

# now AND AT THE HOUR

THE VOICE OF PROVIDENCE

JUNE-JULY 2015

## Our Lady of Mt. Carmel The Life Saver

FEATURED STORY ON PAGE 18



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From the Mountain***Published By:**

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Suffering and Dying

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

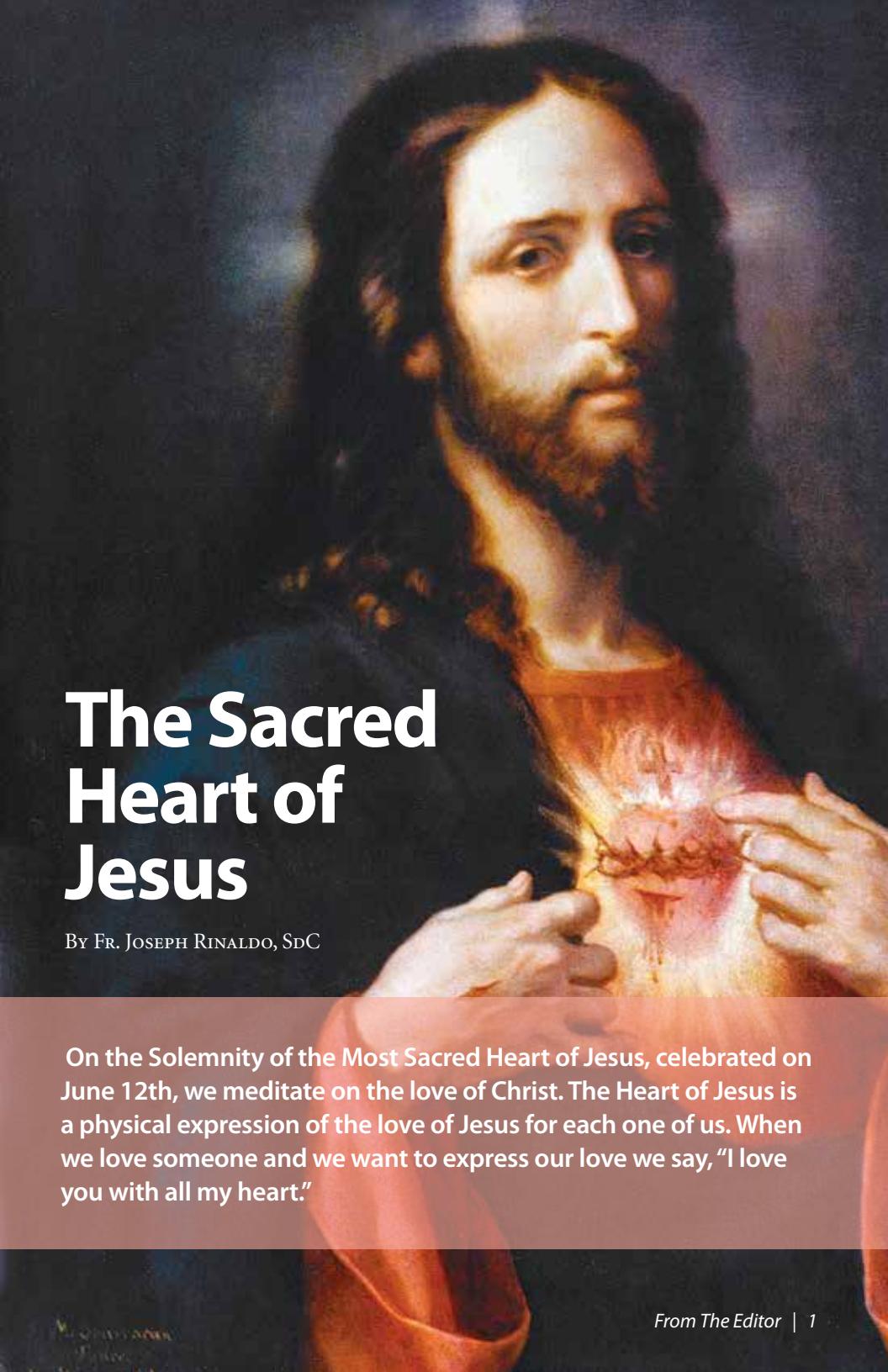
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**The Voice of Providence:** Is a non-profit bi-monthly publication of the Divine Providence Province of the Servants of Charity, a Catholic Religious Congregation founded by Saint Louis Guanella, (1842–1915).

**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.

**Center spread:** Altar frontal or Antependium of the altar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel, Villa di Sedico (BL), Italy. Image by Aldo de Bastiani. Images on pp. 18–19 are also by Aldo de Bastiani.

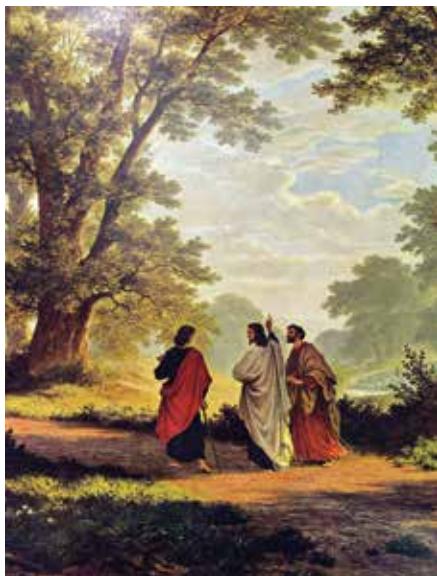


# The Sacred Heart of Jesus

By FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

On the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrated on June 12th, we meditate on the love of Christ. The Heart of Jesus is a physical expression of the love of Jesus for each one of us. When we love someone and we want to express our love we say, "I love you with all my heart."

Jesus says the same thing to each one of us: "I love you with all my heart." Christ loved us not only with His words, but with His deeds and His life. St. Ignatius said that the love of Jesus manifests itself more in deeds than in words and that it is especially more giving than receiving. These two criteria are like the pillars of true love. The Good Shepherd knows His sheep by name because His is not an abstract or general love: it is love towards everyone. A God who draws near out of love, walks with His people, and this walk comes to an unimaginable point. We could never have imagined that the same Lord would become one of us and walk with us, be present with us, present in His Church, present in the Eucharist, present in His Word, present in the poor: He is present, walking with us. And this is closeness: the shepherd close to his flock, close to his sheep, whom he knows, one by one. He cares in a special way for the sheep that are lost, wounded and sick. The tenderness of God to all is manifested in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



The Lord knows that beautiful science of caresses: the tenderness of God. He does not love us with words. He comes close and closer and gives us His love with tenderness. Closeness and tenderness! The Lord loves us in these two ways: He draws near and gives all His love even in the smallest things, with tenderness. And this is a powerful love, because closeness and tenderness reveal the strength of God's love.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus wants us not only to love others the way God loves us, but more importantly, to let ourselves be loved by God. It is more difficult to let God love us, than to love Him. This may sound awkward, but it is the greatest truth!

The best way to love Him in return is to open our hearts and let Him love us. Let Him draw close to us and feel Him close to us. This is really very difficult: letting ourselves be loved by Him. And that is perhaps what we need to ask in prayer: "Lord, I want to love You, but teach me the difficult science, the difficult habit of letting myself be loved by You, to feel You close and feel Your tenderness! May the Lord give me this grace."

St. Paul exhorts us: "Be kind to one another, compassionate, and mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ. Be imitators of God as His dear children. Follow the ways of love, even as Christ loved you. He gave Himself for us as an offering to God, a gift of pleasing fragrance. (Eph 4,32-5,2).



# The Power in His Silence

By FR. SATHEESH ALPHONSE, SdC

**The power of intercession cannot be measured. The healings in the Bible, and in particular the Gospels, were manifested by the power of God. It also truly manifests the strong devotion and the faith of the one who desired to be healed. There are many saints in the Church who are considered to be powerful intercessors for the needs of the people.**

Each individual saint, whether a holy man or woman, had deep faith; and, because of their closeness to God, they became the intercessors for the people who needed healing spiritually and/or physically in their lives.

Unfortunately, in his role as an intercessor, St. Joseph is sometimes a forgotten saint among the faithful. The fact that Joseph is forgotten is a genuine poverty, for next to Jesus and His Blessed Mother, he is a powerful intercessor. He has been part and parcel of Salvation history; he is also honored as the Patron of the Church.

St. Joseph gained such an important role because he was such a great example of obedience. We know how much he obeyed the commands of the Lord even though it was through his dreams that he heard God's voice. Even if Jesus had not seen the obedience of St. Joseph when he took Mary into his household when she had become pregnant with the power of the Holy Spirit, certainly, Jesus would have experienced the obedience of St. Joseph as he flew to Egypt and then came back to Nazareth because of the command of the Angel. Through all of his doubts and difficulties, Joseph's actions demonstrated in a profound way that love means obedience.

Jesus would have learned so many things from His foster father. St. Joseph was a role model on earth. Christ certainly modeled that kind of obedience in subjecting Himself to the will of His Heavenly Father, all the way to His passion and death upon the Cross.

St. Joseph's role as intercessor is also strengthened by his humility. He was humble since he had to live with the most important people in the history of Salvation, namely Jesus and the Blessed Mother. St. Bernard said of him as he guided and taught his foster son, the Son of God, "How shall a man not be humble in the presence of a humble God?" Though feeling inadequate, he performed his duty as a foster father to Jesus and a chaste spouse to Mary. Despite his quiet, humble stature, St. Joseph is recognized as a man of action. There are no words given in the Scriptures from his mouth. His actions speak louder than words. The actions of St. Joseph speak about his love for his wife, Mary, and his foster son, his God. It was because he was in union with the Holy Spirit that he dared to take any risk in accomplishing what the Holy Spirit wanted him to do; yet, he is known simply as "St. Joseph the Worker."



“ST. JOSEPH HAS A STRONG RE COURSE TO JESUS AS A POWERFUL INTERCESSOR. THE ONE WHO WAS THE MODEL FOR JESUS AS HIS GUARDIAN ON EARTH AND WHO GAVE HIM THE TRAINING TO BE A CARPENTER IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE WHO HAS SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE IN HEAVEN.”

Of St. Joseph, St. Teresa of Avila said in her Autobiography: “To other Saints Our Lord seems to have given power to succor us in some special necessity—but to this glorious Saint, I know by experience, He has given the power to help us in all. Our Lord would have us understand that as He was subject to St. Joseph on earth—for St. Joseph, bearing the title of father and being His guardian, could command Him—so now in Heaven Our Lord grants all his petitions.”

She speaks with great credibility of the power of St. Joseph’s intercession. The statement of St. Teresa of Avila clearly depicts one singular point: St. Joseph has a strong recourse to Jesus as a powerful intercessor. The one who was the model for Jesus as His guardian on earth and who gave Him the training to be a carpenter is recognized as one who has significant influence in heaven. At the Shrine of St. Joseph, we receive many letters and prayer requests which tell of numerous miraculous events that have occurred in the lives of people through the powerful intercession of St. Joseph. For employment, for guidance as a husband and father, for difficult household chores or tasks, for help in finding a home, and in work - these are areas in which many invoke St. Joseph’s intervention and they have received the graces they requested.

Our culture faces a crisis of fatherhood—too many weak fathers, distant fathers, absent fathers—unlike anything we’ve previously experienced. In confronting these, St. Joseph is a great model to follow. However, he is also a powerful intercessor for us. Ask St. Joseph to bless and guide and protect your family and especially the father of the family. Take time to contemplate what he did and—following his model of obedience and humility—ask for his intercession in your life and work. The more we believe in his powerful intercession, the better our lives will become. St. Joseph, pray for us!

# Shrine News

By FR. SATHEESH ALPHONSE, SDC

The month of March is a time of festivities for the Shrine since we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19th in spite of the Lenten season. There is a lot of preparation into the celebration since we also wait for the pilgrims to come and visit the Shrine.

St. Joseph is called the “just man” in the Gospel of Matthew. A just man is a complete man. St. Joseph was a complete man since he obeyed God though it is not always so easy to obey God, especially when God wants us to do things which are contrary to our liking. St. Joseph planned everything right—to divorce Mary silently so that she wouldn’t be ashamed. But here is the vision of God asking him to take a U-turn and live a completely different life from what he envisioned. He obeyed and that is why St. Joseph is a complete man.

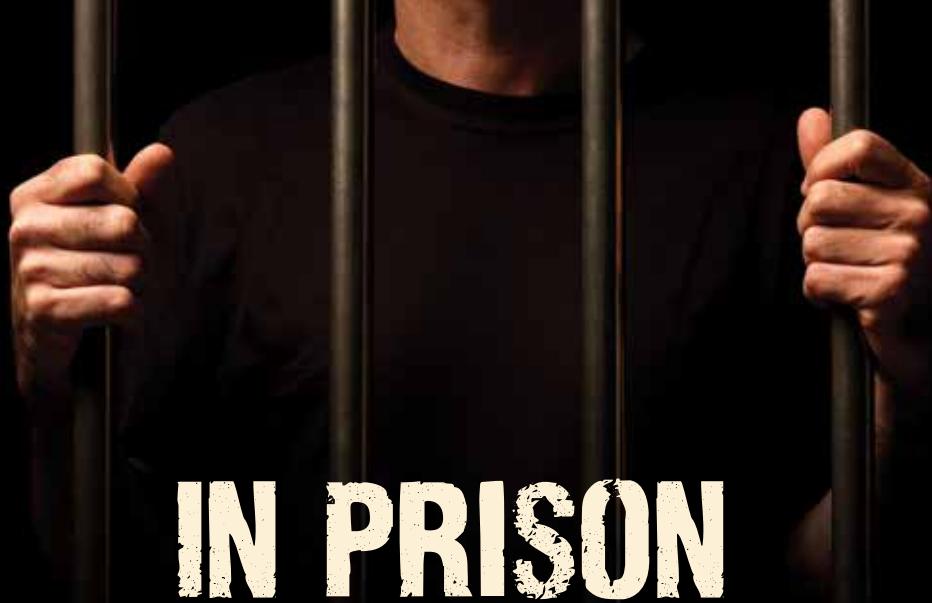
Celebrating the Solemnity was a great joy for us and also for many of the home-schooling families who came for the solemn Mass on the Feast Day. The homeschoolers take the Solemnity of St. Joseph as the holiday to celebrate the feast of the Church. The Shrine was packed with families who gathered to honor the Foster Father of Jesus Christ.

The days around the feast day are also days for the pilgrims to visit the Shrine. There were buses from March 17th - 21st. God was so good that the buses came with enough time for us to prepare for their prayers and tour which included their purchases in the gift shop. There were eight buses altogether during these days and all of them were Chaldeans who have a strong devotion to St. Joseph. It was beautiful to hear prayers in different languages especially in the language that Jesus Himself prayed and spoke; namely Aramaic.

The other important event in the Shrine was the celebration of the Easter Triduum. As a Shrine, we don’t celebrate the entire three day celebrations. This year we practiced and enacted the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. God was again good to us as the weather was perfect for the enactment to happen outdoors. Sr. Brenda prepared the script and was the director. Many of the home-schooling families participated in the enactment. An attendee of the event commented that she could not hold her tears as the children performed the Stations. That is the success of the Stations of the Cross.

God continues to be the center of our journey here at the Shrine. Certainly, God shows His face in helping us to carry on what we envision as a team here at the Shrine. It is not only the benevolence of God in nature and events, but God shows His face through the help and assistance of many volunteers who pitch in when needed. Kudos to all of them. May God bless you all.





# IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME

BY THOMAS HERRON

**Over the years, being involved in prison ministry with young offenders, aka trainees, there were certain topics they deemed important to hear about and discuss in our weekly sessions. We can benefit by reflecting on these same matters.**

First was prayer. The young men, in late teens and early twenties, knew they needed to direct prayer to God, to ask for both material and spiritual needs. Conversing with the Lord they told God of their needs, at the same time giving praise and acknowledging Him. They understood the importance of showing gratitude for the blessings that came their way. There was no denial, on their part, that they were sinners and God was needed in their lives.

At first I was surprised because prayer, I discovered, was often the most important spiritual experience in their life. They wanted to pray together, an exercise that began each session.

The young men prayed for the needs of their families and admitted personal sinfulness. Those who indicated their prayer life was minimal or absent were not infrequently impressed by their fellow inmates who did pray.

Reference to prayer was always a part of each session. Mary and the saints were a seasonal focus but important in the life of a Catholic trainee.

Other relevant topics pertinent to them were hearing of God's mercy, love and forgiveness of sin. The Ten Commandments, as well as the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, were consequential guides for them in living their life. They would share ways of putting the corporal and spiritual works of mercy into action. Others voiced, in various ways, their willingness and actual efforts in helping others in need.

Their enthusiasm was genuine but their knowledge, scope and depth on these matters were often minimal. There were a goodly number of these young men spiritually deprived. It crossed my mind that all of us could do much more incorporating God into our lives by doing little things - referencing our faith through conversation, having a crucifix displayed prominently in our homes, or speaking openly about God as we do of sports figures or political gurus. In a trip through Ireland some years ago it was common practice early in the morning, if you walked the streets and met a person on their way to Mass, to be greeted with not just "good morning" but with a longer statement such as "It is a beautiful day the Lord has made." And your reply, "Rejoice and be glad." In that place God was a real part of everyday life through social interaction.

If I pointed out how the trainees ignored the advice of mom or dad, nods of assent were evident. At the time of their release I reminded them, when they returned home, to find a moment of privacy and say, especially to their mother, "I'm sorry." The room would be completely silent and you could see and feel the reflection of that suggestion ruminating in their minds.

You had a limited time with these young men because they were incarcerated in this particular location for the final ninety days of their sentence before release or probation with a tether.

At the end of each visit the group would be reminded that when they returned home, no matter what their past practice had been, they should resolve to go to Mass every Sunday. They should also pray always, and read from the Bible, even if only a short passage each day. They were also told to continue to learn about their faith by reading, attending parish programs, watching EWTN and finding good Catholic sites on the internet.

These were a few of the highlights of spiritual interaction with young men through the spectrum from those little schooled in their faith to those with a solid background of what it meant to be Catholic.

My greatest disappointment was the observation of many young men failing to focus on the purpose of life. Somehow this was not taught them or they forgot it, or they rejected it over time. It brought to mind my boyhood under the Sisters of Mercy at St. James Elementary School.

We studied the Baltimore Catechism as it was appropriate in each grade. I never forgot why God created us. God created us to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him in the next. That question and answer foreshadowed St. Augustine's famous statement I discovered in later years and prepared me to embrace it as a frequent prayer:

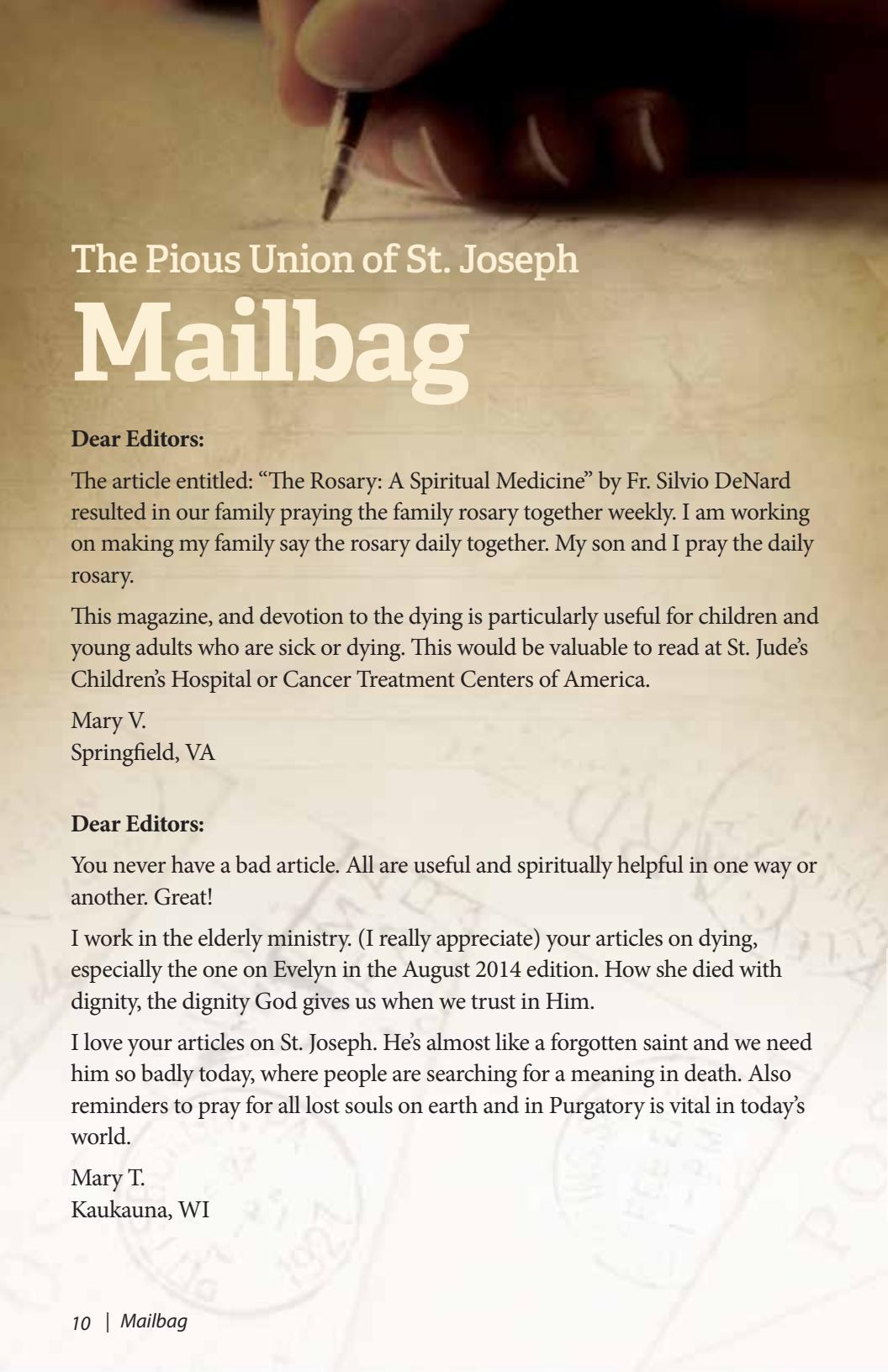
"Thou hast made us for Thyself , 0 Lord, and our hearts will not rest until they rest in Thee."

As each session at the prison opened with a prayer, this prayer was a cue to point out that the treasure we seek ought not be money, fame, power, position or other false lures as alcohol, drugs, self gratification, fun or amusement but something deeper and more meaningful. Our quest for God is instilled in our hearts. It is a grace God bestows on us that beckons us to seek God in heaven for eternity. All else, compared to the prize of God in heaven for eternity, is frivolous.

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, 0 Lord, and our hearts will not rest until they rest in Thee."

Let us pray for those in prison, the guilty and the innocent.





# The Pious Union of St. Joseph Mailbag

**Dear Editors:**

The article entitled: "The Rosary: A Spiritual Medicine" by Fr. Silvio DeNard resulted in our family praying the family rosary together weekly. I am working on making my family say the rosary daily together. My son and I pray the daily rosary.

This magazine, and devotion to the dying is particularly useful for children and young adults who are sick or dying. This would be valuable to read at St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

Mary V.  
Springfield, VA

**Dear Editors:**

You never have a bad article. All are useful and spiritually helpful in one way or another. Great!

I work in the elderly ministry. (I really appreciate) your articles on dying, especially the one on Evelyn in the August 2014 edition. How she died with dignity, the dignity God gives us when we trust in Him.

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 reminders to pray for all lost souls on earth and in Purgatory is vital in today's world.

Mary T.  
Kaukauna, WI

Venerable Aurelio Bacciarini, Servant of  
Charity, Bishop of Lugano, Switzerland

# 80 Years After His Death

BY FR. MARIO CARRERA, SdC

**Bishop Bacciarini died on June 27, 1935.** His legacy can be summarized in the words he pronounced right after his election as Bishop of Lugano, Switzerland. "The Bishop is the father of the poor, the friend of children, like Jesus Christ, the consoler of the afflicted who cries for the pain of all like it were his own and for all, he comforts, helps, saves."

A Saint is a living page of the Gospel; the incarnation of a bundle of Christian virtues in the life of a person; a handful of divine life that God wanted to make visible within the pilgrim Church here on earth.

Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini is a fragment of the infinite power of God who manifests His main trait in exercising a fatherly mercy.

Bishop Bacciarini went through a very complex and difficult life. Because of his constant physical suffering, Pope Pius XI called him, “Job of the Catholic Episcopate.” I don’t think it is too extravagant even portraying him as a new Moses praying on the mountain for his people. At Montecassino Abbey there is a statue of Moses praying with his hand raised to heaven. It is the true picture of those monks living at the monastery that, like satellite dishes, are always ready to receive God’s blessings on behalf of men.

The successor of Bacciarini in the See of Lugano, Switzerland, Bishop Joseph Martinoli, said of his immediate predecessor, “Bishop Bacciarini accepted a special mission from the Lord for the well-being of his diocese, a diocese that was going through a turbulent period of its life. I am convinced that his mission is not yet over. Perhaps, its most important part is not yet accomplished.”

The Church, the Christian life of the faithful of his diocese in Ticino, the members of the two Guanellian Congregations, the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, the many friends of St. Louis Guanella are the subjects of “this mission not yet accomplished” for bringing back the splendor of God’s grace in the soul of every person.

Eighty years have already passed from the departure of Bishop Bacciarini from this earth. In a time of hurry and of swift changes like ours, even people of recent history already seem ancient.

Instead, the models of holiness that populate the Church and bring new vitality to her are like new blossoms born from the roots of the century old olive tree of hers. God constantly gives extraordinarily great persons to His Church.

Bacciarini had been a great Bishop because he was a great man of prayer: a flower rich in virtue, especially the luminous virtue of prayer.

There is no problem today to fully subscribe to all the pastoral decisions that Bacciarini had made years ago. Everything that is solid and essential to the life of the diocese, and still exists today, should be ascribed to his holiness.

Bishop Bacciarini was essentially a contemplative in action. He acted with tireless readiness and zeal. But the soul of his apostolate was his constant prayer. He was aware that the Lord is always waiting for man to open himself to Him; that the privileged door, allowing the Holy Spirit to come in, is prayer.



The cause for his Beatification is already advanced at the Vatican. Experts are working to uncover those precious pearls that the Lord Himself had mounted in the heart of this holy Bishop.

Their job is to uncover the action of God's grace in this holy soul, a soul that had carried out the virtues of faith, hope and charity in a heroic way together with all the other Christian virtues. Bishop Bacciarini was declared Venerable by the Church on March 15, 2008. In our times, we need his help and protection more than ever. May his intercession touch the Heart of Jesus to hold in His heart the poor, the handicapped the elderly, the oppressed and the persecuted.

***Let us pray:*** God, Father of endless love, through the Heart of Jesus your Son, you have revealed the mystery of your love for each of your children. By your power you alleviate our labor and suffering through the Holy Spirit. May you be praised forever. In your mercy you have sent to your Church your faithful servant, Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini, to strengthen the faith of your people as an example of your compassion for the poor and inspiration of hope in his long suffering. Through his intercession give us, your children, the grace we are asking with confidence ... Give us the strength to accept and love your will where we firmly believe we can find our peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

# Taking God's Love to the Streets in Cuddalore, India

BY FR. S. P. VISUWASAM, SdC AND  
FR. JOHN PAUL BRITTO, SdC

**"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"**  
**(Mt 25, 40).**

The community of Cuddalore was the first established in India and therefore, it can rightly be called the Mother House of the communities in India. The Servants of Charity are now serving in five Indian States. The Servants of Charity operate a parish, an orphanage and a discernment program in Cuddalore.

Responding to the call of the Gospel, on October 24, 2014, feast day of St. Louis Guanella, the Guanellians in

Cuddalore started a new mission activity for the poor, homeless and street dwellers. This charitable work was initiated by the Guanellians under the leadership of Fr. S.P. Visuvasam, SdC, and Fr. John Paul Britto, SdC, who have already done this charitable activity in Bangalore and Chennai. Their mission is based on the biblical message of being a Samaritan to the homeless, wretched, poor, beggars, vulnerable, nomads, mentally ill and those who have no one.

We strive to share agape (God's love) with them, through our humanitarian assistance, by teaching them personal hygienic practices, such as bathing, shaving, and hair dressing. We are also providing decent clothes, nutritional meals, and leading them toward moral and human values. This follows the words of our founder, St. Louis Guanella: "Feed them bread and the Lord." These people whom we call our friends are invited every Sunday from the roadsides in the middle of the town, markets, bus stands and railway stations, under the bridges, and in the nooks and crannies of the shops and alleyways.



Since our facility is too far away from the town of Cuddalore, they cannot arrive on foot. It is very difficult to bring them to our campus. Thus, we requested collaboration from the Pondicherry Blue Sisters. Sr. Deva Asir, the Provincial Superior, has offered us use of their campus, the Model School in town adjoining the well known St. Anne's Higher Secondary School. The Blue sisters have generously made available their campus which includes bathrooms with water facilities. She has also generously arranged lunch through the teachers working in St. Anne's Higher Secondary School.

On average, forty-five to fifty people are benefiting from this humble initiative every week. Our Seminarians with their bicycles reach out to the destitute. It is time consuming and dangerous. If we could have a minivan, it would be quicker and we could serve more of the homeless and destitute. The Maruti Suzuki Omni Costs less than \$4,500. We hope that some 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 homeless.



*If you wish to donate towards this cause, please send your donations in care of Fr. Joseph Rinaldo at St. Louis Center, Old US 12, Chelsea, MI 48118 and specify Omni Car for Cuddalore Homeless Mission.*







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# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

# The Life Saver

BY FATHER SILVIO DE NARD, SdC

**I was born under the protection of three Blessed Mothers: the Immaculate Conception of Lourdes, Queen of the Rosary, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. My father's mother, a no nonsense old German-like lady, was the custodian of a little chapel (see photo below) located in a village just outside the town where I was born.**

It offers two altars: the main one is dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel while the side one is dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, the Immaculate Conception.

When evening fell and the farm work was over for the day, she was in the chapel praying the Rosary with other ladies and a group of children. Men were few because most of them were outside Italy working and providing for their families, my father included. Nonna Rose was leading the Rosary, recited in Latin at that time, followed by the usual Litanies of Loreto and by a myriad of other prayers coming from who knows where. I attended the Rosary, especially during the month of May, with mother and siblings.





Because my behavior left much to be desired, when in church Grandma took me under her iron wings where I did not have much room for mischief. Now, please look at the center image of the magazine. It portrays the Blessed Mother of Mount Carmel giving the Carmelite Scapular to the souls in Purgatory. They are unmistakably painted in the fire suffering their purification before entering Heaven. Grandma placidly informed me many times that the place would be mine for centuries if I did not change my behavior and calm down a little bit. What can you expect from a boy affected by ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and driving everyone crazy entering into contact with him? No problem for my Grandma. She had the necessary patience to deal with me and to calm me down through what? Through the Rosary.

The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel falls on July 16th. The origin of that particular name and devotion are connected to the eremitic Carmelite Order whose first hermits gathered together on Mount Carmel in Israel at the time of the Crusades in the 12th century. Mount Carmel is well known by the Bible and is bound to the prophet Elijah. It is a bloody story recounted in 1Kings 18, 20-40.

Elijah is persecuted, but he never gives in to the pagans. Pagan priests pray to their god but no answer comes. They pray for hours, but nothing happens. The prophet says just a short prayer and fire comes down from heaven and consumes the sacrifice. The crowd cheers and believes in the true God.

When in the 14th century the Holy Land fell under the Muslim invasion, the Carmelite Friars left the Mount and took refuge in Europe where they spread the devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The followers of this devotion are recognizable by the scapular they wear. The scapular is the “minimized” religious habit of the Carmelite friars that, according to the tradition, Mary gave to an early Carmelite named Saint Simon Stock.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel has been connected with Purgatory where souls are purged of sins in the fire. She is commonly painted carrying Baby Jesus and shown accompanied with angels and the souls are pleading for her mediation and prayers.

There is a tradition saying that the devotees of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be taken out of Purgatory by Mary herself on the first Saturday after their death. My own father died on a Saturday night and for sure Mary was there waiting for him, who loved her so much and said the Rosary every single day of his life.

A 1996 doctrinal statement approved by the Church states that, “devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is bound to the history and spiritual values of the Order of the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel and is expressed through the scapular. It is a Marian habit or garment. It is both a sign and pledge. A sign of belonging to Mary; a pledge of her motherly protection, not only in this life but after death.”

Prayer. “O most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. Sweet Mother I place this cause in your hands. Amen.”



# Pray and Work In That Order

By KELLY FLAHERTY

July 11th is the Memorial of St. Benedict on the Liturgical Calendar. He is best known as the “Father of Western Monasticism” and author of the “Rule of St. Benedict.” Through his life of faith and holiness, he was able to work miracles that in turn spread word of his sanctity throughout the region. But how does his life and work impact Catholics and Christians today? How can we possibly live out our faith and strive for holiness in society today?

St. Benedict, through much prayer, observation and contemplation, wrote his Rule based on the Gospels and with the main goal of protecting his monks from dissolute living. This strict way of life was able to draw many into deep relationship with the Lord and create a reputation of holiness amongst Benedictine monasteries. Many people have sought ‘Bread and the Lord’ from these holy places which followed the Rule of St. Benedict; ‘Pray and Work’ was their motto and hospitality was a way of life for them. St. Benedict was known for giving away all of the provisions of the Monastery to the poor and destitute, yet the monks never went without whatever they needed, for he understood the Providence of God.

It is still true today that even in a household the family desires to live according to the Gospels and to avoid evil and sin, but in today’s hectic lifestyle it is difficult to ‘fit in’ the necessary moments of prayer that could turn homes into ‘mini monasteries.’ St. Benedict’s Rule required absolute obedience to the person in authority, whom he believed God’s will came through. For a household there is a person in authority that is to lead the family according to God’s will; the parents. God even gave the Fourth Commandment to help encourage children to follow this Rule, ‘Honor thy Mother and Father.’ Day by day children can be taught to obey without delay when a parent or other person in authority makes a request of them. This is part of the vow of obedience taken by the monks, but is necessary for Christians today to learn obedience to God, parents, teachers, and other people in authority in all aspects of daily life.





He also required the monks to gather seven times each day to pray the psalms. This became an easy task for the monks because they would soon have the psalms memorized. In a modern household this seems impossible, but remember that our lives are a journey and each one begins with a small step. If there are children in the house, a single verse from a Psalm could be introduced each day or each week, depending on the ages and abilities of the children, and stopping several times a day to recite the verse together. If there are no children, adults could choose some of the readings from the Liturgy of the Hours or prayers throughout the day as published by devotionals such as *Magnificat* or *Our Daily Bread*. With technology available today one could even get an app for their smartphone or tablet to put these prayers at their fingertips. *Magnificat* offers a free app for subscribers. Laudate is a free app that includes the Liturgy of the Hours, several translations of the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and many other devotions. There is even a *Saint of the Day* app to bring the stories of the holy lives of our Christian brothers and sisters into our daily lives. There are countless more apps available to help create a life of prayer even in today's busy world.

St. Benedict's motto, 'Pray and Work' is a saying that can truly make a difference in daily life, even today. As his life illustrated, the benefits of putting prayer before any endeavor certainly outweigh the 'burden' of time spent in prayer. He was able to make amazing things happen when he prayed reverently and fervently. As children of the same Lord, we are afforded this same power; that is if we too pray with absolute faith. That is not to say that we need only pray and we get what we want, but to put prayer first and foremost in our lives and work will become more fruitful, it will give glory to God.

It is possible today to live according to some monastic rules even outside of a monastery. First, living in obedience, and next in an attitude of prayer. 'Pray and Work,' in that order and life will journey along the road to holiness.

# The Revelation

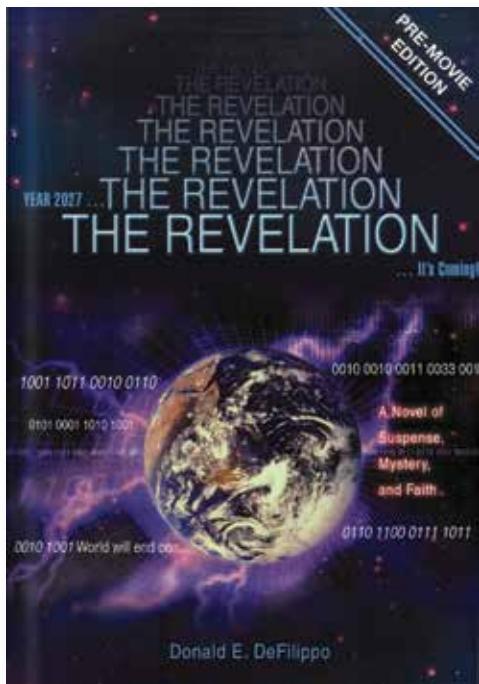
A BOOK REVIEW BY JOSEPH YEKULIS

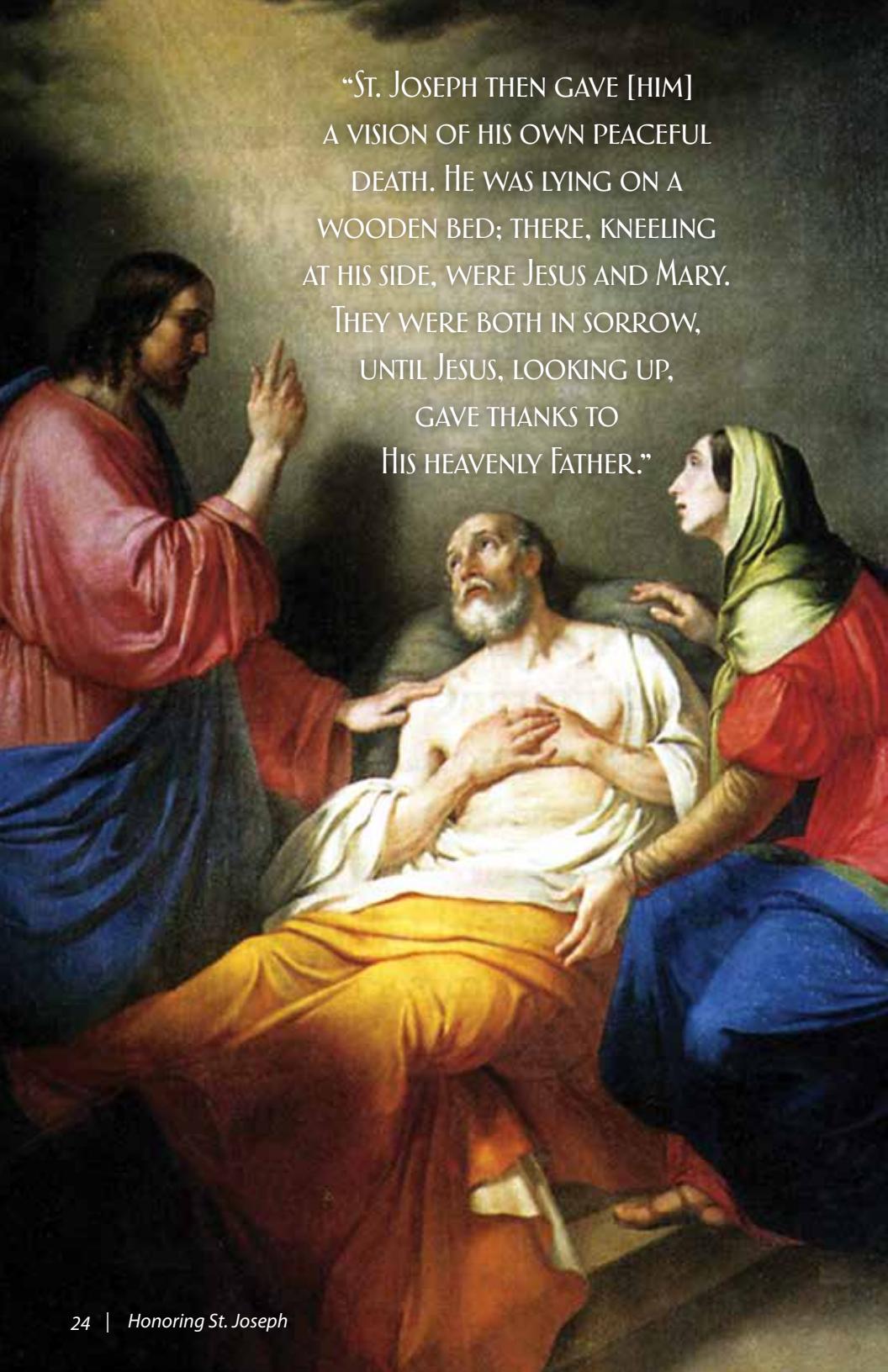
One of our readers from Schenectady, NY, is Donald E. DeFilippo, an author from the Catholic Writer's Guild, who wrote to us during our readership survey and offered to let us re-print a portion of his book, *The Revelation*, concerning the Death of St. Joseph. Mr. DeFilippo is very devoted to St. Joseph and dedicated his book to him saying, “[His] intercession and inspiration made this book possible.” First however, it will be necessary to provide our readers with a bit of context.

*The Revelation* is a work of fiction whose first day begins in Rome where Professor Mario Amante, working out of an astronomical observatory, reaches out to his friend Fr. Paul Conrad, for help.

Fr. Conrad is an American priest stationed at the Vatican who is deeply involved in research within the Vatican Library and Archives, and the two have a close working relationship. Prof. Amante uses the “Next Generation Space Telescope” to detect a number of deep space anomalies taking place in the universe, and begins to feed these anomalies to Fr. Conrad who loads the information into a supercomputer installed at the Vatican under a lease agreement with the Institute for Advanced Scientific Research. What happens next is a suspenseful series of developments that bring science and faith together to potentially reveal the exact date that the world will come to an end.

Fr. Andre Renoux is an older colleague of Fr. Conrad’s, and has “spent his whole adult life serving God.” He is “a true peacemaker, and a living example of St. Joseph, to whom his devotion is rare and personal.” Fr. Renoux is a part-time instructor at the local Catholic college and seminary, and lectures on the ethics, morality, and lives of the saints. Also a member of the “Circle of Seven” prayer group of priests, he speaks





“ST. JOSEPH THEN GAVE [HIM]  
A VISION OF HIS OWN PEACEFUL  
DEATH. HE WAS LYING ON A  
WOODEN BED; THERE, KNEELING  
AT HIS SIDE, WERE JESUS AND MARY.  
THEY WERE BOTH IN SORROW,  
UNTIL JESUS, LOOKING UP,  
GAVE THANKS TO  
HIS HEAVENLY FATHER.”

to the young group of computer technicians servicing the supercomputer about the “balance of power between good and evil” that happened in the last century, and how the influence of evil has spread. “Among these evils were widespread abortions, homosexual behavior masquerading under the illusion of normalcy, obscene greed, undisciplined terrorism, individuals in positions of power putting their own personal welfare ahead of their responsibilities to the people who were under their authority, and immoral judges, who will themselves eventually be judged.” Have any of you watched the evening news lately?

Suspense builds week after week, as the supercomputer gets closer to answering the question concerning the “last day,” and by the end of September, we see Fr. Renoux exhausted from his work, and sensing that his own end is near. He gives “thanks to God for allowing him to serve Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph, and when he lays down his head one last time, “he feels a reassuring touch, and realizes it was St. Joseph who was standing by his side...Fr. Renoux began to feel more at peace. St. Joseph then gave [him] a vision of his own peaceful death. He was lying on a wooden bed; there, kneeling at his side, were Jesus and Mary. They were both in sorrow, until Jesus, looking up, gave thanks to His heavenly Father. A vision of heaven opened up like a curtain being drawn aside. St. Joseph saw himself in splendor, and there, by his side, were Jesus and Mary. There was a joy in him that was beyond description. No human man, before or after St. Joseph, had received such love from a wife or son.

St. Joseph closed his eyes, and a wave of peace and love overcame him. He was in ecstasy. He had passed through the darkness into light and was still in ecstasy. Jesus was twenty-seven years of age then. He stayed with his widowed mother, Mary, as was the custom for the oldest or only son, for a suitable period of time. As Jesus approached the beginning of his ministry and the fulfillment of his mission on Earth, Mary realized that Jesus was doing the will of His Father. She also realized that Jesus was to fulfill the promises of the Hebrew prophets in the Old Testament and that He was to shed His blood to fulfill the New Testament’s words. A pain entered her heart; it was a reminder of a prophecy that had been made to her a long time ago. After this vision, Fr. Renoux fell asleep; he awakened to his eternal reward.”

*The Revelation* continues to merge hard science with quotes from the Holy Bible to reach a solution to the question, “When will the world end?” There are “reports of faint ripples coming from beyond the dark field, affecting the outer reaches of the known universe,” and it appears that the “four events that must occur before the end of the world and the second coming of Christ” may have been set in motion.

*The Revelation*, written by Donald E. DeFilippo and published by iUniverse press, is available online through Amazon or may be ordered through your favorite bookstore.



# The Days After

BY FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

**The Lord is risen! Alleluia! We have been redeemed! Let us rejoice and be glad, Alleluia! What about the shameful torture, humiliation and excruciating execution of Jesus as a criminal on a Roman cross? Easter is not a great thought that makes us feel good. Holy Week and Easter cannot be separated.**

During the days after Easter we need to experience the sufferings of Christ and of humanity for our personal and collective resurrection. There are questions and answers we need to ask every day, not just during Holy Week.

Hundreds of thousands of Christians around the world suffer persecution, torture and death because they are disciples of Jesus of Nazareth and put into practice values that give meaning to life. Why is there such opposition to a message, a way of life that espouses love of the outcast, freedom, human rights, dignity, equality, the defense of children and a better life for the poor and the oppressed?

The man who was called by some a great prophet, who came back to life, a wonder worker, a spiritual teacher, a man of compassion, a peacemaker, a defender of children and women and a social revolutionary brought these values into the world by his simplicity of life.

He stood with the marginalized and victims of social injustice. He was a hero and inspirational spiritual leader that day and has been every day since. He was a man without power and influence, had no servants or slaves and one who even washed the feet of His followers as an example for us all.

Perhaps the combination of these titles, their political overtones and the widespread belief that He would take political power in Jerusalem fueled fears among the ruling powers that there would be a popular uprising to declare Jesus, “King of the Jews.” That title was mockingly nailed to His cross, the instrument of His execution.

It was not a political movement he wanted but a moral revolution of the heart whereby goodness and love for everyone and by everyone would dominate. In the new social relationship, universal goodness, equality and justice would pervade the community and there would be an end to violence, rejection and exclusion. It is a most profound vision and an ideal that may never come to fruition. The ideals are for everyone, disciples or not, Christian or not.

We all need to love and be loved as Jesus taught and practiced: he said the greatest love we can have is to sacrifice ourselves for others. It means those who are well off are challenged to give back and share their wealth. It means bringing goodness to the needy and the vulnerable. Of course his message was challenging and many left him. It was his fiery, challenging message to the hypocritical and corrupt authorities, the cheating traders and unjust judges of His day that aroused hatred, anger and fear among these rich elite.

They ruled with gross indifference to the plight of the poor. Jesus called them stinking sepulchers, painted white outside but full of dead bones inside. That was strong language indeed.

His words are as true today as they were then. A similar social and economic situation prevails today in many developing countries. They control the many by the tactics of





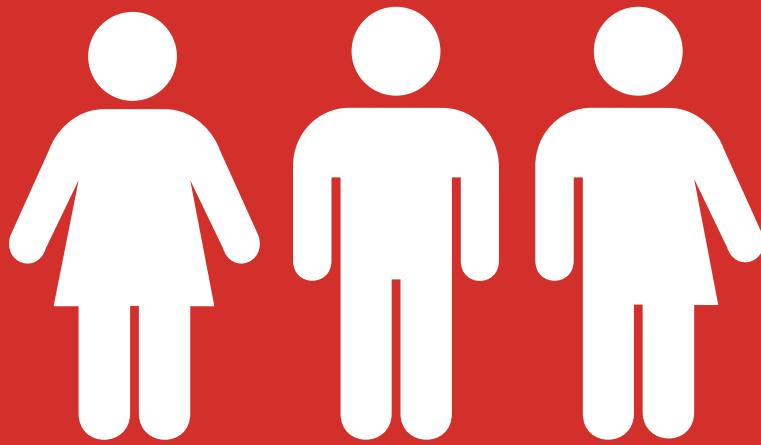
the few: immediate assassination, imprisonment and execution of the modern day prophets, the human rights workers, the social activists, oppositionists, priests and pastors.

Just like the man from Nazareth, they are risking all: their good reputation, their name, their family, even life itself. They are working and calling for true justice and respect for human rights and the ouster of corrupt politicians, judges and prosecutors. I can see it any time I travel to India, or the Philippines or Vietnam and I am sure that it happens everywhere.

They get charged with false accusations, baseless allegations and legal cases to destroy their credibility and smother their cry for justice. They want the kingdom of Jesus to be real and present to end human trafficking, the jailing of children, sex tourism, and the coddling of criminals, child abusers and rapists.

The messenger of God made an exciting and popular entry into Jerusalem but soon became a marked man: His every word and act was noted and used against Him in false accusations, to trip Him and block His mission and bring Him down in disgrace. They shamefully succeeded only too well, but only for a while. His words and presence live on; His life lit up the world and set it on fire with idealism for the kingdom.

Today it is still there for us. We only have to reach out and embrace that same mission and do our share to change ourselves and the world.



## Male and Female He Created Them **Gender Is Not a Choice**

By FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SdC

In November 2012, gender identity was included as a specific protected classification in a United Nations General Assembly anti-discrimination resolution. This wording is significant because it elevates gender identity to the same level as race, creed, religion, and sexual orientation. Yet this term is ambiguous and there is no clear agreement as to what discrimination on the basis of gender identity means.

Discrimination means to single out a person or group for unfair or unjust treatment. No one should be subject to summary execution or extrajudicial killings on the basis of race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Certainly, no one advocates that those with a gender identity disorder should be vulnerable to capricious punishment. However, once gender identity makes its way into the anti-discrimination vocabulary, many will conclude that being transgendered is a normal identity rather than a disorder. This means that the term “sexual orientation,” would mean acceptance and promotion of homosexuality. Including gender identification as a protected class reduces gender to a subjective identity. Failure to do so is seen as discriminatory.

Protection against discrimination on the basis of gender identity can be interpreted to mean that a man who dresses as a woman has the right to be considered as truly a woman. At Evergreen College in Olympia, Washington, a 45 year old student with male genitalia declared that he is actually a woman. The school claimed that because gender identity is included in the state’s anti-discrimination statutes, this student must be treated as a woman in all aspects of college life. This includes allowing the student

to use the women's locker room at the college pool and fully expose himself to all the females who share the locker room. Those who object to this policy are labeled bigots and are said to be infringing upon this student's right to determine his own sexual identity.

Abraham Lincoln said: "Calling a tail a leg, does not make it a leg." God created us male and female. Those born as males have one nature and those born as females have a complementary nature: each equal in dignity but distinct in character. A man can have traits that are often thought of as feminine, such as being communicative or nurturing. That does not alter the fact that he is a man. A woman can have traits that are often thought of as masculine, such as being assertive. That does not change the fact that she is a woman. It is abnormal for a man to believe himself to be a woman or for a woman to believe herself a man. Most definitely it is not an act of love to encourage such delusions. Pope Benedict, in his 2012 Christmas address, characterized the rejection of innate male and female sexual identities as a denial of God. He warned that this threatens not only individuals, but also the very existence of families and the wellbeing of society as a whole.

If there is no pre-ordained duality of man and woman in creation, then the family is no longer a reality established by creation. Likewise, the child has lost the place and the dignity pertaining to him. The defense of the family is about man himself. And it becomes clear that when God is denied, human dignity also disappears. Whoever defends God defends man.

As Pope Benedict points out, this philosophy that radically redefines what it means to be human is at the heart of the assault on marriage and the family. When male and female become meaningless labels, then marriage as a union of one man and one woman becomes unnecessary. Indeed, the need to limit marriage to two people no longer makes sense when complementarity is denied. When the unique roles of husband and wife are eliminated, the status of children also changes. They become mere commodities obtained for the benefit of an ambiguous adult partnership instead of distinct human persons with intrinsic dignity born of the fruitful union of a man and a woman.

It is misguided and dangerous to confuse gender differences with gender inequality. Acknowledging that men and women are different is not saying that one is better than the other. And while it is noble to affirm that those who suffer from a gender identity disorder must not be subjected to persecution, such an affirmation must not be construed to mean that gender is fungible. Those who identify themselves as transgendered must be treated with dignity and love, yet to deny the reality of innate sexual identity undermines both. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that God's creation of both man and woman is a reflection of the Creator's wisdom and goodness. We cannot deny this gift.

*The Pious Union Library:*

## Father Louis Guanella, A Priest From The Mountain: Portrait of a Saint

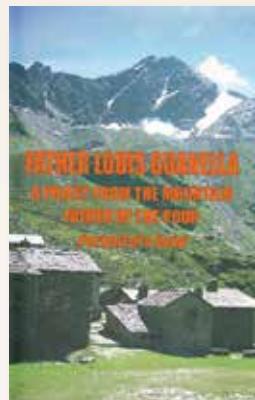
On October 23, 2011, St. Louis Guanella was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI. Why is he a Saint? We have the entire story in writing!

Father Guanella was a wonderful human being, man of God, father to the poor, citizen of the world and passionate educator.

I invite you to discover the spirituality of this new and great modern Saint. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." (Jn 3,16). Father Guanella, literally, gave his life for the poor. This is a book that will bring you closer to God in Joy and Gratitude.



Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC



### Pious Union to be featured on EWTN

Fr. Satheesh Alphonse of the Servants of Charity and Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence have been invited to be guests on EWTN Live hosted by Fr. Mitch Pacwa on July 1, 2015.

The topic focuses on the work of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Pious Union of St. Joseph to help the elderly by offering residences, care, and providing hope and Christian love.



Tickets are available to attend the live taping of this show. If you would like to make the journey to Irondale AL, contact [pilgrimages@ewtn.com](mailto:pilgrimages@ewtn.com) or (205) 271-2966.

# Adopt a Seminarian



**Today the Servants of Charity have five hundred priests and brothers in twenty-one countries. In addition, there are numerous seminarians in various stages of formation in Guanellian seminaries throughout the world. They are devoted to completing their studies. Many hope to go back home where they can spread the Word and bring the Guanellian Charism to their countrymen.**

The formation process for SdC seminarians combines spiritual growth with academic studies and technical training. The process can take six to eight years and is intended to prepare them to make the permanent vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience and to fulfill his priestly or brotherly ministry among the poor. Many of them come from poor countries.

“Adopting” a seminarian can make a huge impact. For the cost of \$1 a day (a cup of coffee or a donut), you can help make a young man’s dreams of becoming a priest or brother come true. Can you give up that coffee or donut to make that happen?



## Sacred Heart Church

Fr. Silvio De Nard  
118 Taunton Ave.  
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tel: 401-434-0326  
[sdn249@hotmail.com](mailto:sdn249@hotmail.com)

## Pious Union of St. Joseph

Fr. Satheesh Alphonse  
953 E. Michigan Ave.  
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[satheesh08@yahoo.co.in](mailto:satheesh08@yahoo.co.in)

## Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

Sr. Brenda McHugh  
108 Ridgeview Ct.  
Grass Lake, MI 49240  
[sisterbrendam@gmail.com](mailto:sisterbrendam@gmail.com)

**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?**

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](mailto: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](mailto:piousunion@pusj.org)



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