



# The Messenger

December, 2017  
and  
January, 2018

## Morsels of Faith from Mr. Kuhar



As we begin the month of November we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. There are many incredible stories of the ways God has worked through the life of saints. The saints are wonderful examples for us of joy filled lives of following Christ. They are an inspiration for us as we celebrate their lives and witness and ask for their intercession as they have already fought the good fight and are now enjoying the eternal reward in heaven! When I was a child I thoroughly enjoyed reading stories about the saints. I was amazed by their courage, enthralled with the accounts of the miracles God worked through them, and impressed with their discipline in following Christ no matter what the cost. I wanted to be like them. I wanted to be a saint. At the time I wanted to be a saint because I thought it would be incredible to heal someone, raise someone from the dead, or have the courage to die as a martyr. I wanted to have a feast day and be recognized for having done great things! My motivation clearly was not one of a saintly nature but the fact that I was inspired to strive to be a saint was a good thing. As I got a little older I lost some of the zeal of becoming a saint as I started to think the saints were extraordinary people and I could never live up to the standards they set.

As I continued to grow and learn more about the saints and faith, I came to see that the saints were not born extraordinary, but rather they focused on their relationship with the Lord and fulfilling their duties in life

whatever those might be. They worked hard each day to love the Lord with all their heart and their neighbor as themselves. They were disciplined in living a life of faith and placing the Lord first in their lives. This is the path to sainthood. This is how so many ordinary men and women we now call saints became saints. This is the Lord's will for each one of us. He calls us to be saints. He desires that we will follow Him faithfully each day. This takes discipline and sacrifice. If you look at any great individual whether it is an athlete, coach, actress, or entertainer; it takes hard work and effort. There are no shortcuts. You must be disciplined in learning and perfecting your craft. Talent is not enough. The same holds true for the saints. They strive diligently each day to love and serve the Lord. We, too, can do this through the grace of God. If we put in the work and do our best, God will provide the grace and strength we need to be saints and receive the reward of life everlasting in heaven. Let's strive together to be saints. Let's encourage and journey with one another in loving and serving the Lord each day. Each day ask the Lord for the grace to be a saint and watch as His grace combined with your desire and effort to love Him more deeply changes your life and brings you joy and peace!

## **Thanksgiving**

*The first Thanksgiving Day celebrated in North America was in 1621. The Pilgrims of Massachusetts were not accustomed to festivity, yet they decided to host a banquet in order to share their harvest with the Indians who had helped them grow food in the new land. They celebrated with games and contests, and then a dinner of fish, venison, turkey, corn and other vegetables, and berries.*

In 1789, after his inauguration, President George Washington proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving for the new country. For many years after that, each state chose its own day to celebrate. In the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November as the official Thanksgiving Day of the nation.

## *Prayer for Thanksgiving*

*In celebration of Thanksgiving, we gather to praise the Lord, praying for the needs of others and hoping for the day when all God's wonderful gifts are shared fairly in our world.*

# Cindy's Corner



It was somewhat of an irreverent prayer in desperation to get on with what I needed to do but that I could not do without my car. Yes, I lost my only set of car keys. I seem to lose a lot of things lately, chalk it up to age, along with the many things I have to remember, topped off with the consequences of stress. My car was sitting idly in the driveway for two days while I hustled up rides to the oh so many places I needed to go and people I needed to see. I received a late night message from a friend, "Maybe Saint Zita can help you." accompanied with a lovely picture, like a child's drawing, of a simple woman holding a set of keys. I replied with exhaustion but with a smile on my lips, "I'll sleep on it and think about it again in the morning".

Morning broke early for me, long before the glow of the sunrise illuminated the horizon. It was the pitch black morning that greeted me. In the quiet of my living room, on the little reclining love seat, I prayed a "Prayer for Peace of Mind" (Included on this page). I messaged the following pleas I was thinking to my friend "Okay Saint Zita, Rise and Shine, Lord I need You, oh I need You." Her response, "May the Holy Spirit and our saintly friends guide you." HOPE. I then jumped up, grabbed a flashlight and walking back to the love seat hastily said under my breath, "Come on Saint Zita!" I had no confidence in my prayer or that my keys would be under the love seat as husband had already cleared this room for me looking under the love seat twice. I also had a bounty on the keys, so I assumed they would have been found by now in such an obvious location. Wheeeellllll . . . I'm sure you can guess the rest of the story. I popped up the foot of the recliner, flashed the light on the darkness, and lying right on the floor I could see my hot pink "Mom" key ring and keys. Alleluia!

This scenario reminded me of a discussion I had with the fourth grade Faith Formation students when I was subbing in the classroom. We had just shared the story of The Good Samaritan and were talking about the importance of being and having good

friends. They mentioned we should choose friends who will lead us down the right road, who will support us and whom we can trust. They discussed how they could be a good friend by sticking up for someone if they were being bullied, by listening to and spending time with friends. We talked about when someone was a Good Samaritan towards them. Some of their stories were so insightful and heartfelt. For homework I challenged them to make a conscious decision to be a Good Samaritan to someone in the coming week.

I also shared a picture of St. Francis with the students as it was near his feast day. None of the students claimed to be familiar with him. I excitedly shared some of his story knowing that if they remember anything of my chatter, it would be that he was the patron saint of animals. We often talk about Jesus as our friend so I also mentioned the friends we have in the saints. These saints who are spending their eternity with Jesus are friends who are cheering us on as we stumble through this journey of life. They can calm us when the going gets tough and love us when we feel unlovable. They are friends whom we can trust and rely on. They have set the course for us through their loving example of living out their faith. As we would ask a good friend to pray for us, we can ask the same of the saints.

We also have our friends in our lives whom we share our time with. My friend who took a moment to send a short little message broke through the monotony of the desperate search for my keys. That sweet, childlike drawing of St. Zita, the Patron Saint of Lost Keys, led me to some needed time in prayer and brought comfort and peace to my situation. We all long for and desire to be friends like that. We are urged to pray for one another. ([James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.](#)) Our belief is not in some magical result to our prayers but through our time in prayer and the intercession of Mary, the Saints and even each other; we are filled with God's grace and often a new perspective. Hope and peace

are God's perfect gifts in times of desperation. Maybe my keys could have been stuck in the seat cushions or recliner mechanism and shaken lose to the floor through our searching. Perhaps they slipped to the floor as I jumped up from prayer that dark early morning. Who knows? I do know that through the urging of a friend, I took the moment to rest in God, to call on St. Zita and all was well. The rest of that day was beautiful for me as I made arrangements to use the car to move furniture, visit the nursing home and attend a meeting I had previously been anxious about. God had blessed my day and the saints saw me through. With the friend we have in Jesus, the Communion of Saints that surround us and our friends and family who know and love us, we are blessed indeed.

### **A Prayer for Peace of Mind**

Almighty God, we bless you for our lives, we give you praise for your abundant mercy and grace we receive. We thank you for your faithfulness even though we are not that faithful to you. Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul and spirit. We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives. Please guide our path through life and make our enemies be at peace with us. Let your peace reign in our family, at our place of work, businesses and everything we lay our hands on. Let your angels of peace go ahead of us when we go out and stay by our side when we return. In Jesus' name, Amen.

