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# Sharing God's Mercy with the Needy

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**Published By:**

The Pious Union of St. Joseph, Patron of the Suffering and Dying

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*O St. Joseph, foster father of  
Jesus Christ and true spouse of the  
Virgin Mary, pray for us and the  
suffering and dying of today.*

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**Now and at The Hour** is a non-profit bi-monthly publication of the Divine Providence Province of the Servants of Charity, a Catholic Religious Congregation founded by Saint Louis Guanella, (1842–1915).

**Center Image:** Mother Teresa of Kolkata, the tiny woman recognized throughout the world for her work among the poorest of the poor, one of the most relevant personalities of our age and an icon of the Good Samaritan will be canonized on September 4, 2016.



# Back to School: Why Going to School is Important

*By Fr. Silvio De Nard, SdC*

**F**or some people, school is fun. For others, school is suffering. Personally, going to school as a child was suffering because school was a constraining place where my wild “me” was not permitted. My wild “me” disliked the desk. It resembled a jail more than a wonderful place where wonderful knowledge was instilled in wonderful me. Little by little though, I entered into the world of knowledge and never left it.

For me it was fun to write a composition. It was fun to study history and geography. It was fun, and still is, reading books, reading articles from newspapers or blogs. Every time it is discovering new worlds, new minds, new things you never paid attention to before. Math was my “passion” according to the Latin meaning. Passion comes from ‘pati’ meaning: suffering, enduring, bearing. I had to, on more than one occasion, attend summer school for math.

The first thing that strikes me about school is knowledge gain. School gives us a knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life. Education makes us capable of interpreting things. It is not just about lessons in textbooks. It is about the lessons of life.

School is a place where a child is challenged by subjects and topics. The intellectual process that children go through at school is phenomenal. Not even the best computers can compare to our human minds. Computers are technological machines with no soul or emotions; our human minds are powerful entities that skim infinity and border on divinity. God created us in his own image and likeness. We should be aware that we come close to what God is, ultimate intelligence, and beauty, and holiness.

Our human knowledge is of course nowhere near God’s knowledge. Not even if we live ten thousand lives will we be able to get close to the knowledge of God. However, God gave us the gift of intelligence and reason to penetrate into his divine mystery seen in creation and its endless source of discoveries.

In the Book of Proverbs we read, “The Lord gives wisdom and out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He who walks with wise men shall be wise. But a companion of fools shall be a loser.”

At school, children should learn the right things: the Christian values that built our western civilization. Without Christianity, our world would be poorer in sciences, in politics, in economics, in arts, in the numberless fields of knowledge that makes our civilization what it is. Christianity was and should be still today the North Pole of our society and culture, simply because we come from God and God is our Teacher.

As you know, unfortunately, many schools today are a mess. What our children learn is not what parents want and especially not what God wants. Teachers teach what they are told by the administrators, while parents are left at the side as simple spectators. Religion and faith are now the enemy; they are harmful to children’s minds. The state wants to be in control of everything, even the minds of people. This is a new slavery. And the United States went through a prolonged bloody war in fighting slavery. It seems that history is no longer a teacher of life.

I am afraid that in many instances children are just guinea pigs for cultural experiments that don’t have anything to do with school. The gender issue is one of them. Five year old children are supposed to choose their own gender? This is an aberration. Parents should be aware of the contents of what the school teaches. Parents entrust their children to the teachers, and teachers have the duty to teach what is objectively true and right.

Holy Spirit, come upon teachers and children. Lead them into the infinite knowledge of yours that they may know what is pleasing to you, what is true and right for their life here on earth and for their eternal salvation.

## PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN AS THEY LEAVE FOR SCHOOL

**O God,** I offer you your child \_\_\_\_\_  
as he/she goes to school. He/She is Your child. I pray for all students especially  
for \_\_\_\_\_.

Shower him/her with the power of the Holy Spirit and surround him/her with  
Your love that he/she may know that You love him/her no matter what he/she  
does. Empower him/her with the discerning spirit to act with prudence and  
fortitude always focusing on being holy. Guide and protect him/her from all evil.

**Amen. Mother of God, pray for us.**

# NEW SCHOOL PRAYER

*By a student in Minnesota*

Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule  
For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him very odd.  
If scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a Federal matter now.  
Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene..  
The law is specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.  
For praying in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no faith at all..  
In silence alone we must meditate,  
God's name is prohibited by the State..  
We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...  
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.  
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,  
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.  
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong..  
We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles...  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.  
It's scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; My soul please take!

**Amen.**

# Saint Joseph's Sorrows

By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

**St. Joseph is the silent saint. He never said a word in the Gospel. He thinks, he meditates, he prays, he listens, never complains, never objects, never refuses, but he never said a word.**

If we are among those who would stop short at the idea of having Joseph's Calvary go beyond the hidden life of Christ, we might consider and meditate on his life in real terms rather than stories.



We could say a rosary by following the **mysteries** of his life.

On the first one, we witness the anguish of his heart when he saw in his betrothed the signs of approaching motherhood. His heart was torn at the thought of losing her, but when the Angel assured him that her fruitfulness was of the Holy Spirit, the frightful nightmare was changed into a song of praise to God, coupled with a redoubled respect and tenderness for Mary who was blessed among all women.

Secondly, when the doors of Bethlehem were closed to them, Joseph experienced a heart rending sorrow. This grief was compensated for when Mary placed the Divine Infant in his arms. Surely Joseph holds a unique place among the lovers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

The third sword that was thrust into Joseph's heart was that as the father of the Divine Child, he was obliged to circumcise the Divine Infant. The tears of pain that flowed and the Blood of the wound were an agony to Joseph's sensitive heart. But then, the moment of joy came, for Joseph was the first to pronounce: the Name of Jesus!

The prophecy of Simeon deeply pierced Joseph's heart. The sufferings foretold here

involved the two persons he valued more than life itself. Yet, the joy of hearing Jesus proclaimed, “A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel,” (Lk 2,32) flooded the soul of Joseph with a profound peace!

The Flight into Egypt was not the least of Joseph’s sorrows. Here it was given him to shield the life of the Savior from the tyrannical Herod. Both Mother and Child were dependent upon him. Indeed here he was more than ever the shadow of the father. Yet even the desert became a joy for Joseph, and rightly so, for it was given him to serve Jesus and Mary, as no other before or after him.

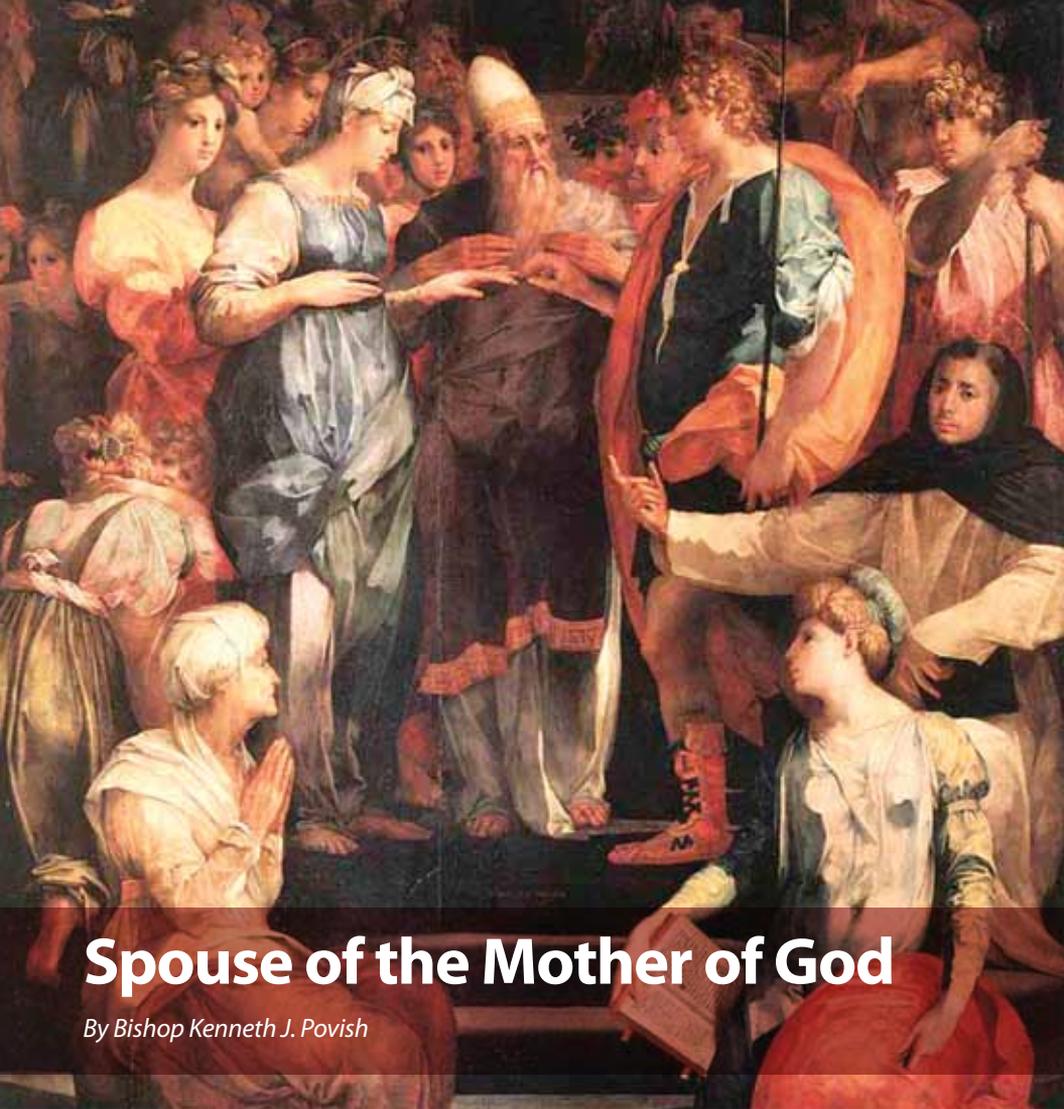
The sixth sorrow involved Joseph’s anxiety about returning to Palestine. He realized that Archelaus was another threat to the life of the Divine Child. The appearance of an Angel in his sleep solved the dilemma. It would not be Bethlehem, but Nazareth, where he would take the treasures entrusted to him by the Eternal Father. The joy of this dream was given to him by the Father by Divine Right.



The last recorded sorrow was the one confirmed by our Lady herself. At the termination of the mystery of the loss of the Christ Child, Mary speaks for both Joseph and herself. Upon finding Him, she exclaims,

“Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” (Lk 3,48). We can never conceive the extent of Joseph’s joy when he found Jesus after those three days of profound grief. Upon finding Him, Joseph was raised to a new level of love and holiness.

Let us consider the benefits of ‘going to Joseph’ whose protection God has offered to the entire mystical body of Christ, His Church. Devotion to St. Joseph is one of the choicest graces that God can give a soul. There has been more work in the soul of Joseph than went into the creation of the world. We have the Gospel account to back him up. Though words are few, he is depicted by St. Peter Chrysologus as “a just man, a perfect man, one who has virtues. Surely, Mary, the dispenser of all graces, would see to it that Joseph would have a full share of them.”



# Spouse of the Mother of God

*By Bishop Kenneth J. Povish*

**The third invocation of the Litany of St. Joseph points to his relationship with Mary, the greatest of the saints and, along with it, the subordination of Joseph to her in what we might call the divine protocol.**

**W**e speak of the Holy Family as Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Some of us were taught as kids in Catholic schools to write “JMJ” on the top of every sheet of homework. Our teachers saw this as a sort of dedication of our efforts to those holy personages. We’ve made the correct ranking when we use the order Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Ranking first is Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. He is the infinite superior, as Creator and Redeemer of the other two. Mary is a high second by reason of her selection from among all women to be the mother of the Word Incarnate. The scriptures plainly teach that she is the mother of Jesus. But Jesus is God. Therefore, the Council of Ephesus declared way back in the year 431, Mary may rightly be called the Mother of God.

The carpenter of Nazareth is the least of this threesome. However, what an honor he had to be the Spouse of the Mother of God! He certainly shared in her awesome privilege, albeit in a subordinate way, by being the husband of Mary.

Joseph's rank and role relative to Mary is comparable in a way to that of the prince consort in several instances of recent European history. When a daughter succeeds to the throne rather than a son, the daughter becomes queen; but the man she marries does not become the king. Thus Queen Victoria was crowned queen of England in 1837; but her husband of many years, the famous Prince Albert, was never recognized as king. Holland had three successive queens, Wilhelmina, Juliana and Beatrix. Because no sons were born in the House of Orange; their husbands had the title of prince consort, never king. And, of course, the husband of the reigning Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain is Prince Philip, not King Philip.

Nevertheless, it is a great honor to be the husband of a queen. With due regard for what Jesus said in Mt 11, 11 about there being, "none greater than John the Baptist," the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. Joseph of Nazareth, we would have to say, holds the greatest honor to come to any male in salvation history: Spouse of the Mother of God and Foster Father of the Son of God.

When we examine some of the other titles in this Litany, especially the fourth, the fifth and the ninth, we shall see being engaged and then married to the Mother of God brought much heartache and difficulty to St. Joseph. However, after God sent the angel in a dream to say to him, "Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child," Joseph married her and was faithful ever afterwards to his sublime role: Spouse of the Mother of God.

**Editor's Note:** Bishop Povish had a deep devotion to St. Joseph which he shared with the faithful through these meditations on each invocation of the Litany of St. Joseph. The meditations were originally published in this magazine, one invocation each issue. They have been collected into a book which is now available through the Pious Union, see page 31 for instructions to request your copy.

May his words help to draw you closer to the foster-father of the Son of God.



## Shrine News

*Sr. Ann Hubler, DSMP*

**The Shrine of St. Joseph is a place of prayer, and although we try to keep the grounds beautiful and conducive to prayer, much work and attention is needed. We depend so much on our volunteers. We couldn't do it without them!**

**A**pril 23rd was set aside for the annual “spring cleaning” and many of those volunteers gathered at the Shrine, including the “Squires,” a group of future Knights of Columbus, who were here that day for retreat. Work centered mostly around the Grotto of Our Lady, and our new outdoor Stations of the Cross. Old leaves,

vines, sticks, and debris were raked up and put on the “burn pile,” and replaced with fresh mulch. Dead tree limbs were gathered and hoisted onto the pile. When all was done, our Shrine had taken on some of its former beauty,

On Mother’s Day, we honored Mary by giving her a beautiful crown of pink carnations. Brooke Horodeczny had the honor of placing the crown on Mary, and Brianna Welsler assisted by carrying the crown. We also honored our heavenly Mother with songs and prayers, and knew that she was pleased with the best efforts of her children.

“This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!” On June 2nd our Director, Fr. Satheesh, began the day as always, but at the end of the day he was a different person, due to the fact that now he was an American citizen! He was officially sworn in by a very nice judge who personally greeted each new citizen (80)! As he greeted Father, he congratulated him and added that we “need more good priests.” A small reception was held after the 10AM Mass the following Sunday, at which there was a good dose of red, white and blue!



“Til death do us part.” Many people have trouble making commitments, especially life-long commitments. True, it can be a little scary when you don’t know what’s ahead, but if we let the Lord into our lives and remember that He holds us in the palm of His hand, it becomes just a little easier, and we know that “all will be well.” Two good friends of the Shrine, and Guanellian Cooperators, Jim and Sue Phillips, let the Lord into their lives 40 years ago and recently celebrated their 40th Anniversary. They received a special blessing from Fr. Satheesh after Mass and their rings were re-blessed. It’s so good to see couples celebrating these special milestones, and is also encouraging for the younger couples.

# From the Inbox and the Mailbox

**Dear Father Director:**

I live in a subdivision where some drug dealers purchased a home in about 2008. The house was a foreclosure. By 2011-2012, we knew we had a problem and some of us formed a prayer chain. In 2014 there was a drug raid and by January 2015 the house was back in foreclosure. The people who owned the house put it up for sale in hopes of selling it before the house reverted back to the bank.

One night I buried a statue of St Joseph on the property with the hopes that the house would sell to a good family. It did. In August 2015, the house sold to a young family. No doubt, the help of St Joseph blessed our subdivision. This was a difficult sale due to the condition of the house both inside and out.

This donation is long overdue and I wanted to say thank you in so many ways.

Thank you. With peace and love,

Margaret K.

---

Thank you St. Joseph. We were trying to sell our home and I started praying to St. Joseph. House sold in one week. We found a new home and are now moved. Thank you.

AM

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**Dear Friends:**

I read in one of Susan Tassone's books that we should have a Mass offered for ourselves in our lifetime. So, maybe you can do that for me. I'm 87 maybe soon my time will be changed to eternity.

Thanks,

August B.

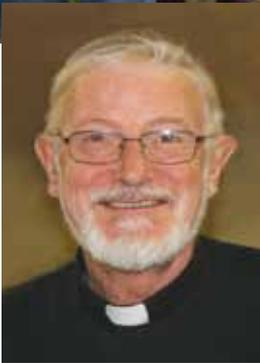
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**Dear Father:**

This is my payment for March. I am sending \$20.00 a month for the year. It is for helping my husband and me to be able to get through a crisis and to be happy for the time we have left. We have been married for 57 1/2 years.

God Bless.

Richard & Shirley G.



## Come, follow me, and I will give you rest

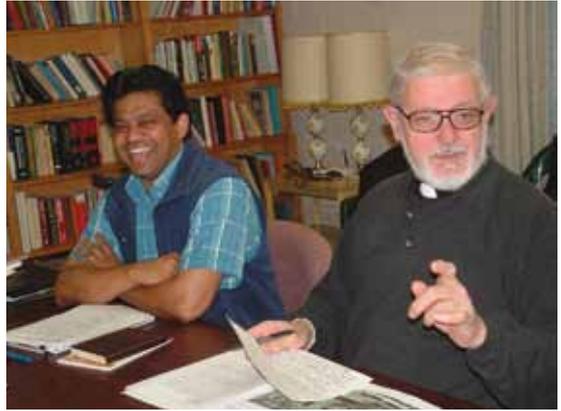
*By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC*

**Fr. Paul Oggioni, SdC, was born in Pioltello, close to Milan, on November 17, 1943. Born in a large family where the Rosary was prayed every day and the parish church of St. Andrew was not visited only on Sundays.**

**S**till young, he entered among the spiritual sons of Father Guanella and followed the several stages of education and formation in the Guanellian seminaries. Those years were exceptional for several reasons: he had the opportunity to participate in the Beatification of the Founder in 1964, the event of the Vatican II Council and his theology studies with the top teaching staff of the Congregation.

Fr. Paul was ordained a priest in Milan by Cardinal Giovanni Colombo, Archbishop of Milan, on December 19, 1970, the birthday of the Founder. After 12 years of work for orphaned and abandoned children, the superiors assigned him to a minor seminary in Aregua, Paraguay.

New assignments brought him to other continents among the poorest of the poor. His long journey as a missionary brought him from Paraguay to the Philippines and the United States: many countries, many climates, and many languages. And yet, the entire time he was available, open, enthusiastic, and a hard worker. His strong personality and his extraordinary willpower kept



him going until his body said: “It’s enough.” He asked to go back to his original Province and died in Como on Thursday, May 19, 2016 near St. Louis Guanella.

Many of us remember him as a man of prayer and study, a man of listening and close examination.

He knew that the best way of evangelizing people was to establish a personal contact. His approach was simple and humble without many fancy ways: human relations are simple and intimate.

Fr. Paul was a builder. He helped seminarians and good Catholics to grow in their vocation, but he also was responsible for beautiful and large structures wherever he was stationed. He knew that the most important thing for the poor, the abandoned and the handicapped was a place they can call home, and in this home they find a family. He was involved in building the seminary in Paraguay and in Manila, Philippines. The House of Legazpi, Philippines, was his best project and success. He built a seminary, a home for physically and mentally impaired, a school for poor children, the chapel and the residence of the religious community. For health reasons he had to leave the Philippines and God called him to serve in the United States where he dedicated many years at the Pious Union of St. Joseph. Here, Fr. Paul dedicated all his energies to beautify the Shrine of St. Joseph. He turned the grounds of the Shrine into Holy Grounds by building the Grotto of the Blessed Mother and the Calvary. His faith and his love for the poor will be remembered for ever. He was a true Guanellian who understood and followed St. Louis Guanella’s spirituality: “Prayer and suffering” and “All the world is your homeland.”

He is in heaven now and I am sure that the good Lord will say to him: “Well done My good and faithful servant. Come share your master’s joy.” (Mt 25,23)

Pray for us, Fr. Paul, and may you rest in peace.

# MOTHER TERESA

## MODEL OF MERCY

By Dawn Nicolson



**Born Anjezë (Agnes) Gonxhe Bojaxhiu on August 26, 1910 into a Kosovar Albanian family. She considered August 27th, the day she was baptized, to be her “true birthday”. She was always fascinated by the lives of the saints, and by the age of 12 she was convinced she was destined for religious life.**

**A**gnes left home in 1928 to join the Sisters of Loreto at Loreto Abbey in Rathfarnham, Ireland, to learn English, with a view to becoming a missionary. English was the language the Sisters of Loreto used to teach schoolchildren in India. She never again saw her mother or her sister.

She arrived in India in 1929, and began her novitiate in Darjeeling, near the Himalayan mountains, where she learned Bengali and taught at St. Teresa’s School which was close to her convent. She took her first religious vows on May 24, 1931. She took her solemn vows on May 14, 1937, while serving as a teacher at the Loreto convent school in Entally, eastern Calcutta. Teresa served there for almost twenty years and in 1944 was appointed headmistress.

Although Teresa enjoyed teaching at the school, she was increasingly disturbed by the poverty surrounding her in Calcutta. The Bengal famine of 1943 brought misery and death to the city; and the outbreak of Hindu/Muslim violence in August 1946 plunged the city into despair and horror. She felt as if she could be doing more.

On September 10, 1946, Teresa experienced what she later described as “the call within the call” while travelling by train to the Loreto Convent in Darjeeling for her annual retreat. “I was to leave the convent and help the poor while living among them. It was an order. To fail would have been to break the faith.”<sup>1</sup>

One author later observed, “Though no one knew it at the time, Sister Teresa had just become Mother Teresa.”<sup>2</sup>

She began her missionary work with the poor in 1948. Mother Teresa adopted Indian



citizenship, spent a few months in Patna to receive basic medical training at Holy Family Hospital and then ventured out into the slums. Initially, she started a school in Motijhil (Calcutta); soon she started tending to the needs of the destitute and starving. In early 1949, she was joined in her effort by a group of young women; laying the foundation of a new religious community helping the “poorest among the poor”.

Teresa wrote in her diary that her first year was fraught with difficulties. She had no income and had to resort to begging for food and supplies. Teresa experienced doubt, loneliness and the temptation to return to the comfort of convent life during these early months:

*“Our Lord wants me to be a free nun covered with the poverty of the cross. Today, I learned a good lesson. The poverty of the poor must be so hard for them. While looking for a home I walked and walked till my arms and legs ached. I thought how much they must ache in body and soul, looking for a home, food and health. Then, the comfort of Loreto [her former congregation] came to tempt me. ‘You have only to say the word and all that will be yours again,’ the Tempter kept on saying ... Of free choice, my God, and out of love for you, I desire to remain and do whatever be your Holy will in my regard. I did not let a single tear come.”<sup>3</sup>*

“TODAY, I LEARNED A GOOD LESSON. THE POVERTY OF THE POOR MUST BE SO HARD FOR THEM. WHILE LOOKING FOR A HOME I WALKED AND WALKED TILL MY ARMS AND LEGS ACHE. I THOUGHT HOW MUCH THEY MUST ACHE IN BODY AND SOUL, LOOKING FOR A HOME, FOOD AND HEALTH.”

Teresa received Vatican permission on October 7, 1950 to start the diocesan congregation that would become the Missionaries of Charity. Its mission was to care for, in her own words, “the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to society and are shunned by everyone.”

Mother Teresa is well-known for many things, including winning many humanitarian awards, especially the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. It can be argued that her greatest accomplishment was the creation of the Missionaries of Charity religious order with 13 members in Calcutta; which by the time of her death in 1997, had grown to over 4,000 sisters, and an associated brotherhood of 300 members, operating 610 missions in 123 countries. These included hospices and homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis, soup kitchens, children’s and family counseling programs, personal helpers, orphanages, and schools. The Missionaries of Charity are also aided by lay members, who numbered over 1 million by the 1990s.

In March of 2016, four nuns from the Missionaries of Charity, working at a nursing home in Yemen, were massacred, along with other Christian volunteers, by an Islamic State group. It is apparent that Mother Teresa’s spirit of giving and sacrifice continues on with these fine women.

Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997, and was beatified on October 19, 2003. She will be canonized on September 4, 2016, during Pope Francis’ Year of Mercy. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, said: “Who more than Mother Teresa can be recognized today as one who lived the works of mercy, and who more than she could be capable of sustaining the commitment of millions of people—men, women, youth—who, in various forms of volunteer work, express the beauty of the mercy of the Church?”

<sup>1</sup> Lucas, Joan Graff. (1988). *Mother Teresa*. New York. Chelsea House Publications, p. 35.

<sup>2</sup> Langford, Joseph (October 2008). *Mother Teresa’s Secret Fire: The Encounter That Changed Her Life, and How It Can Transform Your Own*. Our Sunday Visitor Publishing. p.44.

<sup>3</sup> Spink, Kathryn (1997). *Mother Teresa: A Complete Authorized Biography*. New York. HarperCollins, p.37





# Not Coincidence... But Divine Providence!

By Sr. Beth Ann Dillon

**Without the help of a GPS or cell phone, I mapped out the way from St. Charles, IL, to the location for the event. My friend, Mary-Claire, was just as excited as I to go!**

**W**hen I got to her home, she was sick with the mumps and unable to go. Saddened by her plight, I said that I would still go, and promised her that I would get some materials about religious life if I could.

Wishing my friend well, I departed for Chicago. Along the highway headed east, I prayed the Rosary for Mary-Claire and me. After all, we were both companions on the journey and seekers of God's will!

Upon arriving in Chicago, directly in front of this convent was an open, free parking spot. Amazing! In Chicago and on a Saturday!

"I'm here!" I thought to myself. "The first part of my quest is completed. My main objective now is to listen to every word of Mother Teresa of Calcutta..." Thinking about our original plan Mary-Claire and I made a strategy to try to talk to her. The burning question inflamed both of our hearts, "How do you know if God is calling you?"

As I approached the front door of the convent, I took a deep breath and rang the bell of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. The buzzer released the door. Entering that large conference room I had the distinct feeling that I would have my answer today!

The master of ceremonies was Fr. John Hardon, SJ., who would then introduce Mother Teresa. At that same moment, the door flew open and a gaggle of laughing and smiling sisters and novices rushed into the room. Some were greeting other sisters along the way as they found their respective places. One of the sisters was an elderly, smiling,



*Sr. Beth Ann at her Jubilee celebration.*

“OPEN YOUR HEART TO HIM ...EVERY DAY  
IF ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES...AND LET  
HIM LOVE YOUR HEART. THEN IN A LITTLE  
WHILE, YOU WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO.”

short, Italian nun who slowly moved into the room. She entered my row and asked sweetly: “Is this-ah place taken?” I nodded no, and motioned her to join me. She leaned over to me and said in a friendly but loud tone, “Isn’t this a grace! Mother Teresa is here! I know her!” She said proudly. “She’s-ah my friend. Really! Would you like to meet her?”

A roar of “Shh!” filled the air! Ignoring the condemnation she turned to me and smiled, “Listen! I’ll take you up to meet her at the break! Okay?” “Okay,” I whispered. Then, Mother Teresa entered the room, and for the next forty-five minutes I was mesmerized by her words.

It seemed that only a few minutes passed when someone announced the break. I was ready to excuse myself to the ladies room, when a hand grabbed my arm, “Wait!” she said. “We go now to meet Mother Teresa. You come with me, Cara! You’ll like her!” and before I knew it I was standing before Mother Teresa whose back was turned to us.

Exuberantly the Italian nun called out, “Mother Teresa!” She turned and answered, “Sister Angelina!” And they embraced. They began to speak in Italian to each other. I thought to myself, “This Sister really does know Mother Teresa!” I was truly impressed. Then Sister Angelina turned to me and said, “Mother, this is my friend...what is your name again?” Mother Teresa looked at me with interest. “What can I do for you?” she said. Blushing, I almost forgot what I wanted to ask her because I realized that at that moment I was looking into the eyes of a saint.

“Mother” I said, “How do you know if Jesus is calling you to be a sister?” She answered. “Do you love Jesus?” “Yes” I said. “Then Open your heart to Him ...every day if only for a few minutes...and let Him love your heart. Then in a little while, you will know what to do.” I thanked Mother Teresa for her words and went back to my seat. The break time was over. I sat and pondered her words in my heart.

Meanwhile the afternoon sun was having its effect on the conference room. It was getting a bit stuffy and hot. The radiator was cranked up on high.

Opening the window carefully, I could see the playground below. As I watched the nuns



*Sr. Beth Ann Dillon is the Principal at Sacred Heart School East Providence, RI.*

and the children playing, I heard their laughter. They were having fun and entertaining the children.

What a sight! I was laughing to myself as I thought, “What great fun! I could do that! Those sisters are so neat! I could do that!”

When I returned to my seat, I leaned over to Sister Angelina and said, “Those sisters outside are so cute! I could do that! Who are those sisters anyway?” She smiled and pointed to herself and said, “Those are my sisters!”

I went to the IRL for classes with Sister Angelina, my newfound classmate and friend. She introduced me to Fr. Hardon, who also took an interest and guided my vocational discernment. He was gentle and kind and was a real Jesuit directing me by means of Ignatian spirituality and learning more about developing ways of deep prayer. The same kind of advice that Mother Teresa had given to me!

It was over thirty years ago since I entered the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence at the same location where the IRL once resided. Some may say that it was a just twist of fate that I would find my answer in that conference room on that day. But I like to recall what another holy priest, Fr. Leo Celano, O.PRAEM., once told me, words that I’ve taken to heart and truly believe: “There is no such thing as coincidence...but Divine Providence.”

For more information visit <http://www.DSMPIC.org>

**Note:** Sr. Beth Ann was part of the 2014 Lifetime Television documentary: “The Sisterhood Becoming Nuns” and may be viewed on Amazon TV.

*(Reprinted and revised from the Religious Life Magazine: May/June 2014)*

# Vocation to LOVE

By Kelly Flaherty



**August 9th is the feast of St. Teresia Benedicta of the Cross. She was born Edith Stein in 1891, the youngest of 12 in a Jewish family of Breslau, Germany.**

**H**er father died when she was only two years old, leaving her mother alone to care for the family and the family lumber business. Edith was a very intelligent child excelling in her studies but abandoning the practice of her Jewish faith in her teen years.

Though she identified as an atheist, she was drawn to the study of philosophy and women's issues which led to her mentorship with Edmund Husserl, a professor and creator of the new view of reality known as phenomenology. During World War I Edith worked in a field hospital assisting the ill and dying, which had a profound effect on her. After the war, she followed Husserl to Friburg where he helped to prepare her for her doctorate. She passed with highest honors, Summa Cum Laude, for her thesis entitled, "The Problem of Empathy." Ironically enough, her intellectual pursuits are what led to her eventual conversion to Catholicism.

Her first great desire was to become a professor, but that was impossible for women in those days. She began writing articles about psychology and continued to read spiritual books including an autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila, which she read in a single night. "When I had finished the book, I said to myself: This is the truth." She was baptized on January 1, 1922 and confirmed on the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary.

Her next greatest desire was to become a Carmelite nun which her spiritual mentors dissuaded her from. She spent the next several years teaching in a Dominican teacher training college in Speyer, Germany, doing speaking engagements on women's issues

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“THINGS WERE IN GOD’S PLAN WHICH I HAD NOT PLANNED AT ALL. I HAVE AN EVER DEEPER AND FIRMER BELIEF THAT NOTHING IS MERELY AN ACCIDENT WHEN SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF GOD, THAT MY WHOLE LIFE DOWN TO THE SMALLEST DETAILS HAS BEEN MAPPED OUT IN THE PLAN OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE AND MAKES COMPLETE AND PERFECT SENSE IN GOD’S ALL-SEEING EYES.”

.....

and translating the writings of Cardinal Newman and Thomas Aquinas. She came to the realization that she could, “pursue scholarship as a service to God.” She continued her intellectual pursuits, spiritual reading and developing her anthropology.

Due to growing anti-Semitism it was no longer possible for her to teach, and she had already taken vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as a laywoman so she decided to enter the Carmelite Convent of Cologne in 1933. Before Edith left for the convent, she went to see her mother. Her mother was greatly distressed for she held tightly to her Jewish faith, but Edith had come to understand “the cross as the destiny of God’s people, which was beginning to be apparent at the time (1933). [She] felt that those who understood the Cross of Christ should take it upon themselves on everybody’s behalf.” She faithfully wrote to her mother weekly, without reply.

Sr. Teresia viewed her Carmelite vocation as similar to the call of Esther to plead for the Jewish people to the king. While at the Cologne convent, she even wrote her personal testimony entitled “Life of a Jewish Family.” In 1938 with Nazi destruction of the Jews mounting, the superiors smuggled Sr. Teresia and her blood sister, Rosa, across the border to Echt, Netherlands where they felt she would be safe. While she remained in Echt, she was able to complete her studies on the writings of St. John of the Cross and she expressed her conclusions in, “The Science of the Cross.”

It was in 1942 that many Jewish Christians were deported to camps and later to Auschwitz for eventual extermination. Throughout the ordeal Sr. Teresia never despaired, she continued to provide for the needs of children and the weak when their caregivers could not. She never stopped giving love and encouragement to others until she expired in the gas chamber on August 9, 1942.

St. Teresia may not have been a Guanellian, but she offered her life in service to others, giving to those who had no one, teaching the truth to all who would hear and living a life of prayer and suffering. Her greatest devotion was to love, laying down her life for her people. We can all be inspired by the way she lived her life; giving her talents in the service of God and suffering for the benefit of others. As we struggle through our daily lives we can imitate her ability to love and therefore advance on the road to holiness.

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*Dear St. Teresia Benedicta of the Cross  
Child of the Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur,*

*Daughter of Abraham,*

*Bride of Christ,*

*Seeker of truth,*

*Scholar of the Church*

*Handmaid of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,*

*Servant of the Suffering Servant,*

*Presence of mercy,*

*Victim of victimizers,*

*Embracer of the cross of Christ-like love,*

*Martyr of Auschwitz,*

*Imitator of Jesus,*

*Conqueror of evil,*

*Friend of God, Edith,*

*Please pray for me. Please intercede for this petition of mine.*

*(Here mention your petition).*

*Amen.*





*“The poor are the Special Children of Providence.”  
St. Luigi Guanella*

## Sharing God’s Mercy with the Needy

*By Fr. John Bosco, SdC*

**O**ur Lady of Divine Providence Church, Guanella Nagar Parish, is the simplest and the poorest Guanellian parish located in Kumbakonam, in the Southern part of India. Our Parish has more than 600 families spread throughout 18 villages. There are 13 churches, both big and small, in our parish. Kumbakonam is known as a temple town, because it has 153 Hindu temples. The people are simple, pious and God fearing; 98% of them form socially marginalized people like Dalits, cobblers and washer men. Our parish was bifurcated from the Cathedral in 2005 and since then the Guanellians have been taking care of the pastoral ministry and carrying out many charitable programs in the parish.

As our founder says...“we can never stop as long as there are poor to be assisted, distresses to be relieved,” so we search for God’s people like orphans, widows and the physically and mentally challenged to serve them as much possible. Among our charitable programs, every Sunday afternoon we bring the people from various places around the region to serve them lunch and make them feel happy and content. We also

entertain them with cultural events. Each week fifty to sixty needy people benefit from this program. We are able to do so because of the generous help of the people of the parish.

Holy Mass is offered at least twice a month in each of the chapels. We also visit the families, the sick; giving them Holy Communion as well as fulfilling their spiritual and moral needs. We show our closeness to the people in their problems and sufferings by our presence and help.

Whenever any kind of natural calamity affects the people, we extend our helping hands to them. Another important charitable coaching program is held each evening in ten of the substations of our parish and more than 200 children attend these classes, with appointed qualified staff to teach them. With the help of our Guanellian sisters we go and visit and encourage them every week. Besides teaching them, we provide them with uniforms, school fees and biscuits. Four times each year, we gather them in the parish for an exhibition of their talents and award them prizes. We provide them with a delicious lunch. As part of the program, we take them on a picnic to historical and religious places.

Our Parish community has only two motorcycles to carry out the above mentioned activities. Sometimes, we hire vans and cars to reach our beneficiaries and help them out. It is time consuming, expensive and dangerous. Especially transporting sick or physically challenged people by motorcycle is very dangerous. We feel that a mini-van (Maruti Eeco) would be very useful in many ways. We could serve many of the needy and destitute brethren.

We can make use of this vehicle for spiritual and social needs of the parish.

A Maruti Eeco vehicle costs about \$8,500. We hope that generous benefactors will discover in their hearts the grace from God to assist the Servants of

Charity in India to continue their Mission for the needy brethren.



*If you wish to donate towards this cause, please send your donations to Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC at St. Louis Center, Old US 12, Chelsea, MI 48118 and specify Maruti Eeco Van for Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish, Kumbakonam, India.*



# Mission of Mercy

By Norman R. Neuman, Jr.

**My wife, Kathi, and I have a son with Down Syndrome. Joe is forty-five years old and lives in an apartment in Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

He spends nearly every weekend and most of the summer with Kathi and me either in Chelsea or at another home we have in Gaylord, Michigan. He loves to play golf with me in the summer and loves to drive a snowmobile in the winter. He is great fun to be around and he loves to socialize.

But, like all adults with I/DD, Joe requires a great deal of on-going life-skills support. While he is in good health, many of his older peers (55 to 65 of age) are now experiencing a quickening decline in health, and more saddening they are losing their parents who were their lifeline, leaving them without the life-skills support they had throughout their lives.

Fortunately for our son, Joe, there are plans in place to take care of Joe well after Kathi and I are gone. Unfortunately, that is not the case for the majority of adults with I/DD. Historically adults with I/DD passed away well before their parents did. As a result, many parents thought that they would out-live their child, but in fact, with much better health care readily available and the children living more active lives, they are now outliving their parents.

These adults with I/DD, now without parents to look after them, face a crisis of major proportions. Most are unable to communicate their plight, and many of them end up being wards of the state—shuffled around from one place to another. Can you imagine



what that would be like for one of your children to go through after you passed away? Someone needs to be their advocate and take responsibility for guiding them and protecting them throughout the rest of their lives.

Individuals with I/DD for the most part do not have a voice. They can only rely on someone advocating for them. They live simple lives. They bring happiness to all who are around them. Unfortunately, they are also defenseless and have no way of describing their unique needs to anyone. This is particularly true as they age and suddenly require special care. This is where we need to recognize that if it wasn't for our goodwill and generosity these adults with I/DD would be left to fend for themselves which they cannot do.

For over 50 years, St. Louis Center has provided residential services to over 700 men, women, and children with I/DD. It is located on 180 acres of property in Chelsea, Michigan. The Center embraces a philosophy of care and services promoting independence, dignity and a full, rich life experience for all of its residents. The residents are provided a full set of educational, wellness, and spiritual programs including fitness, gardening, adaptive dance, music therapy, weekly bowling, basketball, shopping, transportation to and from work and/or school, church, medical services, nursing care, etc.

In 2010, when celebrating St. Louis Center's fiftieth anniversary, we began working on a strategic plan for St. Louis Center's next fifty years. It became clear that there were major changes taking place that required us to plan for an aging I/DD population. Out of that thinking and planning came "The Legacy Campaign" with a goal of raising \$10,000,000 in capital funding.

The main objective of the Legacy Campaign is to provide residential housing and long-term services to men and woman with I/DD who have aged and require special assisted living support and eventually end of life nursing care. I, along with Fr. Enzo Addari, Co-Chair the Legacy Campaign Committee.

Through the efforts of our twenty-plus hard working Legacy Committee members, we have raised over \$6,600,000. We still have to raise another \$3,400,000 to reach our \$10,000,000 goal.

A unique and wonderful service feature of St. Louis Guanella Village is that it will accommodate families comprised of elderly parent(s) and their aging adult child with I/DD who both require assisted living care. These families will be able to move into the Village and receive long-term assisted living care services from the Servants of Charity. Offering living arrangements of this type will keep the families together, as many of them have been together all their lives. Can you imagine the heartbreak both the parent and child would go through if they were to be separated?

We recently received the go ahead from our local township to begin work. We plan to begin ground breaking and laying the infrastructure (roads and utilities) as early as August 2016, with an expectation that four new residential homes will be built and occupied by this time next year. When completed, the St. Louis Guanella Village will be a fully functioning village containing single family homes, condos, townhouses, a chapel, fitness center, and shopping facilities all with around-the-clock security for the safety of its residents.

We have had wonderful support raising our initial campaign funds from our many friends and benefactors from within the communities surrounding southeast Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, as well as from many corporations and foundations.

We are now reaching out to our many benefactors to help us continue with this important mission of mercy.

Please pass this message along to any of your friends who you feel would have the compassion and generosity to make a donation to this very worthy cause. Note: St. Louis Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation operated by the Servants of Charity priests.

More information is available on St. Louis Center's website at [www.stlouiscenter.org](http://www.stlouiscenter.org).

Thank you and God Bless.

*Parties interested in making a donation to the Legacy Campaign should contact Peggy Cole, Development Director, St. Louis Center at 734-475-8430.*



# The Journey Continues

By Mark Martel

When I was asked, “Would you like to become a Guanellian Cooperator?” I wasn’t sure what to say. Dawn Nicoson had sent a list of four promises I’d need to make, and although I was (and still am) honored just to be asked, I didn’t know if “Yes” was the correct answer because following through on the promises would require not only some effort, but would also force me to become more aware of and work on my shortcomings as an authentic Christian husband, father, and employee.

Paying special attention to the needy and disabled, cooperating as much as I could with the Guanellian Family, and further deepening the charism of St. Louis Guanella? Not a problem. Being an authentic Catholic Christian man at all times? Not so easy. But the more I thought and prayed about it, the more I realized it was exactly what I needed to do. The Guanellians weren’t expecting or demanding perfection. All that’s required is a

commitment to try to become a better Catholic Christian. Becoming a Cooperator has helped me to concentrate more on my prayer life and has given me many examples of





people to emulate. Although the Cooperators have only been meeting for a little over three months, I feel a strong bond in the group; a group with one goal—to become more like St. Louis Guanella.

I first met Fr. Fortunato back in 1999 at St. Mary Church in Pinckney. He was celebrating Mass in place of our pastor who was out of town, and I remember noticing how holy and humble he was. I also couldn't help but notice how fond the children were of him. Fr. Fortunato was driving a full-size sedan at the time with a trunk full of saint statues he enjoyed handing out to the altar servers who had assisted him during Mass and other children who were interested. He made sure to tell a short story about each saint before giving the statue to the child, and I'm sure a lot of those children, now adults, could tell you where their statue came from and something about the saint.

Fr. Joseph also occasionally celebrated Mass during our pastor's absence and I soon realized that although he was a priest with a great sense of humor he also was as holy and humble as Fr. Fortunato. What was it about these Servants of Charity that made them seem different? As a cradle Catholic I've met many good priests, but none like The Servants of Charity. Is it the charism of St. Louis Guanella? Is it because they see the face of Jesus in the needy and in everyone they encounter? How can I become more like them? Joining the Cooperators was an important first step, but it will be impossible without daily prayer asking for the strength to help me keep the promises I made on September 19, 2015. We're all in a different place in our faith life and it helps me to know I'm part of a group that will lift me up and encourage me to become more like St. Louis Guanella. I'll try my best to encourage and support you too.

THE PIOUS UNION LIBRARY:

# Parables of a Good Samaritan

This is an easy read, revealing in a very unusual way the heart and soul of St. Louis Guanella. Much as Christ used parables to tell His stories, this book uses short stories and cute drawings to capture the spirit of our beloved founder.

The sequence of one hundred stories, illustrated by artist Bill Shurliff, captures the real Father Guanella in action and in ecstasy. They are almost bedtime stories, but they did not put me to sleep. They touched me, inspired me and challenged me at the same time.

This is the nature of these parables. Some are humorous, some engaging, others captivating, surprising and amazing. All of them reveal St. Guanella's communion with God, trust in Divine Providence and love for the poor.

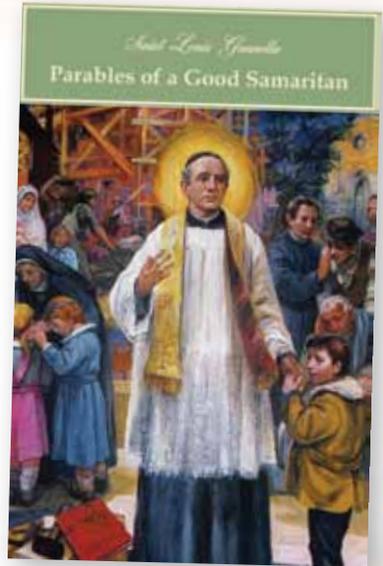
It's hard to define holiness.

This book taught me that holiness is God's masterful work in a human heart to carve it in his own image and likeness.

If you would like a copy of this or any of our other books, send your request and a donation to The Pious Union of St. Joseph, 953 E. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240.



Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC



# Adopt a **Seminarian**

**Today 500 Servants of Charity priests and brothers serve in 22 countries. There are numerous seminarians in formation at Guanellian seminaries throughout the world.**

The formation process combines spiritual growth, academic studies and hands-on training. It can take up to eight years to prepare them to make permanent vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience as a priest or brother. Many of them come from poor countries.

“Adopting” a seminarian can make a huge impact. For \$1 a day (the cost of a cup of coffee or a donut), you can help make a young man’s dreams of religious life come true. **Can you make a small sacrifice to make that happen?**



## **Sacred Heart Church**

Fr. Silvio De Nard  
118 Taunton Ave.  
East Providence, RI 02914  
tel: 401-434-0326  
sdn249@hotmail.com

## **Daughters of St. Mary of Providence**

Sr. Beth Ann Dillon  
6 Bart Drive  
Riverside, RI 02915  
srbethann@gmail.com

## **Pious Union of St. Joseph**

Fr. Satheesh Alphonse  
953 E. Michigan Ave.  
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tel: 270-556-7789  
satheesh08@yahoo.co.in

**Are you being called to serve God’s “special people” through Consecrated Life as a Servant of Charity or Daughter of St. Mary of Providence?**



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Send email to [piousunion@pusj.org](mailto:piousunion@pusj.org).



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**Benediction:** Wed 4:45 p.m. • Divine Mercy Chaplet: Wed 4:30 p.m.

**Holy Rosary:** Before Mass • **Stations of the Cross:** Friday at 11:00 a.m.

**Anointing of the Sick:** First Saturday during 11:30 a.m. Mass and when requested

**Confession:** Before and after Mass, upon request

To receive the Monthly Shrine Bulletin and all special event mailings, please contact the office at 517-522-8017 or send email to [piousunion@pusj.org](mailto:piousunion@pusj.org)

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