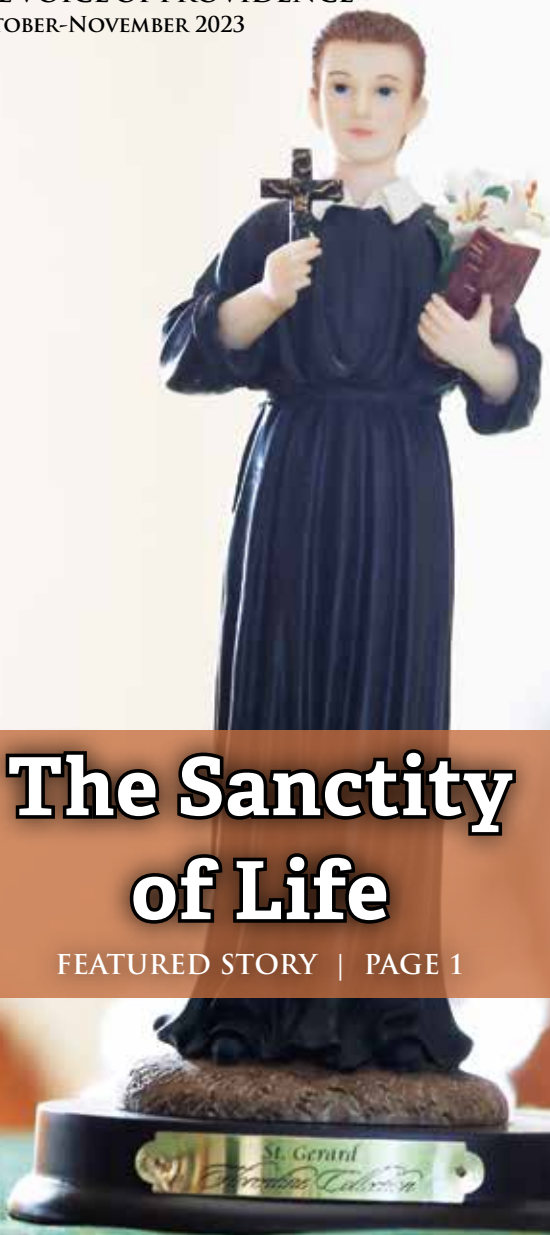


now **Hour**
AND AT THE

THE VOICE OF PROVIDENCE
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

The Sanctity of Life

FEATURED STORY | PAGE 1



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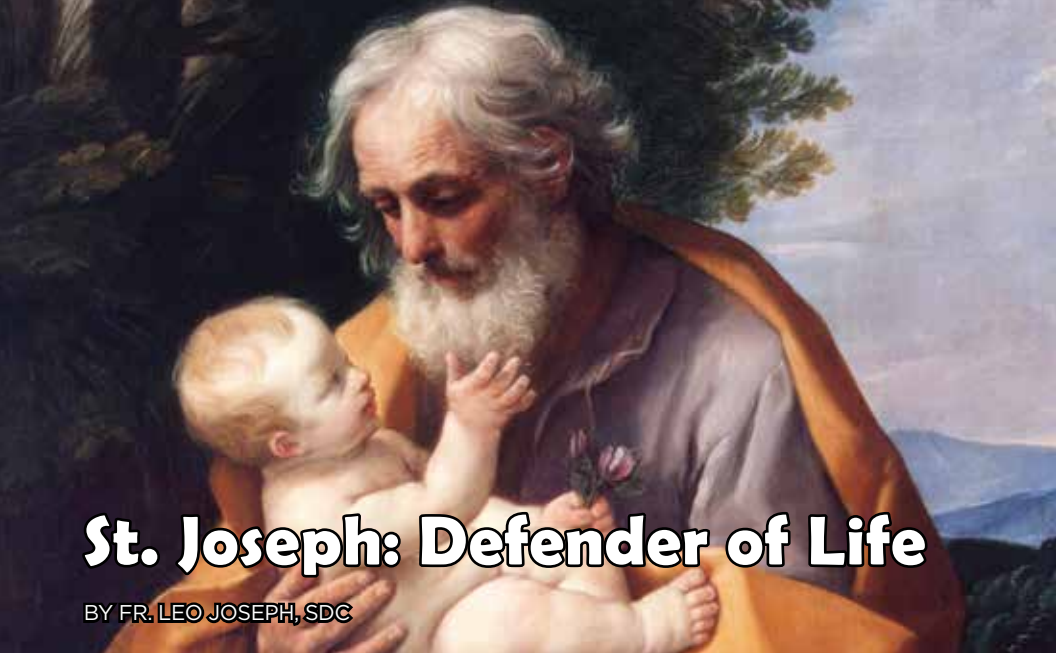
Photos: Servants of Charity Archives, Elvert Barnes, Kelly Flaherty, Mary Grace Blunt

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

Now and at The Hour is a non-profit bi-monthly publication of the Divine Providence Province of the Servants of Charity, a Catholic Religious Congregation founded by St. Louis Guanella, (1842-1915).

Cover Image: *St. Gerard Majella.* This statue is at the Pious Union of St. Joseph, along with his relic. St. Gerard, during his lifetime, had a special love for expectant mothers. Today, he is the patron of mothers and the unborn. Especially during October, Respect Life Month, we pray to St. Gerard for the protection of life and for the safe delivery of babies. A special blessing with the St. Gerard relic will take place on October 16th at the Shrine, after the Mass for all those children enrolled in the Book of Innocents.

Center Image: *Let the Children Come to Me.* This statue is also at the Pious Union of St. Joseph, near the Book of Innocents and the statue of St. Gerard. It is a reminder of how Jesus wants us to be childlike in our faith. Not naive, but truly open to following what the Father teaches and, in trust giving ourselves over to His Providence. Too often when we grow older, we think we must rely on ourselves, so we must remember that no matter our chronological age, we are all children of God.



St. Joseph: Defender of Life

BY FR. LEO JOSEPH, SDC

Life is a supreme gift that comes from God who is our creator. As such, life is an inalienable right. It is the foundation of God's entire plan, as well as the one our nation was founded on. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph's story is revealed in the birth of Jesus. The passage mentions him as a man who used all his energy to safeguard the lives of the ones entrusted to him. Mary was betrothed to him but pregnant with the child Jesus before they came together in marriage. He saved Mary from a terrible death. He also saved the child Jesus from Herod's anger.

Similarly, Joseph, as the foster father of our Savior, reminds us of another Joseph from the Old Testament, the son of Jacob, who was sold by his own jealous brothers to merchants and taken to Egypt. This Joseph, an interpreter of dreams, was a foreigner in Egypt; and yet who, by the grace of the interpretation of dreams, became the savior of the Egyptian people. He saved not only the lives of the Egyptians but also became a protector of God's plan by saving the sons of Israel from famine.

There is a strong parallel in these two great personalities: both carry the same name, both responded to God's call in their dreams, both were immigrants in Egypt, and both became important characters in God's plan of salvation. Joseph, son of Jacob, was an instrument chosen by God to participate in the salvific plan of Israel; Joseph, a son of the family of David, was chosen for the salvific mission of the new Israel. We could say that St. Joseph is also known as the 'Pro-Life Saint.'

Pope Francis during the year of the fifth anniversary of his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, stated: "Every baby, in every case, and in whatever situation is to

be welcomed because he or she is a child. Parents' love is the means by which God shows His love. He awaits the birth of every baby. He accepts and welcomes each child as they are. I want to say to every woman expecting a child: you are God's awesome instrument to welcome and offer a new life in the world."

Respect Life Month is dedicated to St. Joseph who is the model of respect for life as the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Mary. Joseph's strong defense of the gift of life is experienced as we first encounter him in the Scriptures when the angel appeared to him in a dream and directed him to take Mary as his wife after she had conceived Jesus in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit. St. Joseph reminds us of the need to give witness to life today in a world where society has lost true respect for life, especially through the legal acceptance of abortion, and through which respect for life at every stage is forsaken and diminished.

It is important that, like Joseph, we care for and defend the lives of others with the gifts that God has given us. This effort may be different for each person, depending on our own unique gifts and talents and those of the individuals in our community. "Each of us can discover a path to serve and protect life in Joseph, the silent and unnoticed man. St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation" (Patris Corde). The infant Christ "came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for, and raised by Joseph" (Patris Corde).

The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come. Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, "in every situation, Joseph declared his own 'fiat'" (Patris Corde). His "yes" to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.





SHRINE NEWS

BY FR. LEO JOSEPH, SDC

August was a very busy month at the Pious Union. It started with “Volleyball and Vespers” on August 6th. Over 30 teens and young adults came at the shrine. The evening began with volleyball, snacks and lemonade. Towards dusk, the young people gathered in church for vespers and benediction.

August 15th was the Feast of the Assumption. Many people and families came to honor Our Lady at Mass on her special day. The shrine has seen many pilgrims, who visit on their summer vacations. Work also began on the outdoor Stations of the Cross. New electrical lines and solar-powered audio boxes were installed. With the prerecorded prayers, it is now possible to pray along with each Station. The wood of the Stations was treated so that it can better stand up to the elements. The Blessing for the re-dedication of the Stations will take place on October 1st after the 10:00 am Mass.

We will also be holding a miscarriage Mass on October 16th, feast of St. Gerard Majella. If you or a loved one has lost a child, we invite you to attend and to receive a special blessing with the relic of St. Gerard.

October 24th marks the feast of St. Louis Guanella. A solemn vigil Mass will take place in honor of his feast, with Bishop Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing presiding. We will also celebrate Thanksgiving in November. Let us always give thanks to God for the blessings he has given us.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you for your support of the magazine. Your small contributions help us continue spreading Catholic content.

Happy Thanksgiving

From the Inbox *and the Mailbox*

Dear Fr. Leo,

My wife Ilona and I have been praying for the intercession of Clare Bosatta, the blessed saint, to help heal Ilona of a rare cancer.

We have prayed to the Lord for her healing with a relic of Blessed Clare in Ilona's hand every time we recite the prayer to obtain graces through her intercession.

We believe that Ilona has been granted grace through the skill of her surgeon and wisdom of her oncologist as Ilona is 2 years cancer free now!

Even though the physical relic of Blessed Clare will return to its proper place she will never leave our hearts and souls as we continue to pray through her.

Thank you from the depth of our hearts through the expanse of our souls for the caring and generous gift of Blessed Clare.

Kirk and Ilona | Saline, MI



Dear Kirk and Ilona,

Thank you so much for your letter. Praised be Jesus for Ilona's amazing recovery! We urge all of our readers to pray to Blessed Clare Bossata for her intercession. Prayer cards are available through the Shrine Gift Shop.

Fr. Leo Joseph, SdC

Pilgrim Icon Program: St. Joseph

BY PATRICK E. KELLY, SUPREME KNIGHT

Flowing from the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis, and inspired by his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, comes our new Pilgrim Icon Program in honor of St. Joseph.

Devotion to St. Joseph was understandably slow to develop in the history of the Church. The “just man,” whom God chose to protect, defend, and raise the most precious of His gifts to humanity had not a word of his recorded in Scripture. Tradition tells us that our Lord’s foster father died — likely with Jesus and Mary at his side — even prior to Jesus beginning His public ministry.

St. Joseph carried out his mission of raising, guarding, and preparing Christ quietly, courageously, and faithfully. For that faithful work, St. Joseph was rewarded — not with seeing the fruits of his labor in this life, but with the incomparable prize of glory in heaven.

This beautiful icon is housed at St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montréal, Canada’s preeminent Shrine to St. Joseph, founded by St. André Bessette. The original is written (prayerfully painted) by Elizabeth Bergeron, from a drawing by famed iconographer Alexandre Sobolev. In the image, St. Joseph stands with his eyes cast humbly down, but with a determined strength in his face. In his covered arm, he bears the Child Jesus, whose own hand is raised, blessing the world. In his right arm, St. Joseph holds a flowering staff, a sign that he was chosen by God. The white lilies of the staff signify his purity and chastity. Taken together, the icon provides a window into the life and mission of this courageous father, a



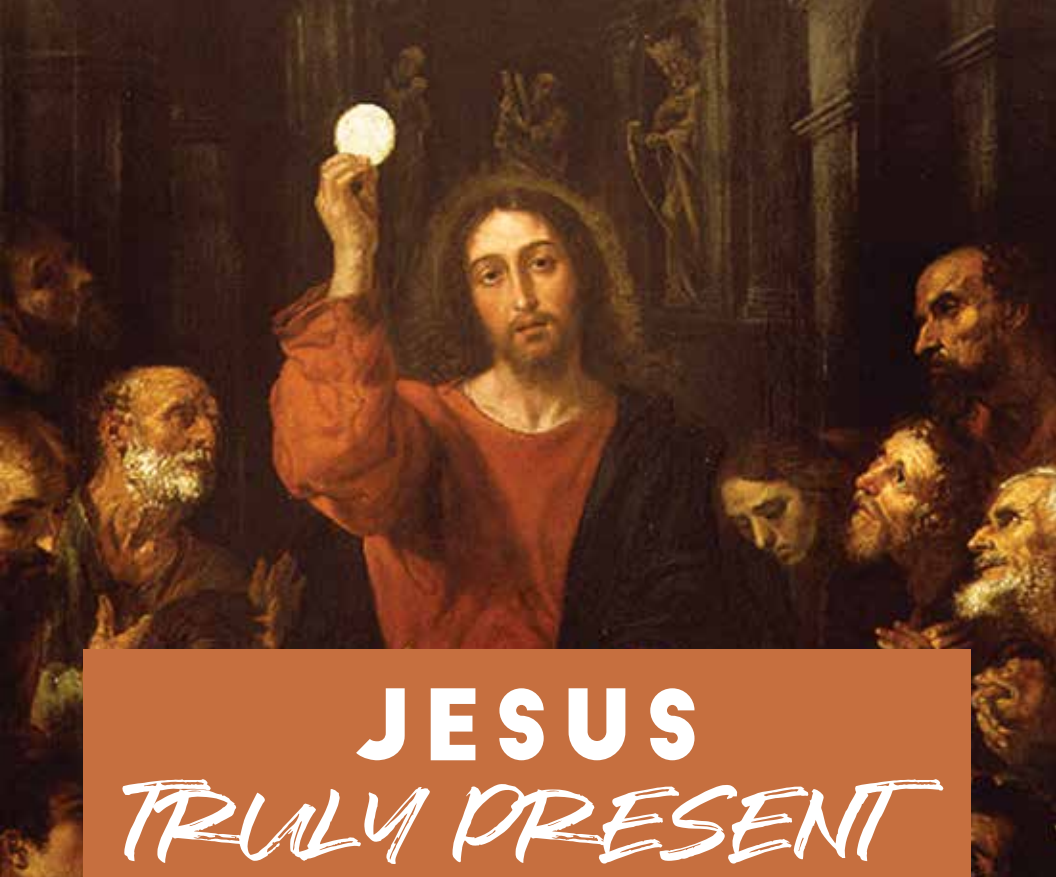
man who was one of us and yet called to a mission of incomparable significance. Our world desperately needs men and women of courage. But in a particular way, it needs courageous fathers — men willing to stand up and to carry out their own mission of protecting, defending, and raising future generations. It needs men willing to risk it all, in order to offer Jesus to the world. In short, our world needs men in the model of St. Joseph.

Since its inception in 1979, the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program has held more than 174,800 local council and parish prayer services with some 22 million participants. Featured images have included Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Charity, Our Lady of Persecuted Christians, and the Holy Family.

In the first year of his pontificate, Pope Francis received the Order's Board of Directors in a private audience, during which the Holy Father said, "I commend all of you in a special way to the intercession of St. Joseph, the protector of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who is an admirable model of those manly virtues of quiet strength, integrity, and fidelity which the Knights of Columbus are committed to preserving, cultivating, and passing on to future generations of Catholic men."

Bearing those words in mind, I chose to entrust my service as Supreme Knight to St. Joseph, and through this Pilgrim Icon Program, we can all turn in prayer to St. Joseph. We give thanks to God for the gift of his fatherly example, and we ask St. Joseph to be a father to us. Along the way, may we also grow in our own imitation of St. Joseph's quiet strength, integrity, and fidelity.





JESUS

TRULY PRESENT

BY THERESA CAVICCHIO, OFS

Picking up on Bishop Barron's new book, we now explore the Eucharist as a sacrifice. The link between sacrifice and covenant begins here with Abraham. His painful acquiescence to God's demand to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac is another example of the loop of faith: If he sacrifices what God has given to him, God promises: 'I will make of you a great nation' " (39).

The mission God entrusted to Moses, and the covenant with His people, carried them out of slavery and into Sinai, where they received the Ten Commandments of the Law. The blood of sacrificed oxen was splashed on the altar and on the people. "Once more the linking of covenant and sacrifice was on clear display" (46).

"To David, [God] promised a line of kingly successors, enduring, mysteriously enough, eternally" (47). The accompanying sacrifice would occur over nearly one thousand years "through the slaughter of beasts and the smoke of holocausts."

The prophet Jeremiah dreamed of an everlasting covenant through God's writing His law on the hearts of His people. This covenant "would be effected through the sacrificial servant of whom Isaiah speaks" (51). Isaiah 52 – 53 describes "a sacrificial figure, one who will, on behalf of the entire nation, offer himself for the sins of the many."

So we are led, inevitably, to Jesus. The link between covenant and sacrifice is illustrated in John the Baptist's representing Jesus as the Lamb of God (Jn 1,36). "Jesus is the one who will play the role of the sacrificial lambs offered in the temple" (53). "The sacrifice of Jesus' cross sums up and gathers the sacrificial history that preceded it. The Mass, the Eucharistic liturgy, can be understood as an extension or re-presentation of the sacrifice of Jesus, bringing the power of the cross to bear in the present" (62-3).

~ The Real Presence ~

This section opens with a surprising quote concerning the Eucharist from noted Catholic author Flannery O'Connor: "If it's a symbol, to hell with it!" (69).

Bishop Barron addresses this question of Real Presence versus symbol while focusing on the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel. Far from softening His teaching on this subject, "Jesus unambiguously identifies Himself with this bread that will nourish His people to eternal life" (73). "We must eat the Flesh and drink the Blood of the Lord because that is the way that we come to participate in Him and thus, finally, in the life of the Father" (75).

WE, GOD'S PEOPLE ON THE GROUND, ARE CHARGED
WITH THE TASK OF LIVING OUT AND PROMOTING
THE TEACHING CONFIRMING THE EUCHARIST AS "THE
SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE."

Turning to the Church Fathers, we read affirmations of a distinguished group: Sts. Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Cyril, Ambrose, John Chrysostom, Augustine of Hippo, and the theologian Origen. From the earliest centuries of Christianity, these holy men attested to the "transformative power" of the "consecratory words of Jesus" (82).

Concerning transubstantiation, the substantive change of elements of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus, the term first appeared in an official Church document of Pope Innocent III in 1202 AD, but it appears to have been already in common usage by this time.

Not surprisingly, a lengthy section is dedicated to the great theologian St. Thomas Aquinas, for whom the Eucharist was “much more than merely a topic of academic interest; it was the center of his spiritual life” (89). Bishop Barron states, “Thomas says that through the sacrament we commune with Christ, participating in His flesh and divinity, and inasmuch as we share in Christ, we commune with one another through Him. I can’t imagine a more succinct summary of the theme of the sacred meal” (91).

Summing up, Bishop Barron turns to several contemporary theologians to delve deeper into the question of symbol versus Real Presence. He cites scriptural instances illustrating Jesus’ words as “efficacious and transformative, producing what they pronounce,” culminating with those of the Last Supper which “effectively change the bread and wine into His Body and Blood” (104 - 105).

Then we return to the Church Fathers, many of whom “characterized the Eucharist as food that effectively immortalized those who consume it The Eucharist, they concluded, Christifies and hence eternalizes ... The Christified person knows that his life is not finally about him but about God; the Eucharistized person understands that her treasure is to be found above and not below” (109).

~ Conclusion ~

Hopefully, this overview will encourage many to appreciate the richness of love and knowledge with which Bishop Barron fills every page of this comprehensive study of the Eucharist.

During this current Year of Parish Revival, we can turn to his book for inspiration to fulfill the responsibility that lies with us, both clergy and laity, on the local level. We, God’s people on the ground, are charged with the task of living out and promoting the teaching confirming the Eucharist as “the source and summit of the Christian life.”

Along the way, with help from above, we will achieve Bishop Barron’s worthy purpose: “My sincere prayer is that [this book] might help you understand the sacrament of Jesus’ Body and Blood more thoroughly, precisely so that you might fall in love with the Lord more completely” (vii).

Further information and numerous resources concerning the National Eucharistic Revival can be found at www.eucharisticrevival.org.

Theresa Cavicchio is a wife, mother, grandmother, and freelance writer from Pennsylvania.

A Gift that Makes One Rich

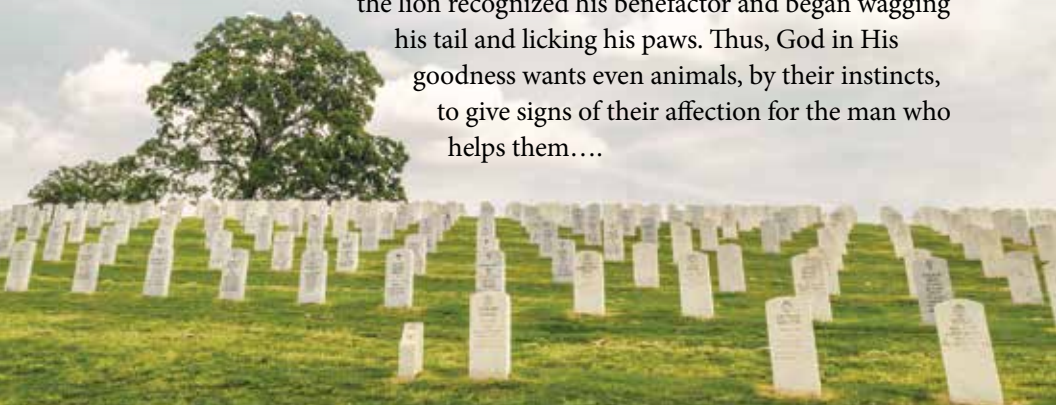
BY ST. LOUIS GUANELLA

Peter Damian, an orphan with no parents, a poor child among ten, had to bear the heavy crosses of hunger, cold, and want. One bitterly cold morning he found a silver coin on the street.

Peter was already thinking how he could get clothes for himself, shoes for his feet, and bread for his empty stomach. Then he thought: "My parents have just died. Who knows what pains they might be suffering in purgatory." He hurried to attend holy Mass and to give alms. A priest noticed that the little boy was praying with the fervor of an angel, and so he took care of him. He arranged for him to pursue the priesthood. Peter became a bishop, an illustrious and holy doctor of the Church. He declared many times: "The pious souls of my beloved parents have helped me." In his writings he concluded: "I plead with you, pray for the holy souls in purgatory; you will benefit from it. He who gives to the holy souls gains treasures for himself." Brothers and sisters, are you convinced by the testimonies of this holy doctor? Believe them, for they are true.

Let's take a look at purgatory. It's a miserable place; we see many souls and many torments there. So if a compassionate hand frees them, believe me, their gratitude will never fail.

It happened that a Christian boy in a forest removed a thorn from a lion's paw. That same lion was captured and taken to the Roman amphitheater. The boy, too, was discovered to be a Christian and condemned to be devoured by that same beast. The lion was ready to rush at the boy with fury, when upon seeing him, the lion recognized his benefactor and began wagging his tail and licking his paws. Thus, God in His goodness wants even animals, by their instincts, to give signs of their affection for the man who helps them....



Margaret of Cortona prayed ardently for the souls in purgatory. She cried when praying for those wretched ones who are mostly abandoned by their relatives and by those whom they had helped here on earth. To render her prayers more valuable, she would also offer her frequent Holy Communions, which she received with the devotion of an angel. Embracing her Savior, she would speak to Him....After this, Margaret kindled her confidence in God even more....

Suddenly a choir of already-saved souls woke her up. They showed her how they had just left purgatory. They looked as glorious and joyful as one can imagine. Then they spoke lovingly to Margaret, and greeting her they were raised up and landed in heaven in the bosom of God. What a joyful ascension! Afterwards, other souls would often appear to her looking very sad, and would beg her to also show them mercy. Margaret would pray even harder; the following day she would receive Communion. What a joy! And so more souls rose up to heaven exclaiming, "Holy Communion saves souls!"



Is there anything that those souls will not do for those who saved them? I cannot know it fully, yet I am quite certain that they will obtain very much. Margaret obtained the crown of sanctity, and we, too, will receive more than one heavenly favor by commending ourselves to the just souls of purgatory....

Do you think, then, that it's suitable to plead on behalf of the souls in purgatory? Let us pray for them even more heartily. We offer poor gifts for them from the bottom of our hearts. Those blessed souls obtain for us abundant treasures from heaven. How fortunate we are! Very true, indeed. He who offers a prayer for the souls in purgatory obtains a treasure for his own soul.

Please stay tuned for St. Louis Guanellas book "On the Tombs of the Deceased," which will be available in the Shrine Gift Shop soon.



Reproductive “Freedom” in Michigan . . . and Beyond

BY MARY GRACE BLUNT

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court’s ruling in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade*. This threw the abortion issue back to local legislatures. In many states like Alabama, Michigan, and Texas, procedures immediately became illegal. The pro-abortion movement exploded, claiming that a woman’s “reproductive choices” were a fundamental right, protected under the constitution.

Soon after the ruling, a judge placed an injunction on Michigan’s abortion ban and procedures resumed across the entire state. Fearful that this injunction would only be temporary, a grassroots effort began to put this controversial issue on the ballot.

After obtaining enough signatures, the Reproductive Freedom for All Act was indeed placed on the Michigan ballot for November 2022. The text of the initiative went:

A proposal to amend the state constitution to establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including the right to make all decisions about pregnancy and abortion; allow state to regulate abortion in some cases; and forbid prosecution of individuals exercising established right.

Worded in this way, many people agreed that the state should not infringe on one’s “reproductive freedom,” and the proposal passed. While this vote legalized abortion in Michigan up until the moment of birth, the amendment itself has far deeper implications. Note that the text says “an individual right” and not “an adult’s right” to reproductive freedom. Minors now have complete control over all of their reproductive decisions. Young children who decide to change their gender can go to teachers for help with sex changes and hormone replacement therapy. Since, under Michigan law, each person has complete reproductive autonomy parents cannot prevent their children from making these life-altering decisions.

While the pro-abortion movement claims to champion women's rights, the Reproductive Freedom for All Act hurts women. The fine print of the amendment "Forbids state discrimination in enforcement of this right [abortion]; prohibits prosecution of an individual, or a person helping a pregnant individual, for exercising rights established by this amendment." This text allows anyone to perform abortions, even if they have no medical training. If a woman gets pregnant, she can ask her friends to help abort her child. If she dies in the process, the state cannot legally prosecute those friends. Clearly, this new law has neither women's health nor safety at heart.

To make matters worse, the amendment might also strike down laws in Michigan prohibiting statutory rape and incest (even of minors) if both parties consent to the "reproductive act." Perverted parents could then take advantage of their young children with no penalty.

Since the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, the laws in Michigan have taken an appalling turn for the worse. While it's disheartening and discouraging, we must all continue to champion life and true love. In Michigan, we must do everything we can to fight this new amendment through the legislative and judicial process. We must also educate our young people: true reproductive freedom isn't about throwing away one's gender or a baby's life; it's about making informed, mature decisions that won't hurt oneself or others.

To other states, Michigan serves as a stark warning. While abortion (and sex therapy) can now be banned or regulated, the exact opposite is also possible. If the same deceptively-worded amendment is proposed in other states, people must make a stand for truth. They must oppose those forces that, under the guise of liberty, directly attack God, the family, and the individual person. As Pope St. John Paul II says, "Freedom does not consist in doing what we like, but in having the freedom to do what we ought."







MEANS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

BY ST. LOUIS GUANELLA



The fundamental approach of the works of Divine Providence consists in figuring out whether Divine Providence wants a work from us.

The way to ascertain this is as follows: conceive an idea, work out the idea until it is clarified, and develop it until it is understood by the intellect and moves the heart as already fulfilled.

Still not satisfied, we must proceed cautiously in undertaking the project. Then we must begin with a few

experiments according to the means currently at our disposal. The work should be arranged in such a way that one thing rises to another, and the Lord will provide, little by little, as we go along. It is necessary that superiors conduct themselves at least passively. Thus, step-by-step, we move forward.

We add one stone after another to the building until, having finished it; superiors can experience some satisfaction from it. We must reflect that superiors, having to answer to God for their subjects, have the duty and the right to watch over their undertakings. We must have the virtue never to speak evil of superiors, because we must support authority, and it would be a defect, even a fault, to complain excessively. When, decisively, a superior orders a stop, then we must suspend it, pray, and have others pray that the Lord may enlighten the superior regarding the work that we believe to be His will.

As to means, they might be material and/or people. Regarding material means, we must rely on the promise of the Lord: “seek first the Kingdom of God and His justice, and all the rest will be given besides.” Also remember the parable of the

mustard seed. Regarding people, we must also remember the encouragement that our divine Savior gave to the Apostles: “You are a little flock, but do not fear, because your heavenly Father has been pleased to give you a kingdom.”

What is the kingdom? It the kingdom of hearts. When a poor man, who in the eyes of the world is deprived of means yet trusts in the Lord, the grace of God will touch hearts and send someone to his aid. Therefore, we must not conduct ourselves according to the judgment of men but according to the judgment of the Divine Providence of God, who is master of choosing the persons, the means, and the ways that are most pleasing to Him.

Does it matter if to cultivate your field the Lord sends you an instrument of iron instead of one of silver or of gold, when you know that iron instruments are the best for the purpose? “The Lord,” says St. Paul, “chooses the weak ones of this world (infirmi mundi),” that is, persons weak in wisdom, in age, in bodily and spiritual vigor.

He prefers the weak ones of the world, the very poor, usually held in low esteem, that we may be persuaded that it is not we who work, but the grace of God, which by the supreme goodness of God deigns to work in man in whom the basis of every good deed is in being persuaded that God is all and man is nothing, God all perfect, and man full of defects. There will be criticism without end. But Gersonne advises that the words of men are like a feather that floats through the air, not like a stone which falls from a height to crush. Words do not wound nor break stones.



St. Louis Guanella was born in Franciscio, Italy in 1842. He founded the Pious Union of St. Joseph, a confraternity of prayer for the suffering and the dying. St. Guanella devoted his life to caring for the developmentally disabled, trusting in Divine Providence. He was canonized in 2011 and his feast day is October 24th.

New Friends Now and Forever

A NEW BOOK BY SUSAN TASSONE

I like to say that purgatory is the masterpiece of God's mercy. But if that's true (and it is), why does the word "purgatory" make so many of us uncomfortable, or even afraid? The answer is simple: weak catechesis.

As well-intentioned as our own parents and teachers might have been, the message most adult Catholics received about purgatory was not a positive one. The good news is that as parents, family members, teachers, and catechists, we can change that for our children in an engaging way by telling a story. That is what this book will help you do.



The story in this book is rooted in five important truths the Church teaches us about purgatory:

- Purgatory exists!
- Purgatory exists because God loves us.
- Purgatory isn't a punishment."
- The souls in purgatory suffer the loss of the sight of God.
- Purgatory isn't a physical fire. Purgatory is an inner burning, a "spiritual fever," for the love of God.

Parents, plant the seed of God and prayer in young hearts. Plant the seed of reverence for the dead, and in due time this will manifest itself and will assure you of their aid. Plant the seed on how to avoid purgatory by doing the will of God in all things.

Children can pray for loved ones, acquaintances, and even strangers who have passed away. Their prayers and sacrifices have power to help another person reach heaven! And those souls will pray for them. What a wonderful God we have, and what gifts we can be to each other! This book can help them start or deepen these practices in their daily lives.

Get your copy today from the Shrine Gift Shop.



Susan Tassone is an award- winning author of 14 best-sellers, including Day by Day for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and Jesus Speaks to Faustina.. She shares her passion for saving souls through speaking engagements, on national radio and television programs, and other media platforms. Visit Susan at: susantassone.com.

Praise for New Friends Now and Forever

“This delightful story with beautiful illustrations will captivate children and at the same time teach them their Catholic Faith about purgatory – an often-misunderstood topic.” – **Fr. Wade Menezes, CPM Fathers of Mercy, EWTN author & global Catholic radio host of Open Line Tuesday**

“This book is a masterpiece. We can't wait to have it in our store.” – **Linda Enfield, Manager/Buyer, Giftshop of El Nino, Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Hanceville, Alabama**





Minutes on the Mass

As Fr. Rocky continues his catechesis on the Holy Mass, he pauses in episodes 3-7 to explain the importance of the Tabernacle, Altar, and other items used throughout the liturgy. He reminds us of the sacredness of all of these items and their specific purpose. Most especially, he teaches that every Catholic Church must contain a tabernacle, an altar, and a crucifix. Fr. Rocky stresses the importance showing our reverence to the Lord when approaching them.

In these episodes, Fr. Rocky instructs viewers on the many different vestments, vessels and cloths used in the Mass. He explains their purpose and the very deliberate way they are cared for and stored. In episode 7, Fr. Rocky details the priest's vestments and the sacredness with which he clothes himself in preparation for the celebration of Mass.

After watching these five episodes, I am personally inspired to put more thought and prayer into my own preparations for Mass. I learned that each of these furnishings, vestments, and vessels contributes to the Mass in such a way that raises our minds and senses to the heights of heaven, giving our very best to the Lord.

In the next series of episodes, we will learn how we prepare ourselves to become sacred vessels that will receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you are learning as much as I am about the Mass.

I encourage you to visit the Relevant Radio YouTube channel to watch these short instructional videos for yourself. Fr. Rocky covers every detail to help you more fully understand each aspect of the Mass. **Link to videos: [youtube.com/@RelevantRadioNetwork/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@RelevantRadioNetwork/videos)**

Fr. Rocky has been a regular contributor to the Relevant Radio programs and is a weekly co-host of the popular show Go Ask Your Father. He was appointed Executive Director of Relevant Radio in April, 2010.



THE CAMINO OF LIFE

BY DOMINIC TILAK

“
*If you could see the journey whole, you might
never undertake it; might never dare the first step
that propels you from the place you have known
towards the place you know not.*
”





I first heard about Camino when my dear friend Fr. Bakthiswalagan, SdC told me that he was going to Spain to do the walk. Then his posts on Facebook kindled more interest.

Another dear friend Fr. Kalai, SdC, did his Camino; I was hooked and started researching "The Camino." Two things which turned this inspiration into an action were:

- 1. It was one of the three Basilicas built over the tomb of an apostle. Having visited the Santhome Basilica in Chennai and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, it was a good reason to visit Santiago and pray at the tomb of St. James the Great.*
- 2. Walking for 5 Days in the wilderness in solitude, prayer, and contemplation.*

The Camino de Santiago, known in English as the Way of St. James, is a network of pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the Apostle St. James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, northwestern Spain, where tradition holds that his remains are buried.

I proposed the Camino to Mr. Hubert Praveen, a dear friend and the current Coordinator of Guanellian Cooperators in Bangalore at the end of 2022. His enthusiasm energized me for the pilgrimage.

Hubert, Dawson (Hubert's elder brother), and myself landed at the Santiago airport on May 16, 2023. Fr. Britto SdC, stationed in Spain, drove us to Sarria where we would start our Camino.

The three of us will remember May 17, 2023 for the rest of our lives. We were up early, packed our bags, and went to the Church of Santa Marina of Sarria to start our Camino. The walk to the Church (less than 100 yards) with our backpacks made us realise that we had underestimated the physical aspect of the Camino. We used the courier service to transport our bags to the hostel where we would stay for the night.

We had to walk for five days to cover the seventy miles (which covered only the distance between towns and did not account for the hilly terrain). We literally had to cover more than 15 miles each day. What kept us going were our prayers, listening to talks recommended by our priest friends, and the solitude. The talks were on a wide variety of topics which we had never thought about. Our conversations were also very enlightening. We discussed our thoughts, beliefs, and people in our lives. During those five days we realised the existence of each muscle, bone, ligament, and tendon in our legs. At the end of the day when we reached our hostel tired, exhausted, and at times bruised, attending Mass gave us the strength to start the next day refreshed.

Meeting different people during the Camino from various places like Australia, South Korea, Sweden, Italy, France, UK, Canada, USA, and Latin America was a pleasant experience and wishing “Buen Camino” to everyone on the way also gave us the energy to continue our walk. We also saw people of all ages making Camino. We saw children riding bikes with their parents; we met a 75 year old Mexican lady and her granddaughter making the Camino; we saw adult children making their Camino with elderly parents who had difficulty walking. During those few days faces we saw during the walk became familiar; well-wishes also became regular. As the poster in the pilgrim center in the Cathedral of Santiago says:

“BLESSED ARE YOU PILGRIM:
WHAT CONCERNS YOU MOST IS
NOT TO ARRIVE, BUT TO ARRIVE
WITH OTHERS.”

Our day usually started with a prayer in the church where we had attended Mass the previous day. The first hour of walking was usually the stretch with the highest elevation and would exhaust us. Then we would encourage each other and we would walk steadily for the rest of the day enjoying nature, churches, villages, and towns.

On May 21st we woke up with a spring in our step. We were ready for the final climb to our destination, and we were excited to spend time in the Basilica of St. James the Great and kneel at his tomb to pray. The last few miles flew by; then we were looking at the Basilica. Moving to the front, we were mesmerised by its

beautiful façade. The pilgrim Mass at noon was celebrated by four bishops. At the end of Mass we saw the famous Thurible of the Cathedral in action. After Mass we went around the basilica taking in its beauty; at last we reached the tomb of St. James the Great, the destination of our Camino. We asked for St. James' intercession for ourselves, our families, the Guanellian family, and all those who asked for our prayers.

There is a beautiful saying in the Cathedral of Santiago. "The Camino of Santiago may have come to an end. The Camino of life has just started..." With this thought, we returned to our regular life. Along the journey, we came closer to God as we grew in resilience, camaraderie, and our knowledge of the Lord. The faith and charity of the Apostle James will continue to live in us, as we now go forth to share the Gospel in our own land.

On behalf of Dawson, Hubert, and myself, I would like to thank Fr. Fabio, the delegate superior of the European Delegation and the Community of the Aruza for their welcoming fraternal care during our stay there. A special thanks to Fr. Britto for being the backbone of our travel from planning to execution and for guiding us every step of the way.

Dominic is a Guanellian Cooperator. He promotes devotion to St. Louis Guanella and recruits aspirants for the Guanellian Lay Movement in India, where he currently lives.





Destined to Serve the Disabled

BY KELLY FLAHERTY

St. Louis Guanella left a legacy of love to his spiritual sons and daughters, the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, which is visible in the institutes they maintain.

Most notably these institutes are places of care for the poor and disabled. St. Louis Center in Chelsea, MI is a shining example of the love of the saint for whom it is named.

How was Guanella compelled to embark on this journey of service to those who have no one? By reading the biography chronicled in “The Life Spirit and Works of Fr. Louis Guanella” by Leonardo Mazzucci it is easy to understand the pathway to holiness that the saint travelled on. In the mountains of Frascio, Italy a hard-working family lived and thrived, raising thirteen children in the ways of holiness. Among them was the future St. Louis Guanella.

St. Guanella began his earthly life on a cold day in December. The very next day, December 20, 1842, his father took him to St. John the Baptist church in Campodolcino to be baptized; the first step on his pathway to holiness.

Life in the Alps was not easy, and the Guanella family was amongst the hardworking people residing in this harsh region. Life at home was simple. There were constant chores and hardships, but also joys and devotions. Pa Lorenzo made sure that all of the children prayed the Rosary and heard stories of the saints. His own mother would even prepare him to receive holy Communion.

Fr. Guanella's first hint at his future came outside of the church of his baptism. Mass was about to begin for a feast day celebration and his uncle had given him some candy. Not wanting to break the fast before Mass, little Louis went to hide the candy in front of the church when a beggar approached asking him for a morsel. He was a bit startled and quickly went to hide the candy before heading into church. The encounter haunted him and remained a secret for many years.

On the occasion of his First Holy Communion, Fr. Guanella took the opportunity to go to the quiet of Gualdera to contemplate the mystery of the Eucharist which he had received. While sitting on the hillside praying he had a vision that was a tiny glimpse into his future.

THE HOUSES HE FOUNDED ALL OVER
ITALY GIVE TESTAMENT TO THE LOVE
AND COMMITMENT HE HAD FOR THE
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED.

Fr. Guanella carried these and many other happy memories with him to the seminary and before long, he reached his ordination. His first priestly assignment was Prosto as an assistant to the pastor. The focus of his ministry was always on the people. He wanted to help them to be not only holy, but also educated on matters that could help benefit them and the society in which they lived. He was always seeking ways to assist especially the neediest among his flock.

In his first year at Prosto, Fr. Guanella, moved by love, found a place for a young boy with intellectual disabilities in Turin. It was the Cottolengo Institute, and Fr. Guanella himself accompanied the child. This was the first of many trips Guanella would make to this institute and that of St. John Bosco.

He was certainly inspired by the work of both St. Joseph Cottolengo and St. John Bosco, but knew that he wanted to find his own way and develop his program for the disabled. It wouldn't be for another decade or so, but Fr. Guanella awaited with patience for Providence to provide the means for him to really get to work. The houses he founded all over Italy give testament to the love and commitment he had for the intellectually and developmentally disabled.

Now more than a century after his death, his spiritual sons and daughters labor around the globe to care for the many needy so beloved by their Founder, St. Louis Guanella. They continue the work that St. Guanella was destined to do, "Give bread and the Lord," and to, "make the whole world their homeland."

By this saint's humble beginnings and simple way of life we too can be inspired to seek holiness, to listen to the call of Divine Providence, and follow where she beckons.

For more information on the works of St. Louis Guanella, serving the disabled in the modern world, please scan the qr code.



O St. Louis Guanella,
Apostle of Charity, you
spread the treasures
of your heart to the
poor and the suffering,
whom you dearly loved,
in a world full of hate
and selfishness.

Obtain for us from
Divine Providence an
ever increasing love for
God and our neighbors.
Obtain for us also the
favor we are asking for
... and the grace of final
perseverance.

-Amen.

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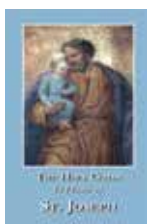
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UPCOMING EVENTS



Miscarriage Mass
October 16, 2023 | 7:00 pm



Michigan March for Life
November 8, 2023 | 11:00 am
at the Lansing State Capital



Pious Union of St. Joseph

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Grass Lake, MI 49240

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Email: piousunion@pusj.org



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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 3:45 p.m. • Divine Mercy Chaplet: Wed 3:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary: Before Mass • **Stations of the Cross:** Friday at 11:00 a.m.

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