



# The Messenger

March, 2018

## Morsels of Faith from Mr. Kuhar



Recently at a small gathering with others who work in various roles in parishes, the conversation turned to the domestic church. The domestic church for those who are unfamiliar with the term is in essence the faith shared and practiced in one's home. The home is the first place that we learn about God and His great love for us. There is no substitute for the domestic church and the sharing and practice of faith at home.

As the discussion continued at our gathering, we began to speak of how we can support and encourage families to make this most important work a priority in their lives. I then happened across this letter which comes from a father with adult children who wanted it shared in his parish of St. Joan of Arc. In it he speaks on the importance of faith in the home and how he and his wife failed to do this for their children, filling their time with sports, dance, and other activities when they were young, and he wishes he could go back and change the way they lived their faith.

I know many of you share the faith at home and it is priority for you, so, consider this an encouragement to "keep up the good work even when it is tough." For those who are struggling in this

area or can relate to the father in the following letter, begin by starting to pray at home as a family even if it is just five minutes a day. Schedule a time for the family to go to confession and receive God's great love and mercy. And last but certainly not least make sure to put on the calendar what time you will be attending Sunday Mass each weekend. The gift of faith is the greatest gift you can give your children. They may not always appreciate it right now or even realize the gift you are giving to them but pass it on anyway.

Here is the letter as found published in the bulletin of St. Joan of Arc on February 25, 2018 by Monsignor G. Michael Bugarian .

**Some Advice from a Parishioner: At least once a year I publish the text from an anonymous letter I received in 2005 shortly after the First Sunday of Lent. The scripture readings each First Sunday of Lent tell the story of Jesus being driven by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by Satan. The letter offers timeless advice and it warrants being reprinted rather frequently. Usually, I toss anonymous letters right away but this one escaped that fatal ending. By God's grace, this letter has touched the hearts of many people at SJA and beyond (you would be amazed how many times I'm asked for a copy of it). I encourage you to keep a copy AND to pass a copy around to your family and friends. I have posted a PDF copy of the letter**

**on the homepage of our parish website.**

**"Fr. Bugarin, I was very moved by your homily on Sunday, February 13, 2005, regarding Hell, Satan, and the response of faithful people to temptation. I am the father of an adult son and daughter, and it pains me to think of the mistakes my wife and I made in raising our children. We thought we had a clever, well thought out solution to the dangers and evils of the world, but instead we were victims of our over estimation of our own perceived abilities and power. In so doing we neglected the saving power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercessory power of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "Knowing the evils and temptations of our world, my wife and I sought to shield our children through endless activity. Like many other parents, we got our son involved in hockey and our daughter in dance; our goal was to keep our children busy and thus not give them a chance to get in trouble. However, I now realize that in engaging in a futile attempt to shield our children from battle with the Devil we were instead merely failing to equip our children for their inevitable battles with Satan. We attempted a human solution to a spiritual problem, and our human limitations and inadequacies resulted in failure. We failed to fill our children**

with Christ, and instead left a vacuum too easily exploited by Satan. "In focusing our children on endless activity we created selfish, self-centered children. By failing to involve them in Catholic charitable works we taught them to believe they were the centers of their own universes. We replaced rosaries, adoration and bible study with ice time, games and recitals. We missed Sunday masses for tournaments and catechism for performances, and we rationalized it by asserting that it was 'for the best.' How wrong we were. "Today, both of our children have left the Church. Our daughter is living with a man and has had an abortion; our son has experimented with drugs and regards the Church with contempt and cynicism. Our first priority should have been to pass on the faith and to teach trust in the Lord; instead, we relied on our human intellect and put our faith in schemes of this world. "If I could only go back in time I'd make every Sunday mass as a family, lead my family in a weekly rosary, take my children to pray in front of an abortion clinic, lead them in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and help them volunteer at a soup kitchen. For despite our best efforts and intentions there still were times my children were alone and lonely, tired and weak, hungry and desirous. I failed to anticipate and prepare my children for those inevitable times of temptation, and the Devil had been patiently waiting.

"Father, please print my letter in the church paper. If it will serve as a warning to at least one family, it may help them to avoid the pain and regret my wife and I have experienced. An Anonymous St. Joan of Arc Parishioner."

As I said earlier, there is no substitute for the domestic church and the sharing and practice of faith at home.



### Seven Last Words of Jesus

1. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." *Luke 23::34*
2. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." *Luke 23:46*
3. "I am thirsty." *John 19:28*
4. "It is finished." *John 19::30*
5. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" *Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34*
6. "Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." *Luke 23:43*
7. "Woman, here is your son!... Here is your mother." *John 19:26, 27*



### Holy Triduum Schedule

#### Holy Thursday, March 29



Mass of the Lord's Supper  
7:00 p.m.

Altar of Repose  
8:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

#### Good Friday, March 30



Stations of the Cross  
12:00 noon

Liturgy  
1:00 p.m.

#### Holy Saturday, March 31



Blessing of Food  
12:00 noon - F.B.A.C.

Easter Vigil  
8:00 p.m.



#### Easter Sunday, April 1

Liturgies  
9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

## Cindy's Corner



This year I have found myself drawn to the insights and teachings of Bishop Robert Barron partly because of his engaging and intriguing way of presenting things, so informative and resourceful, yet very relatable. Through his YouTube videos he presents the historical background, various analogies and life occurrences relating to our faith that get me thinking “yes, I get that . . . and wow, I love it.” It is easy to see how he has become a Social Media star. When Bishop Barron first met Pope Francis in 2015, he wondered if the Pontiff would have any idea who he was; Pope Francis met him with the greeting, “Ah, the great preacher who makes the airwaves tremble.” This following quote is a good summation of Bishop Barron to me: “To put it as simply as possible, (Bishop Barron) is a man passionately in love with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, and he wants you to feel it too-not because you’ll go to Hell if you don’t, but because your life will be richer, more satisfying, and better if you do.” (*To Light a Fire on the Earth* Robert Barron with John L. Allen Jr.)

I chose to share this with you because Bishops Barron’s YouTube videos are easily accessible and wonderful resources for Catholic parents and families. There are hundreds of videos most being under 10 minutes long. A few to pique your interest might be “Bishop Barron on Pride, Humility and Social Media”, “Bishop Barron on Saints Patrick and Joseph”,

“Bishop Barron on Satellites and Praying to the Saints” and “Bishop Barron on *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.” My husband and I sometimes listen to the videos while getting ready for work in the morning. Recently we have made it a Sunday morning routine to watch a couple while having our coffee. We take turns picking which videos to watch which can be eye-opening in itself and an opportunity to learn about something I previously thought I was not so interested in. You will also find a wealth of other information and resources on Bishop Barron’s acclaimed website *WordOnFire.org*

In addition, a few people have mentioned to me that they enjoy watching Father Mike Schmitz. I have viewed a few of his videos and find him to be down to earth and informative as well. Similar to Bishop Barron, most episodes are under 10 minutes with Father Schmitz talking directly into the camera. He is quite jovial and talks fast. I often find myself staring into the screen trying to catch everything so multi-tasking is not the best option with Father Mike. A few videos I have recently watched are “Letting God Take His Time”, “Inspiration to Stop Complaining” and “3 Steps to Unceasing Prayer.” Hmmmm, a good representation of some struggles I am currently dealing with. The “Unceasing Prayer” episode sparked my interest because my medical doctor gave me a prescription with just the written passage “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;..”

(*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a*).

This doctor’s order hangs on my refrigerator, a pertinent reminder of how to take on my day; it has been the best medicine. Thanks Doc.

Lastly, our own Father Patrick Gonyeau presented a YouTube video series on “Joy”. I recently saw him at a function and asked him, “Hey, aren’t you a YouTuber!?” I told him how nice it was to watch his videos sharing the joy of our faith filmed on the streets of Detroit. Fr. Patrick humbly thanked me and said he is hoping his attempts can reach others. He asked for prayers in this ministry of evangelizing through Social Media. As we know it happens to be what reaches our young people and often where they search for answers. Maybe you have discovered someone that shares our faith that you like to listen to. If so, let me know; I have a feeling I may just be hitting the tip of the iceberg . . . if not, that is something we can hope and pray for.



### **First Communion Retreat**

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

The retreat will be held in the School Cafeteria - 12:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Retreat is for students only.

A light lunch will be provided. If your child has allergies or does not eat cheese pizza, please furnish a small brown-bag lunch.