



now HOUR
AND AT THE

FEBRUARY—
MARCH 2015

THE VOICE OF PROVIDENCE

St. Joseph

IN THE PASSION OF CHRIST

FEATURED STORY ON PAGE 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Lenten Thoughts**
Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
- 4 St. Joseph in
The Passion of Christ**
Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
- 6 Shrine News**
- 7 St. Joseph's Table**
Kelly Flaherty
- 10 Mailbag**
- 11 Congregation Day**
Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
- 13 The Pious Union of St. Joseph
and Happy Death**
Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, SdC
- 18 The Annunciation of Mary: The
Arrival of the Savior**
Fr. Silvio De Nard, SdC
- 21 Ahead of 2015 Synod**
Vatican City
- 23 Ferguson and Beyond:
A Window into Our
Human Quest**
Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
- 25 Espousal of the Blessed Virgin
Mary**
Kelly Flaherty
- 27 Now and at The Hour
Survey Analysis**
Joseph Yekulis
- 29 We Make the Road by Walking**
Peggy Cole
- 31 The Pious Union Library:
Under the Wings of Divine
Providence**

Published By:

The Pious Union of St. Joseph
Patron of the Suffering and Dying
953 East Michigan Avenue
Grass Lake, Michigan 49240-9210
517-522-8017 voice 517-522-8387 fax
PiousUnion@pusj.org
www.servantsofcharity.org
www.pusj.org

Editor In Chief: Fr. Joseph Rinaldo SdC

Editing Team: Joe Yekulis, Kelly Flaherty,
Fr. Satheesh Alphonse SdC,
Sr. Ann Huber DSMP, Tom Herron

Photos: St. Louis Center Archives,
Joseph Yekulis, Kelly Flaherty

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

The Voice of Providence:

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).

Mission:

The divine call places the Servants of Charity
in the heart of the Church, making us share
more deeply in her mission in the world and
especially in her care for the poor. In the
Church, we are witnesses of God's fatherly
love and of the sacred value of each person,
even of the least gifted.

In collaboration with the people of goodwill,
we endeavor to safeguard the least ones so
that we work toward building a better world,
open to Christ and His Gospel.



Lenten Thoughts

By FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SdC

When we Catholics think of Lent, the first thing that comes to mind is the marking of our foreheads with ashes or giving up something like chocolate, checking Facebook or watching television, right?

For those who observe it, the season of Lent is a period of penance that prepares the heart for the celebration of Easter: Christ's Resurrection. It is a contemplative six-week period of fasting that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes after the Triduum on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Easter Sunday rewards us with the Resurrection of Jesus and our resurrection as we died with Christ.

The regulations of fasting and abstinence have changed with time. These days, Catholics are obligated to fast during Lent, eating one full meal daily. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. Catholics must also abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, as well as abstaining from meat each Friday of the season. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding from age 14 onwards. The norms of fasting are obligatory from age 14 until age 59. Even so, for us Catholics the essence of the Lenten season is to give up material possessions, develop charitable habits, and help those in need.

Why is Lent forty days? Forty is an important number in the Bible for preparing, testing and drawing the believer closer to God. Some examples follow:

The flood continued upon earth for forty days. [Genesis, 7].

Moses sat atop Mount Sinai with God for forty days, without food or water, writing the covenant known as the Ten Commandments on tablets. [Exodus 34].

The Israelites suffered forty years, eating only manna, until they reached the Promised Land. [Exodus 16].

Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by the devil. [Mark 4].

Lent is not only observed by Catholics. It is also a standard practice in many Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, and evangelical churches. These Christians have adopted and practiced fasting as a good work, to bring our flesh into subjection, to atone for our sins and obtain grace. Many understand Lent as a season of self-denial to show God how much we love him, because Lent is a time of gospel-centered piety. Lenten fasting emphasizes denying ourselves as a penitential offering for others.

The observance of Lent helps us to take up the cross and follow Christ in the midst of a suffering world.

Ash Wednesday is a special day opening the Lenten season with a unique ceremony.

While the priest marks the believers' foreheads with the cross of ash, he will recite the phrase, derived from Genesis

3,19, "Remember you are

dust, and to dust you will return" or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel."

Traditionally, burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday service are used to make the ashes. The New Testament records that a crowd waved palm branches, crying "Hosanna!" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

In biblical times, ashes were used to express penitence for sins committed. Job repents "in dust and ashes," Jeremiah tells the Israelites to "roll in ashes; mourn with bitter wailing," and Daniel turns to God in prayer, fasting and "in sackcloth and ashes."

The ashes are not intended to be a "holy mark," but are instead a public acknowledgment of one's sin and mortality. The shape of the cross reminds believers of their hope in Jesus, who conquered death.



“IN THE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS, “LENT IS A FITTING TIME FOR SELF-DENIAL; WE WOULD DO WELL TO ASK OURSELVES WHAT WE CAN GIVE UP IN ORDER TO HELP AND ENRICH OTHERS BY OUR OWN POVERTY. LET US NOT FORGET THAT REAL POVERTY HURTS: NO SELF-DENIAL IS REAL WITHOUT THIS DIMENSION OF PENANCE.”

Lent can be observed in many different ways. It can be observed by personal choices based on our faith, our spiritual needs and our emotional status. Fasting, praying and almsgiving are the pillars of traditional Lenten observance. Consider, also, adding a spiritual discipline to your life.

Choose a theme to center on with daily prayers. Donate time to a homeless shelter, a food or clothing bank, or soup kitchen. Begin a Bible reading plan or commit to reading one of the four Gospels within the 40 days of Lent.

If you are determined to give something up, make it something that you will notice. Fasting can raise awareness of how much we rely on things instead of relying on God.

For all Christians who observe it, Lent is intended to deepen one's appreciation of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. It's a period of penitence in preparation for the celebration of Easter. In the words of Pope Francis, “Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance.”



Saint Joseph

in The Passion of Christ

By FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SdC

Whether Easter is early or late, in the month of March, traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph, we find ourselves meditating on the Passion and Death of Christ.

When I meditate on the Passion and Death of Jesus, I imagine myself to be staring from a distance at the scene of Jesus nailed to the cross and under it in pain and sorrow, I see Mary, the Mother of Jesus and John the beloved disciple, standing by the Cross. Something is missing. Anytime tragedy occurs to a son, Mother and Father are there to suffer, console, agonize and trying to understand. St. Joseph is missing under the Cross. He was not there because he was already in heaven, assuming the role of Patron of the new Church founded by Jesus. This realization led me to wonder about the extent to which St. Joseph shared in the sufferings of Christ and his role in salvation history. Without doubt his vocation was an unparalleled one. His place in the mystery of the Incarnation is so unique in that he was chosen by God to be the representative

of the Heavenly Father in the Holy Family of Nazareth, in the virginal motherhood of Mary and, consequently, in the Incarnation of the Word. In exploring St. Joseph's role we are inevitably faced with a stumbling block, namely, his silence. God seems to have shrouded him in solitude so as to hide him from the eyes of the world. It would seem that only God can reveal him to us, for he is hidden away. St. Joseph never lived to witness the Passion of Jesus. I have always associated St. Joseph with the Infancy of Christ. I found it helpful to think about Saint Joseph's role, so hidden yet sublime. I believe that from the day old Simeon had predicted Christ's Passion; never a moment went by when that Passion was not present in the mind of St. Joseph.

The Scriptures prefigured it while Joseph spoke to Jesus of it continually. For Jesus loved His father, Joseph, too much to deprive him of the grace of suffering the Passion with Him and of sharing beforehand in its merits.

Whenever our Lord went up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and Pentecost, he would motion to Joseph, "Come, father, come and see where I shall be crucified;" or take him to Gethsemane and say, "This is where I shall spend three hours sweating blood and water."

Falling at Jesus' feet, Joseph would weep and exclaim, "My dear Child, allow me to remain on earth to suffer and die instead of you." Furthermore, it grieved the heart of Joseph that he could not remain to be a support to Mary in her sea of suffering, yet this was not God's plan for him. The chalice of suffering which was given to St. Joseph was comparable to his sanctity, which is beyond comprehension.

The title of Father of Sorrows might rightly be given him. Was he not the father of the Man of Sorrows and the husband of the Mother of Sorrows? All that touched their lives made a deep impression upon him. The unity of that Holy Family was so close that it has been referred to as the Earthly Trinity.

During this coming Lent let us meditate and imagine the sorrows of St. Joseph and ask him to aid us in bearing our own sorrows, anguish and agonies.

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



The Pious Union of St. Joseph

Shrine News

As many of you know the Centennial Anniversary of the Death of St. Louis Guanella began as a year-long celebration in October. What some might not realize is that Plenary Indulgence is being granted to those that visit our Shrine during that year:



“The Apostolic Penitentiary, by special mandate of the Holy Father Francis, and to invoke the paternal benevolence, willingly gives a Jubilee Year with adjoining Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff), those faithful to exclude any inclination to sin and be motivated by sincere love; Indulgence to be gained once a day and apply as suffrage to the souls of the faithful still detained in Purgatory:

- a) Every time they take part in the Jubilee celebrations appropriately defined;*
- b) Each time you visit in the form of jubilee pilgrimage churches are identified as such in the letter of request and participate here with devotion in any sacred function or at least, they will be in the presence of the image or the relics of St. Louis Guanella, a suitable period of time, in devout meditation, and finally concluding with the Lord’s Prayer, with the Symbol of Faith and prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Louis Guanella.”*

We hope that this will encourage more of you to make a pilgrimage to our beautiful shrine sometime before October.

We did have an unexpected visit in December from a distant blood relative of St. Louis Guanella. Carol Thompson Koval (born in 1931) and her husband stopped by with their son and son-in-law. Carol’s great-grandmother, Catherine Levi Guanella, was a first cousin of our dear Saint. Catherine’s mother, Mary Ursula Guanella, immigrated to Stillwater MN when her husband died in 1849; leaving her a widow with six children.

During their visit, they told us about their pilgrimage to Como when they visited the Motherhouse and Sacred Heart Church on the Feast of Our Lady of Providence November 12, 2007. And some of their family members were also present at the Canonization of St. Guanella October 26, 2011.

It was truly a blessing to meet these relatives of our Founder. They joined us for Mass at the Shrine and enjoyed lunch with the Servants of Charity at the St. Louis Center.

St. Joseph's Table

BY KELLY FLAHERTY

The tradition of the St. Joseph's Table began in Sicily probably in the Middle Ages.

There are many versions of how the tradition came about but the main theme is that people who were suffering from drought or hunger prayed to St. Joseph; their prayers were answered and in the following abundance they offered a feast for the poor in his honor.



As Sicilians immigrated to the United States, they brought their faith and devotions with them; continuing the St. Joseph table as well. The Table is usually done around the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19th. Though sometimes they are done in thanksgiving for favors given or asked and might need to be done at any time throughout the year depending on the urgency of the request or at the prompting of St. Joseph himself.

Traditionally, meatless dishes are served as well as the popular *St. Joseph's Bread*, which is baked into elaborate crosses, monstrances, wheat sheaves or even the staff of St. Joseph adorned with lilies. The Table is not complete without flowers, candles and of course a statue of St. Joseph. Once everything is prepared the people *doing* the Table invite family, friends, the poor and needy. Tables are offered in homes, parishes, restaurants and neighborhoods; some venues serving as many as 1500 people.

The city of Gloucester MA is a fishing community inhabited by a small population of faith-filled Sicilians who continue the traditions of devotion to St. Joseph. Many prominent families in the community host their own Table in their homes with family and friends traveling to each location to share in faith, fellowship and food. A local trolley company drives the faithful to each of the dozen or so homes where the 'pilgrims' are welcomed, fed and sent off with an orange, a lemon and a loaf of bread.





These pilgrims pray the rosary and sing Sicilian songs along the way. If you don't know the words at the beginning of the journey, you will by the end of the day.

Preparations begin months in advance with the production of homemade Limoncello by a small group of ladies. As the feast draws nearer the families offering Tables prepare their traditional foods such as noodles, sauces, desserts and breads. The local Italian bakeries, usually owned and operated by Sicilian immigrants or first and second generation Sicilian Americans are busy making St. Joseph's bread, rolls, zeppole, sfinci and many other traditional delights that do not stay on the shelves for long. It is recommended that you place orders in advance because there is no guarantee that there will be enough to meet the demand for this celebrated Feast.

If you live in New England it may be worth your time to consider making the trip to Gloucester to experience the Feast of St. Joseph the Sicilian way. Please be sure to take a look at more photos and films of their community events by visiting Gloucester's Feast of Saint Joseph Community Film Project at www.saintjosephfilm.wordpress.com. Special thanks to Kim Smith for the use of her photos for this article.

The tradition also continues here at the Shrine of St. Joseph. All are welcomed for the St. Joseph day festivities and to share in the Table provided by the St. Joseph Women's Guild. We hope to see you there.

Photos ©2014 Kim Smith

**The Pious Union
of St. Joseph**

Mailbag

Dear Pious Union,

I love your magazine; it's not too large and lengthy it's very up-to-date with subjects. I love your articles on St. Joseph, he's almost like a forgotten saint; and we need him so badly today; where people are searching for a meaning in death; also reminded to pray for all the lost souls on earth and in Purgatory is vital in today's world.

How do we obtain your book or any books you have in your library? I'm interested in *Bishop Bacciarini: A Man from the House of Providence*.

Thank you so much for your time,

Mary T, Kaukauna WI

Congregation Day

By FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SdC

March 24th is a very important and dear date for the Servants of Charity. This date marks the official beginning of the Congregation. For this reason, March 24th, the vigil of the solemnity of the Annunciation, is also called Congregation Day.

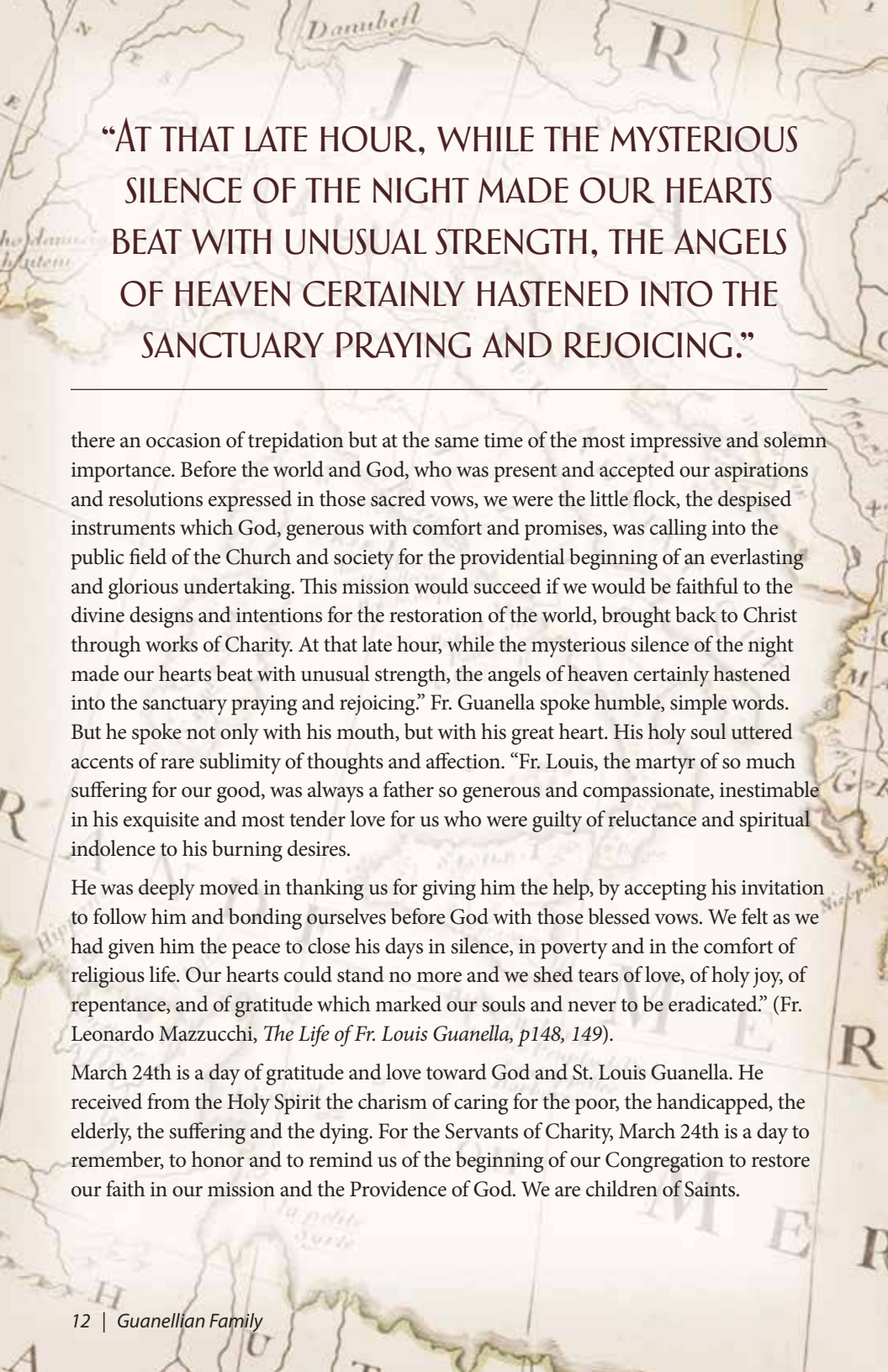
On March 24, 1908, at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Como, something extraordinary took place. This day marked the end of much suffering and the beginning of God's grace for Fr. Guanella and his religious community.

For twenty years Fr. Guanella had applied to the Holy See for the approval of his congregations: The Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Servants of Charity. He was turned down for many

reasons but he kept trying again and again. His faith was tested and he almost gave up. There was a moment when he thought that he should unite the members of his institute with the sole bond of charity, similarly to other religious societies. This could have been either for the purpose of avoiding financial and political persecution or for fear that a canonical approval, with its complicated rules, would stifle the spirit and purpose of his institute. His hesitation disappeared upon the advice of his greatest friend, Pope Pius X. Fr. Guanella enjoyed the friendship and counsel of his Pope. With new courage and trust in Divine Providence, and the assistance of Fr. Claudio Benedetti, in 1907 he wrote the Constitutions of the Servants of Charity.

On March 24, 1908 Fr. Guanella and ten other confreres pronounced their perpetual vows according to these Constitutions. Fr. Guanella noted in his report that the act of profession, performed according to the instruction of the Holy See, "was for us gathered





“AT THAT LATE HOUR, WHILE THE MYSTERIOUS SILENCE OF THE NIGHT MADE OUR HEARTS BEAT WITH UNUSUAL STRENGTH, THE ANGELS OF HEAVEN CERTAINLY HASTENED INTO THE SANCTUARY PRAYING AND REJOICING.”

there an occasion of trepidation but at the same time of the most impressive and solemn importance. Before the world and God, who was present and accepted our aspirations and resolutions expressed in those sacred vows, we were the little flock, the despised instruments which God, generous with comfort and promises, was calling into the public field of the Church and society for the providential beginning of an everlasting and glorious undertaking. This mission would succeed if we would be faithful to the divine designs and intentions for the restoration of the world, brought back to Christ through works of Charity. At that late hour, while the mysterious silence of the night made our hearts beat with unusual strength, the angels of heaven certainly hastened into the sanctuary praying and rejoicing.” Fr. Guanella spoke humble, simple words. But he spoke not only with his mouth, but with his great heart. His holy soul uttered accents of rare sublimity of thoughts and affection. “Fr. Louis, the martyr of so much suffering for our good, was always a father so generous and compassionate, inestimable in his exquisite and most tender love for us who were guilty of reluctance and spiritual indolence to his burning desires.

He was deeply moved in thanking us for giving him the help, by accepting his invitation to follow him and bonding ourselves before God with those blessed vows. We felt as we had given him the peace to close his days in silence, in poverty and in the comfort of religious life. Our hearts could stand no more and we shed tears of love, of holy joy, of repentance, and of gratitude which marked our souls and never to be eradicated.” (Fr. Leonardo Mazzucchi, *The Life of Fr. Louis Guanella*, p148, 149).

March 24th is a day of gratitude and love toward God and St. Louis Guanella. He received from the Holy Spirit the charism of caring for the poor, the handicapped, the elderly, the suffering and the dying. For the Servants of Charity, March 24th is a day to remember, to honor and to remind us of the beginning of our Congregation to restore our faith in our mission and the Providence of God. We are children of Saints.

The Pious Union of St. Joseph and a Happy Death

By FR. SATHEESH ALPHONSE, SdC

The birth of an idea of hope, a culmination of a life, one dedicated to a spirit of compassion, sacrifice and selfless love, a life exhibited by Mary's Holy Spouse, the foster father of our Lord—these were the factors at the heart of Fr. Louis Guanella's concept of the Pious Union of St. Joseph.

Fr. Louis Guanella nourished the devotion toward St. Joseph in his pious soul from his earliest years. He enkindled it even from his seminary days in many ways and he had experienced favors from St. Joseph. He loved to invoke St. Joseph and often taught others to do the same especially for the moral development of his Institute and an increase of vocations. He had a special devotion to St. Joseph as the Patron of the Dying. It was so manifested when Fr. Guanella wanted the new Church in Rome to be dedicated in honor of the Blessed Death of St. Joseph. On March 19, 1912, the feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary, Fr. Guanella celebrated the first Mass in the new Church in the presence of numerous faithful.



His pursuit of his “Hour of Mercy” which was at the center of all his work for the poor, the disenfranchised and those with disabilities naturally led him late in his life to institute an association to entrust the spiritual welfare of the dying under the protection of the Spouse of Mary Most Holy. So the Pious Union of St. Joseph was born as a Confraternity of prayer for the Suffering and Dying.

When he presented the idea to his friend, Pope Pius X, the Pope blessed his intention and asked to become the first member. On February 13th, 1913, Pope Pius X approved the Pious Union of St. Joseph. He assigned St. Joseph’s Church in Rome to be the primary Christian center for all of those praying for the suffering



and the dying through this association. This means all other branches, such as ours in the United States, must be recognized and approved by the primary center in Rome. On February 12, 1914, Pious Union of St. Joseph’s Association received canonical recognition from the Vatican. From that day until now, all the Popes have become members of the Pious Union.

Central to the idea of the Pious Union of St. Joseph was to use an association that focused on prayerful support for all the dying that they might, as St. Joseph, experience a “happy death.” A ministry of the Servants of Charity, the Pious Union of St. Joseph enrolls priests, religious, and lay people in a confraternity of prayer for the benefit of the suffering and dying. Fr. Guanella once said, “There is need of living well, but there is even more need of dying well. A good death is everything, especially today where people think only of things and enjoyment here on earth, rejecting eternity.” Tradition has it that St. Joseph died in the arms of the Lord and in the presence of his spouse, the Holy Mother of God, at peace and filled with the joy of an impending unity with this same Son of God. It was Fr. Guanella’s conviction to “establish an everlasting supplication to the great saint of the dying, St. Joseph, for the benefit of souls passing into eternity.” The intercession of St. Joseph would lead the soul to a happy death, a death in the state of grace.

In the past 100 years, the association has spread around the globe, especially in countries where Guanellians are present. In 1986 the Servants of Charity purchased 30 acres of land in Grass Lake, MI and under the dedicated guidance of Fr. Germano Pegoraro, a beautiful Shrine of St. Joseph was built and dedicated in 2000. The growth of the Pious Union continues to be reinforced by the Church. In 2004, Pope John Paul II reaffirmed its value stating, “Saint Louis Guanella has inspired continuous prayers to help all people at the point of crossing the threshold of eternal life.”

One of the reasons the Association has grown is because the membership is free and the sole commitment of membership is to pray every day to St. Joseph for the benefit of the suffering and dying—that they might have a happy death. One of the privileges of being a member in this Association is that when we pray for the Suffering and the Dying, we assure ourselves of a good death since we are praying for others. In addition, there are so many priests around the world, members of this Association, who have committed to celebrate a mass each year for the intentions of the Pious Union. As a result, every day hundreds of Masses are celebrated in every part of the world for the salvation of the Dying and for the repose of the souls of all deceased members. It is as Father Guanella envisioned it, a united effort of prayer for those suffering and dying because, as he noted, “There is need of heavenly aid.”

As it completes its 100th year, the goal remains as Fr. Louis Guanella envisioned it: “I desire,” he said, “Prayer and a Heart of Spritual Charity to obtain the good death of all... of the entire world.”









The Annunciation of Mary

The Arrival of the Savior

BY FR. SILVIO DE NARD, SdC

The Annunciation of Mary together with the Birth of Jesus on Christmas are the two major evangelical scenes present in the art of all times.

I was born in a parish and subsequently baptized in its church dedicated to the Annunciation. The painting of Mary kneeling and surprised to see an angel in her house is still in a prominent place in the church.

Every March 25th we recalled the grandiose event of heaven entering the womb of an unknown girl from an unknown family of an unknown village in an almost unknown country.

God loves anonymity, the simple and the humble. He loves those who are anonymous, simple and humble because He is like that. God exists but is not visible. God is the creator of heaven and earth but He is simple. God is the almighty but a humble merciful God.

The God of Jesus Christ is totally different from the God of all other religious and faiths existing or that existed on earth.

The Greeks adored Zeus, the Romans Jupiter, the Egyptians Osiris, the Hindus Brahma, the Canaanites Baal, the Mayans Itzamna, the Aztecs Huitzilopochtli... but all of them were 'invented' by men. Only the Christian God revealed Himself and was totally revealed by Jesus Christ. While those idols were requesting human sacrifices and tons of offerings, our God offers Himself to His creatures. Not bad!

Mary of Nazareth accepted the call to be the human vehicle; allowing the divine to join the life of humans. At times I wonder why God did not send a redeemer to save the



fallen angels and why they were unworthy of a redeemer. Was their sin unredeemable? Mystery of faith! It is enough for me to take care of myself and save my soul and leave the big questions to someone who has the time and the mind to contemplate this mystery.

I am content to be like Mary: to welcome the Savior in my daily life, to conform my life to the life of Christ, to battle evil and carry the cross like Jesus has done so successfully.

The Annunciation is one of the greatest events in the history of creation: a creature giving birth to her Creator. The Italian poet, Dante Alighieri, in his epic poem 'The Divine Comedy' written between 1306 and 1318, wrote the following beautiful prayer he put on the lips of St. Bernard in Paradise. Let us pray it reverently:

*“Virgin mother, daughter of your Son,
Humbler and higher than all other creatures,
Fixed aim and goal of the eternal plan,*

*“You are the one who lifted human nature
To such nobility that its own Maker
Did not disdain to be made of its making.*

*“Within your womb was lit once more the flame
Of that love through whose warmth this flower opened
To its full bloom in everlasting peace.*

*“To us up here you are the torch of noon
Blazing with love, and for the mortals down there
You are the living fountainhead of hope.*

*“Lady, you are so highly placed and helpful,
Whoever seeks grace and does not call on you
Wants his desires to fly up without wings.*

*“Your loving heart not only offers aid
To those who ask for it, but oftentimes
Free-handedly anticipates the asking.*

*“In you is mercy, in you large heartedness,
In you compassion, and in you is found
Whatever good exists in any creature.*

What should I add to it? I add only a song of thanksgiving from the realization that Mary at the Annunciation not only has become the Mother of God, but also our Mother.



Ahead of 2015 Synod

VATICAN CITY

The Holy Father wants feedback from faithful at ‘all levels’ on how to respond to difficult issues such as divorce and remarriage.

For the second time in two years, the Vatican has asked national bishops’ conferences around the world to seek input from Catholics at “all levels” about how the church should respond to sometimes difficult questions of modern family life, such as divorce and remarriage.

Issuing a document in preparation for a second worldwide meeting of Catholic bishops on family life next year, the Vatican has also stressed the need for mercy in responding to such difficult situations—even asking the bishops to avoid basing their pastoral care solely on current Catholic doctrine.

The call for input came in a document released by the Vatican’s Office for the Synod of Bishops, which in October 2015 will host the second of two global bishops’ meetings called by Pope Francis for 2014 and 2015.

The document is partly a summary of the last meeting in October and partly a series of 46 questions meant to help prepare for the next synod. The Vatican synod office is sending the document to bishops’ conferences around the world.



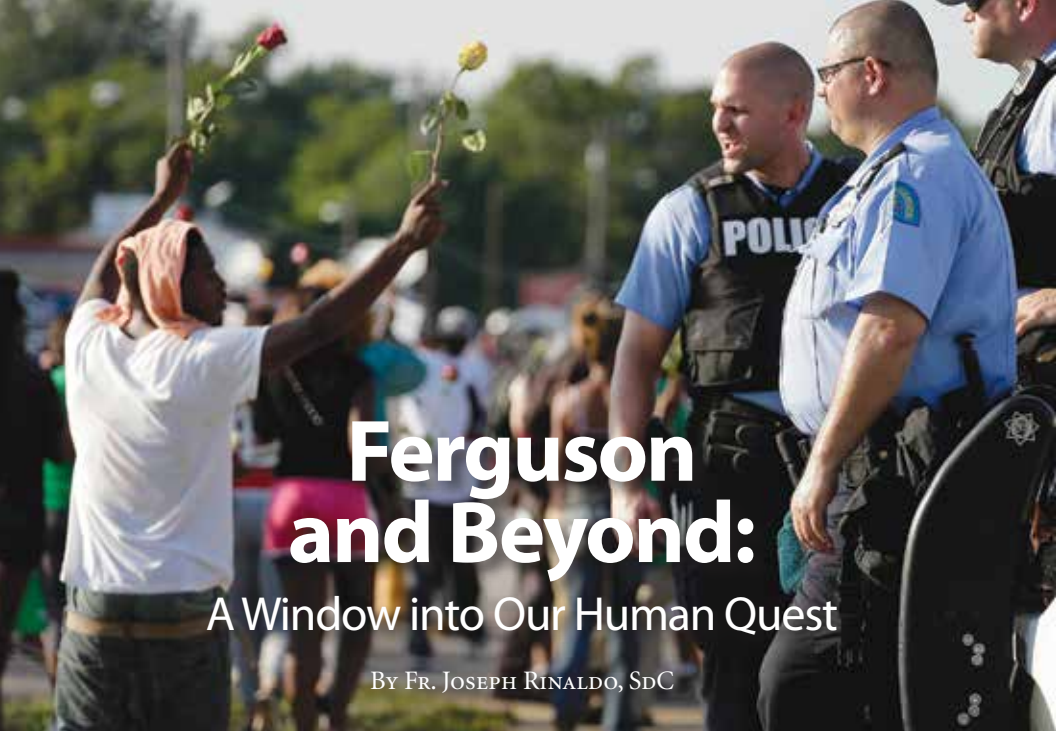


In its preface, the document states that the questions are aimed as “an in-depth examination of the work initiated” at the last synod. “The proposed questions are intended to assist the bishops’ conferences in their reflection and to avoid, in their responses, a formulation of pastoral care based simply on an application of doctrine, which would not respect the conclusions of the Extraordinary Assembly and would lead their reflection far from the path already indicated,” the document states.

The results of the consultation will need to be sent to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops by April 15, 2015 so that the responses can be examined in preparation for the *Instrumentum Laboris*, which will need to be published before the summer.



Today, a book titled “*La famiglia e il futuro*” (“Family and the future”), edited by Fr. Antonio Spadaro, Editor-in-Chief of Jesuit periodical *La Civiltà Cattolica*, was published, containing all the documents of the Extraordinary Synod.



Ferguson and Beyond:

A Window into Our Human Quest

BY FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

As a Servants of Charity and a priest for forty-seven years, I have served and learned from people of many backgrounds in this diverse nation of ours. I have observed how individuals as well as groups are too often devalued, ignored, discriminated, distrusted, and even blamed over and over again.

The sadness of the situation in Ferguson, New York, and beyond is profound. Many people, including myself, affirm solidarity with those peaceably working for racial justice, equality and fairness.



In these conflicts many of us are using phrases like “no justice, no peace,” and we stand with people searching for peace and for justice. The Gospel and our Catholic social teaching remind us how to approach these moments of turmoil.

I was part of the following reflection expressed by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men of which I am a member.

First of all, we need to defend **The Life and Dignity of the Human Person**. Created in God’s image, every person is afforded the right to be respected and protected from



harm, injustice, or violent attack. This includes law enforcement officials and anyone who may be breaking the law. Efforts to protect ourselves and our society do call for appropriate responses, yet never in an unreasonable, unloving, or prejudiced manner. We trust our police, yet when this trust is compromised, we look to our courts to seek justice.

Our faith in Jesus urges us to uphold the values of **Family, Community and Participation**. The beauty of our democracy, and the sacred ethics that support it, is that our society is grounded in a healthy representation in government. In both the judicial and executive branches of the various levels of government, we entrust our leaders to reflect the values and voices of the people it seeks to serve. We ask our elected leaders to listen to the voices that have been raised to remedy deficiencies in any court proceedings. We ask that the restorative justice process and larger communal healing efforts be employed. A larger Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Race Relations in our society would be a good place to start.

Solidarity is a must. **We are one human race**. If any of our members hurt, we enter into that pain with empathy, compassion, and a willingness to promote healing. These events in Missouri and New York and other places are a mirror of deep, simmering issues of race relations, police accountability, and the responsibilities of family as well as individuals. Incidents involving white police officers and black citizens do not imply automatic racism on the part of white police officers or a proclivity to crime among black people. Rather it shows the wide gap in racial concord in our society. Regardless of our race, each of us aches at this reality. Our continued prayers for all parties in these conflicts, that healing, wisdom, and heartfelt community arise.

ESPOUSAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

BY KELLY FLAHERTY

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you...” Jer 1,4*

Though the Marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary was traditionally celebrated on January 23rd, the season of Lent offers a time of quiet in order to contemplate this virgin marriage more deeply in light of the fact that all Christians are called to imitate Christ Himself in all that they think and say and do. From the visions of Venerable Anne Catherine Emmerich we have the opportunity to glimpse at what this divine marriage meant for Mary and Joseph and what it means for us even today.



Venerable Ann Catherine Emmerich was a mystic and a nun. She had visions of the true life of the Holy Family. She remembered and dictated these details to a faithful scribe and they were later published as books. *The Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary* relates details about Mary's life before the Annunciation. She had been consecrated and was living in the Temple; spending her days embroidering garments, praying and awaiting the fulfillment of the Promised Messiah. When she reached the age of thirteen she had to leave the Temple and so it was mandated that a suitable husband be found. Imagine the disappointment of this young virgin who had consecrated herself to God; devoting herself completely to following the Law. Nevertheless, she submitted to the will of God and the man who was chosen to become her spouse.

It wasn't long before Mary realized that God had great plans for her, "All generations shall call you blessed," for she knew the prophecies from long ago.

She did not get to live out her salvation according to her own will, but she submitted herself entirely to the will of God, no matter how sorrowful or painful it would be.

Her obedience was rewarded. The spouse selected for her, too had consecrated himself to God according to the visions of Venerable Ann Catherine Emmerich. Though Joseph seemed to want to escape the difficulty that was put forth to him, he eventually submitted himself entirely to God's will for his life and became the foster father of the Savior and the true, chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To meditate on how this affects our lives we must spend some time truly contemplating what God's will may be; what plans could He have for each of us? Even if it seems like we are well on our way to our life's vocation, be obedient and listen, God may be calling you in another direction. Sometimes wives are called to give themselves entirely to the care of a sick or disabled husband; taking on her husband's role in the family as well as her own. Sometimes mother's are called to give up their work in order to care for a disabled child. Husbands have also been left behind by a deceased wife; finding themselves picking up the pieces of his own grief and that of his children.

These can be dark and scary times, that is if we think we are left to ourselves to handle everything on our own. Now look to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph her spouse. They trusted God completely to care for them in their times of greatest need as well as those times when they were not vulnerable. This is when you need to look at the Holy Family. Beg them for their help in guiding you in God's will and to provide for all your needs. Mary couldn't do it on her own, what makes us think that we can? When you are the most frightened or alone, place yourself in the arms of Mary and ask her to guide you to her Son and the way to your own salvation. You will be truly happy when you know that you are living according to God's plan for your life and not your own.

What is also truly important is that this marriage was meant to be the model for Christian husbands and wives; inspiring them to live in sincere love and peace and be obedient to the commandments of God." Each day before you get yourself out of bed, follow Mary's lead and give yourself in holy obedience to the will of God, "Teach me to imitate your humility, O Mary, by acknowledging my nothingness and seeking the glory of God in everything. "

Remember the words of Jeremiah, "Before He formed you in the womb, He knew you..." that is a strong indication that He knows what is best for all of us, therefore take time this Lenten season to truly listen to where you are being called, place yourself in the arms of the Blessed Mother and from that spot give yourself over completely to God's will, like the Holy Family.

Now and at the Hour Survey Analysis: October-November 2014

By JOSEPH YEKULIS

On behalf of the Servants of Charity and the Pious Union of St. Joseph, we would like to thank you, our many readers, for sharing your thoughts and views with us as a result of the readership survey we provided you in our last issue.

We were amazed at the number of responses that we received from all over the country, and learned that there is a huge devotion to St. Joseph in our Catholic community in the United States. We know that it's difficult to improve any product without genuine feedback, and you gave us many great ideas for future articles that we believe will hold your interest and continue to help you grow in your faith.

Let's start with the questions we asked that we can break down numerically, and then follow-up with some of your valuable comments, suggestions, and personal anecdotes concerning how the magazine has impacted your lives.

How much of the magazine do you read when you receive it?

All of it: 68% Half of it: 20% One-two Articles: 12%

What articles do you find the most interesting? (Choose any three responses)

Catholic Faith & St. Joseph: 96 Missions in Asia: 12 Catholic Current Events: 56

What is your opinion of *Now and at the Hour* Magazine?

Great Magazine: 73% Average Magazine: 23% Remove from Mailing List: 4%

What is the demographic make-up of our readers?

65 or Older: 64% 45-64: 30% 18-44: 6%

What is the gender breakdown of our readers?

Female: 70% Male: 30%

How do you prefer to read your copy of *Now and at the Hour*?

Traditional Mailed Copy: 85% Emailed Copy: 11% No Preference: 4%

Would you be willing to accept electronic versions of *Now and at the Hour*?

No: 77% Yes: 23%



Now for some of your great suggestions concerning future articles that would be helpful to you. As mentioned earlier, many of you are very devoted to St. Joseph and have asked us to continue providing you with devotional stories centered on his life, as well as the life of the Blessed Mother and the Saints; both old and new. Several people expressed an interest in traditional Catholic Rites such as the Latin Tridentine Mass, the Rosary, Healing Prayers, Devotions, Apologetics, the Sacraments, Purgatory, and knowing the Crucified Christ. Others expressed interest in the life of St. Louis Guanella, Sr. Clare Bosatta, and inspiring stories about Servants of Charity Priests and Brothers. Finally, several people were interested in current events, e.g., the current teachings of our Holy Father Pope Francis, extraordinary people named “Joseph,” and the ongoing activities of the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake, MI.

Concerning how our magazine has changed your spiritual life for the better? A reader from Michigan mentioned that stories of the Missions in Asia remind him of how much more we should be doing for the poor in Third World Countries, while a reader from Tennessee mentioned how important the “Family” themed articles were for the life of his own family. A reader from Virginia remarked how Fr. Silvio’s recent article about using the “Rosary as Spiritual Medicine” has brought her family closer together by praying the Rosary together. A reader from Oak Lawn, IL said that, “Your articles have brought me closer to God, Our Lady, St. Joseph, and the saints. I pray much more now.” A reader from Lancaster, NY expressed that, “Your articles describing St. Guanella’s service to God by serving others has had a great impact on my life.” And finally, a reader from Woodridge, IL said that, “Because of the wisdom of St. Louis Guanella, I have lost all fear of death.”

Our mailing list throughout the United States is approximately 12,500 strong, and although 100 surveys may seem like a small sample comparatively, we were amazed that we received surveys back from readers in 28 states. The most surveys returned were from Pennsylvania (13), followed by Michigan (11), New York (9), Illinois (8), and California & Wisconsin with (6) each. Five surveys were returned from New Jersey, Virginia, and Florida, while the remaining states returned between (3) and (1).

By God’s Grace, the Pious Union of St. Joseph in the United States is blessed with readers from “Sea to shining Sea,” and every region of the country is represented from the East Coast to the Midwest, the South, the Mountain states, and the West Coast. Please continue to send us your feedback, and let us know how we can make your next issue of *Now and at the Hour* the best it can be. May St. Joseph continue to intercede in your lives, filling you with the Holy Spirit and the presence of his Foster Son, Jesus Christ!



We Make the Road by Walking:

Our Journey to the St. Louis Guanella Village

By Peggy Cole

The Servants of Charity and their colleagues at St. Louis Center in Chelsea, Michigan have embarked on a major journey. For many years now, they have been asking this question: Who will care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities when their parents are gone or no longer able to care for them and their family members are potentially hundreds of miles away? Parents and family members who are facing this complex challenge worry. One parent of an adult resident of St. Louis Center said, “I pray every night that I live a day longer than my son lives.”

The aging of our society, the “graying of America,” directly impacts demand for services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) because they are living longer, thanks to major advances in education and medicine, coordination of resources from all levels of government, and overall improved quality of life. In 1929, life expectancy for a person born with Down’s Syndrome was 9 years, increasing to 18.3 years by 1961. Life expectancy for a 2010 birth is projected to be 55 years.

The number of adults with I/DD age 60 years or older is projected to nearly double from 641,860 in 2000 to 1.2 million by 2030.

Over 75% of Americans with I/DD live with their families and more than 25% of family care providers are over the age of 60. As these family members age, other formal living arrangements must be made for the individuals to whom they have provided lifelong care. The increasing longevity of people with I/DD and the likelihood that they will outlive their parents are new realities that are stretching families and state service delivery providers.

St. Louis Center is preparing for these new realities. In summer 2014, the agency opened Fr. Guanella Hall for Assisted Living, a \$2M renovation of an existing home that is now open to older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who require very specialized care and services as they age. Funds were raised from private individuals, foundations, and corporations by a group of volunteers who comprise the Legacy Campaign Committee. In-kind donations of paint, cabinetry, furniture, and services helped to keep costs down. With its light-filled rooms, soothing color schemes, tranquil setting, and numerous features of Universal Design—design for all—the home celebrates life and the gift of people of all abilities.



With Fr. Guanella Hall for Assisted Living open, the agency is on the road to the development of the “St. Louis Guanella Village,” an intentional housing community in which a continuum of life-long, compassionate care for people with I/DD will be provided. The Village will include independent, supportive, and assisted living options for children and adults with I/DD. Families and others who desire to live in the Village will have both single family homes and townhomes available to them. Over \$8M will need to be raised to cover Village construction costs.

The St. Louis Guanella Village will allow for dignified care of people with I/DD of all ages in townhomes, cottages, and condominiums adapted to meet the specific needs of residents. Care and programming in the Village will promote dignity, respect, independence, comfort, spirituality, friendship, and active community participation.

The St. Louis Guanella Village plan includes a chapel, which St. Guanella called “...our paradise on earth.” A new retail center will provide an opportunity for products created in microenterprises staffed by Village residents to be sold.

Ideas for the Village are constantly changing and should. We make the road by walking. What will matter the most, more than the number of homes constructed, their square footage and amenities, is that all of the residents who live in the Village, people of all abilities and ages, feel valued and loved. As Pope Francis reminds us, “If there is no love there is no joy.”

These are bold plans to be sure and as we walk, we will need to follow the example of St. Guanella who wrote, “To succeed, we must believe.” As always, our journey will be sustained by prayer and Divine Providence.

The Pious Union Library:

Under the Wings of Divine Providence

Fr. Tito Credaro, SdC is a 92 year old Guanellian priest. He has been a Servant of Charity since September 1949. Father Credaro has occupied several relevant and important positions among the Servants of Charity. He learned and lived the spirituality of St. Louis Guanella for many years. He had transmitted this spirituality to many generations of young Guanellians.

I assume that before the Lord calls him, Fr. Credaro, SdC wanted to put in writing his love for St. Louis Guanella and his charism. The book, *Under the Wings of Providence* leads the reader through Fr. Guanella's vocation as a priest and founder. His suffering, his failures and the persecution he experienced are presented as a purifying fire. Finally, his trust in Divine Providence overcame his difficulties.

Fr. Credaro, SdC enjoys describing the precious legacy of St. Louis Guanella to his congregations and the people of God.

When I read this book, I experienced 200 pages of living the Gospel in real life.



Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC



Is God Calling You to Serve Others?

Among those who are deprived of human and spiritual support, we care for developmentally disabled, abandoned youth, indigent elderly, and the incurably and terminally ill. We are also committed to pastoral and missionary work in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The Servants of Charity Priests and Brothers, Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, Cooperators and hundreds of members of the greater Guanellian family serve over a million brothers and sisters while offering comfort, consolation and support. There is room for many others; those needing help and those who want to help.

Consider joining our mission, making the love of God more and more visible in our world. For more information, contact:

Sacred Heart Church

Fr. Silvio De Nard
118 Taunton Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914
tel: 401-434-0326
vocations@servantsofcharity.org

Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

Sr. Brenda McHugh
108 Ridgeview Ct.
Grass Lake, MI 49240
sisterbrendam@gmail.com

Pious Union of St. Joseph

Fr. Sathesh Alphonse
953 E. Michigan Ave.
Grass Lake, MI 49240
tel: 270-556-7789
vocations@servantsofcharity.org



Prayer for Vocations

Pray, we beg You, O holy Mother of God, that religious vocations to this work of mercy may be multiplied, and that those who are called to help may be eager to respond for the greater glory of God, your honor, and the relief of many who suffer in misery and abandonment. Amen.



Please consider helping one of our seminarians to become a priest or a brother for one dollar a day.



To become a member of the Pious Union of St. Joseph or to extend membership to prayerful friends and relatives, please send names and addresses to 953 E. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240 or email piousunion@pusj.org

Shrine of St. Joseph Sacraments and Hours of Devotion

Mass times: Sun 10:00 a.m. • M, Tu, Th, Fr and Sat 11:30 a.m.

Wed 8:30 a.m. followed by Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

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

Pious Union of St. Joseph
953 East Michigan Ave.
Grass Lake, MI 49240
Phone: 517-522-8017
Email: piousunion@pusj.org

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
PERMIT NO. 87
ANN ARBOR, MI