the Good News to the people in Corinth (see his First and Second Letters to the Corinthians). In Saint Luke’s Gospel, many of Christ’s audiences were poor people outside of the elite structures of Israel.

The Messiah of the Poor is also a concept of the ancient Church because Jesus can save us from the slavery of

sin. We have to be soldiers for the poor and welcome them into the community of love, which is the Church.

### **Journey with the Poor**



There is a need to make the Word of God effective for people today living in difficult circumstances. In the United States, there is a program called *Encuentro* which began 46 years ago to help Hispanics to become more involved in the Catholic Church.

Between the years 2000 and 2010, the Hispanic population in the United States has increased significantly, with 16% of the total population of Hispanic or Latino origin. The top two states are California and Texas. The majority are blue collar workers and farm laborers. Some have higher paying jobs, but that is a relatively small percentage.

To really help the poor, we need programs of empowerment. It is not enough to give them food. They need the means to be able to earn food that respects their dignity. If the mission of Jesus Christ is to bring Good News to the poor, then this must include our efforts to lift them out of the perpetual

cycle of poverty. Pope Francis uses the term solidarity for providing concrete assistance, programs of substance to the poor.

### **Clerical Clothes?**

As Missionaries of the Holy Family, we are called to build up the Church in the ideals of the Holy Family wherever needed, especially by working with the poor. First, I was a missionary in the jungles of Borneo and Papua New Guinea, and now I am a missionary near the border between the United States and Mexico.

While in Papua New Guinea, I was wearing my clerical clothes. When it was my duty to patrol in the bush (jungle), my bishop asked me, *“Where are you going?”* When I told him, he said, *“Do you realize what you are wearing? Clerical clothes are not for a priest in the jungle. Even the monkeys will laugh at you!”* What my bishop said is true. I had to cross a river, swim with crocodiles, and climb a mountain.

One day, it was about noon time and my stomach was empty. I found a papaya half eaten by a bird, so I ate the other half to gain my strength. When I arrived at my destination, I was hoping for a big dinner. The people in the village welcomed me, and I was given sak-sak or sagu (a starch from tropical palm stems used for food) with the leg of a rat. It was surprisingly nice!

I closed my eyes and went to sleep that night knowing God will take care of me. Before I left the village, the leader asked for my t-shirt and I gave it to him. This is what Jesus would have done. I

was learning to empty myself to those in need.

It was a dream come true when my superior sent me to the United States. I thought I would see skyscrapers in big cities, but I was assigned to Saint Joseph Church in Donna, Texas near the border of Mexico in the Rio Grande Valley. Many people are living in colonias (slums), and some of them do not have running water, electricity, and a stable house. Many of them came here illegally, and they are victims of violence, drug dealing gangs, and human trafficking.



One evening, after celebrating Mass at Saint Joseph's, a person came up to me and asked for food. I went grocery shopping with some parishioners and brought food to where the family was staying in the colonia. I was shocked to see that they did not have a real house to live in and two babies with no food. I could not just say, *“Be at peace and I will pray for you.”* My heart demands more from my priesthood. We gave them the groceries and left some money on the table for other necessities.

On another occasion, I was called for a house blessing. I blessed the house and the family asked me to stay for dinner. I sat in a chair that had a nail in it. After the meal, I realized that my pants were ripped. Luckily, I had a jacket to cover myself, and I went to a local clothing store to buy new pants!



**The poor give us the opportunity to be saints by imitating Jesus who is present among them.**

In their faces, I see the splendor of Jesus Christ. In their faces and in their hearts is Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Do we love Christ? How can we say that we do if we do

Pope Francis tells us that the poor are not a problem. They are a resource to draw from as we practice our Gospel virtues.

not love the poor?

God bless your family! **+JMJ+**

## Pieta Votive Candles



This beautiful Pieta statue is in Saint Wenceslaus Church in Saint Louis, Missouri, and in the rectory are the offices of the North American Province of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. If you would like a 7-day votive candle lit for your family and your intentions, contact us at 1-888-484-9945 or [mprater@msf-america.org](mailto:mprater@msf-america.org). Candles burn in a rack to the right of the statue. (The suggested donation is \$7.00.) Thank you and may God bless you.



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*What is the Forgotten Sacrament?  
See page 16 for details.*



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