



The Messenger

November, 2018

Morsels of Faith from Mr. Kuhar



out for prayer asking him to ask God for their particular intentions. He was a humble man who spent his life loving God and neighbor by virtue of faithfully and lovingly doing his duty as a porter. In this very humble task, Solanus was able to be used by God to touch many lives.

St. Therese of Lisieux is known for her little way. She was a Carmelite Sister who did her best to do all things with great love. She was assigned to care for another sister who was not the kindest or easiest person to get along with in life. St. Therese made it her goal to simply love her despite the other sister's rudeness and lack of appreciation. It was not an easy task but with the grace of the Holy Spirit, St. Therese showered the other sister with kindness and love.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati lived in the early 1900's. He loved mountain climbing and often took trips with friends and would lead them in prayer while on the trip. He cared for the poor and sick and gave generously even if it meant sacrificing his own comfort or ease. He became ill most likely catching the illness from one of the sick that he was helping. He died in his early 20's and many of the poor and sick that he helped attended his funeral.

What will be your story after you die? How will you be remembered for loving God and neighbor? Do not settle for less than greatness. You are called to be a saint! You have the strength of

the Holy Spirit to help you on the way. Let's help each other live our call to love God and one another by encouraging and supporting each other on the journey!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

*O God, we thank you for this earth,
our home;
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills
And the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot.
We thank you for our senses
By which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendor of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits,
And rejoice in the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
And save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing
When even the common thornbush
Is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

*By Walter Rauschenbusch
From Living God's Justice:
Reflections and Prayers*

We are made for greatness! By virtue of our Baptism we are called to holiness. Holiness consists of loving God and one another. The gift of the Holy Spirit, which we receive in Baptism, strengthens us to love God and one another. There is nothing better than to love God with *all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength*. This is our task, our mission, our call! Loving God and one another will bring you the greatest joy and peace you have ever experienced! There is no substitute. The saints who we just celebrated in a special way on November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints, were filled with courage and joy.

I am struck in a particular way by a few saints or blessed (those on the way to sainthood) who come to mind. My mind first turns to Blessed Solanus Casey. He spent many years loving God and neighbor in Detroit. Solanus was a Capuchin priest who struggled with his studies so he was not given all of the same responsibilities and duties as other priests. He was assigned to be the porter at the monastery in Detroit where he met many people and prayed with and for them. Many people received healing through his prayers and more and more people sought him

Cindy's Corner



Ahh, our sacraments, sacramentals, rituals and liturgies; pertinent gifts of our Catholic Faith. They are a comfort, a blessing, a reminder of the power of God's love, His protection, His forgiveness, His _____ (fill in the blank for you). I often express how I enjoy the subject our fifth grade students cover; the sacraments, which also includes sacramentals, symbols and rituals of our faith. I find it exciting and I will even say fun to share. It is something tangible to connect us on earth to the glory of God in heaven.

Just last Saturday I attended the funeral of one of our parishioners. She was a beautiful witness to the love of God in the midst of the suffering in her lifetime. She used a walker for as long as I knew her and I would often help her to and from her car when we were in choir together. Anytime I talked with her she would always steer our conversation in praise of God and His love for us. She was sure to check on how I was doing as I would slowly walk alongside her. Walking away from her car I would often catch a glimpse of her license plate which read "luv-u-2". On Saturday, as she entered our church this final time, her family respectfully covered her casket with a large cloth or Pall. Father proclaimed from Galatians 3:27: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In her baptism Betty put on Christ; in the day of Christ's coming, she shall be clothed with glory." We have gathered at her funeral to pray our sister home to God.

The cross that lay on top of her casket was added to the Wall of Remembrance where several other crosses hang. They display the names of our parishioners who have gone before us this past year. As her cross was hung her good friend sang the Ave Maria, a capella, a blessing over all of us in attendance.

Following came the familiar sound of the censor chain tapping against the censor as it swung and Betty was covered with incense. Simultaneously a song was prayed that her soul would be brought to God by the saints and angels. The smoke rose up to heaven intertwined with our prayers. Our sister was led out of church, "On Eagle's Wings", as we bid farewell to a good and faithful servant of God.

At times like this we can't help but think of our loved ones we have lost in this world and those we will continue to pray home to God through the remainder of our lives. All of us are just passing through, sent forth by God, on our journey back to Him. I couldn't help to smile through my tears at the beauty and wonder of it all and certainly at the beauty and joy Betty, and so many other deceased loved ones, have brought to my life. Their love remains. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

Our rituals, sacramentals and certainly the sacraments themselves give us a taste of heaven through which our human hearts can come to understand more fully the glory of God. I think back of the two most recent items I had blessed. Rings from my aunt, both portraying the image of an angel, one silver and one gold. The gold ring also has the Guardian Angel prayer inscribed on it.

She picked it out just for me and gave it to me when I brought her Communion while she was under hospice care. Her little Waterford cross votive candle was glowing in anticipation of Jesus coming to her in the Eucharist. In the midst of her very serious illness she created this special moment that stays with me. Father Christopher not only blessed my ring but also prayed for my aunt at that moment. I usually wear one of these two rings daily. On my other hand is my blessed wedding ring. I look upon them both today with a strengthening of my faith and with gratitude to God. They mark me as a disciple of Jesus. They are something tangible I can see and feel as I make my way through this day God gave me.

We all have experiences like this along with some special blessed items. Your children do, too. Write those experiences down, capture that moment; in the busyness of things it is easy to forget. Also, write down answered prayers. Remembering when God saw your family through difficult times will help you through the next challenge that will certainly come your way. If there is a special religious item that you or your child have that has not been blessed, I invite you to bring it to a priest or deacon for a blessing. Through the celebration of the sacraments, through prayer and song, symbols and images, through the witnessing of each other's faith life and through these significant blessed religious items; we can find the strength and power to be the blessing we are called to be through the waters of our Baptism. It is a community effort; some days we lead while on others we follow and still often we just walk alongside each other in the presence of God on our journey home.