



APOSTLES of the HOLY SPIRIT

Bulletin

Spring 2015

HOLY SPIRIT GOD OF FAMILY COME HOLY SPIRIT

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family.

May Your Spirit penetrate our thoughts, our desires, our words and our works. Bless our undertakings, share in our joys, in our trials, and in our labors. Grant us to know You better, to love You more and to serve You without faltering.

**HOLY SPIRIT PROTECT
OUR FAMILIES**





1ST CENTURY

ST. JOSEPH

A saint for fathers

Just as God the Father selected the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of his son, he also chose St. Joseph to be Mary's chaste spouse and Jesus' foster father. As the head of the Holy Family - the model for all families - he is also the inspiration for and the protector of all fathers.

St. Luke's Gospel tells the story of Christ's infancy from Mary's perspective, while St. Matthew's Gospel gives us the story from St. Joseph's point of view.

He is introduced to us as a just man, a descendant of King David, a native of Bethlehem, a carpenter living in Nazareth and engaged to Mary. After the Annunciation, when Mary told Joseph she was pregnant, he resolved to break off the engagement privately. Under the law of Moses given in

St. Joseph, a native of Bethlehem, made his living as a carpenter.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O Joseph, Holy Guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by Thy prayers in all necessities of life. Ask of Jesus that special grace, which He granted to thee, to watch over our home at the pillow of the sick and dying, so that with Mary and with thee, Heaven may find our family unbroken in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amen.

the book of Deuteronomy, if Joseph had made a public charge of infidelity against Mary, she would have been stoned to death. Before Joseph could do anything, however, God granted him his own annunciation. An angel of the Lord visited Joseph in a dream, urging him to take Mary as his wife, assuring him that the child she carried had been conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph must have died before Christ began his public ministry. If he were still alive, he would have stood with Mary at the foot of the cross and there would have been no need for Jesus to entrust his mother to St. John.

It was fear of heresy that delayed devotion to St. Joseph for nearly 1,400 years. So many heretical splinter groups had denied the divinity of Christ that Church authorities felt it was more important to

emphasize the doctrine that God was Christ's father than to venerate the man whom God had chosen to be the guardian of Jesus and Mary. Although there are isolated examples of Joseph receiving some recognition during the Middle Ages in Egypt, in England and in Germany, the Church did not grant him official recognition until 1479 when Pope Sixtus IV established March 19 as the feast of St. Joseph. From that point, devotion to St. Joseph increased dramatically. The Franciscans, the Carmelites and the Jesuits all promoted St. Joseph. St. Teresa of Avila

(1515-1582), who was particularly attached to him, said of St. Joseph in her autobiography, "With other saints it seems the Lord has given them grace to be of help in one need, whereas with this glorious saint, I have experience that he helps in all our needs."

Perhaps to make up for all those centuries when veneration of St. Joseph was almost nil, since the 15th century he has been adopted as patron of everything from the universal Church, to doubters, to carpenters and all laborers, to immigrants and refugees, to the family, and most recently of those hoping for a successful real estate transaction. St. Joseph is also invoked for a good death, and he is the patron of innumerable cities and countries, including Canada, Mexico and China.

**FEAST
DAYS
MAR
19
MAY
1**

1ST CENTURY

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A saint for mothers

As Christ hung dying on the cross, he placed his Blessed Mother under the care of his apostle, St. John the Evangelist. "Behold your mother," Christ said to John, and by extension, Jesus said the same to us. Mary is our spiritual mother - the most loving mother the world has ever known because she counts as her children all of humankind.

The Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said, "Every person carries in his heart a blueprint of the one he loves." And among Catholics and Orthodox Christians, no saint is more beloved than Mary.

I suppose all mothers both know and yet do not completely know everything about their children - this was especially the case for Mary. That God chose her from among all women to be the mother of the savior was a mystery that, during her earthly life, she never entirely understood. In his Gospel, St. Luke tells us that Mary pondered, or meditated upon this mystery in her heart. To look at him, her son Jesus was in every respect fully human, except that unlike us he never committed any sin. Yet he was also fully God, which he first revealed at a wedding at



Cana when, at his mother's request, he spared the bride and groom embarrassment by changing water into fine vintage wine.

We can imagine Mary's pride when Jesus began his public ministry and by his teaching showed the world the way to salvation, and by his miracles showed God's compassion and mercy to a sick, suffering world. We can also imagine her intense emotional agony as she followed her son as he was humiliated, tortured and crucified. There is no more poignant image of Mary than the Pieta - the Heartbroken mother holding in her arms the body of her lifeless child. Any parent who has lost a child knows exactly how Mary felt at that moment.

Today in the great shrines of Lourdes, Fatima and Guadalupe, in parish churches, chapels and oratories, in some silent corner of the heart, millions call on Mary for help. She is, as Blessed Pope Pius IX said in 1851, "the best of mothers, our safest confidantethe very motive of our hope."

The major feasts of Our Lady are:

- *Jan. 1 (Mary, Mother of God)*
- *March 25 (Annunciation)*
- *May 31 (Visitation)*
- *Aug. 15 (Assumption)*
- *Aug. 22 (Queenship of Mary)*
- *Sept. 8 (Nativity of Mary)*
- *Sept. 15 (Our Lady of Sorrows)*
- *Oct. 7 (Our Lady of the Rosary)*
- *Nov. 21 (Presentation of Mary)*
- *Dec. 8 (Immaculate Conception)*

Most Holy Mary, with confidence in your intercession, I ask your prayers for our family, give us wisdom and strength to meet our responsibilities and may we in our love for one another find true joy, peace and fulfilment.

In addition to being the patron of mothers, Our Lady is the patron saint of women in childbirth, nuns, religious vocations and of countless cities, towns and countries, including the United States, under her title the Immaculate Conception.



Prayers to the Holy Spirit

“Come, Holy Spirit”

SANCTIFY OUR FAMILY LIFE IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

The Christian family is the Church in its smallest and most powerful form. When the family gathers together to pray then Christ is in the midst in a special way. He blesses the father, mother and children in their unique relationship with one another. Through sharing in prayer the family grows together in Christ.

PRAYER OF ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II FOR THE FAMILY

Lord God, from You every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. Father, You are love and life. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, the fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that Your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love.

Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family.

We ask this of You, who are life, truth, and love with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FAMILY PRAYER

For the Family: parents and children

Heavenly Father bless us all this day. In our lives at work, at school and at home help us always to do your holy will, and to know that in doing it we are pleasing to you and fulfilling your plan for our salvation.

Michael Buckley

For appreciation of each other

We thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus your Son who came to our earth and lived in a simple home. We have a greater appreciation of the value and dignity of the human family because he loved and was loved within its shelter. Bless us this day; may we grow in love for each other in our family and so give thanks to you who are the maker of all human families and our abiding peace.

Michael Buckley

To the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, be with us throughout this day. Strengthen us in our work, enlighten us in our study, make us constantly aware of each other and of you, so that we will live every moment of this day as you would have us do.

Michael Buckley

For Peace in the Family

Lord Jesus, my family needs your help today. We need Your peace and tranquility, an end to discord. Give us strength and compassion to understand each other, and the trust and patience we need to live peacefully together. Grant that, through the intercession of Your mother, Mary and St. Joseph, our family too may become a holy family, a family that works together as one, a family that embraces peace and love, a family whose members are dedicated to each other and to you.

Amen

**One Candle
May Light A Thousand**
*When you are finished with
your bulletin pass it on.*



Prayer to St. Monica

Holy Saint Monica, I know that your life on earth as a wife, mother, kind grandmother, and wise friend to many women and men made you a saint when you stood before the Throne of God.

As I pray for your intercession, I pray for the courage to overcome fear and to find the Lord in the face of my friends, my neighbors, and especially in my own family, especially my family members whom I remember in a special way today.

Saint Monica, help me when I grow discouraged in prayer. For you lived in the knowledge that even in the darkest moments, Our Lord never leaves us. He knows our needs better than we do, and loves us more than we could ever imagine in this world.

May your example help me to bring my prayers to the Lord, ever confident of His tender love and concern... even as I pray for these special intentions today. Amen.

The Parent's Prayer for A Family Vocation

O Merciful God, fulfill our desire that our home become the nursery of a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life, that our home be a seminary or novitiate filled with the Holy Spirit and productive of Christian virtue, and that we may be God-fearing and pious parents to whom our child can after Thee trace his vocation. Grant that we may never fail to utter the encouraging word influencing our children toward a consecrated life, thus cooperating in Thy Divine plan. Thou hast promised to reward a hundred fold and with everlasting life those who leave father and mother, brothers and sisters for Thy sake and shalt also remember us who have given one of ours unto Thee.

Pour forth Thy Spirit abundantly upon our family, that at least one child from it, beholding this path that leads to perfection, will set foot upon it unafraid. Holy Spirit do Thou descend upon this chosen one. Do Thou, Lord Jesus, dwell in that dedicated heart that it may comprehend the height, the length, the breadth and the depth of Thy all consuming love. Amen.

Nihil Obstat:

Joseph A.M. Quigley, *Censor Librorum*

Imprimatur:

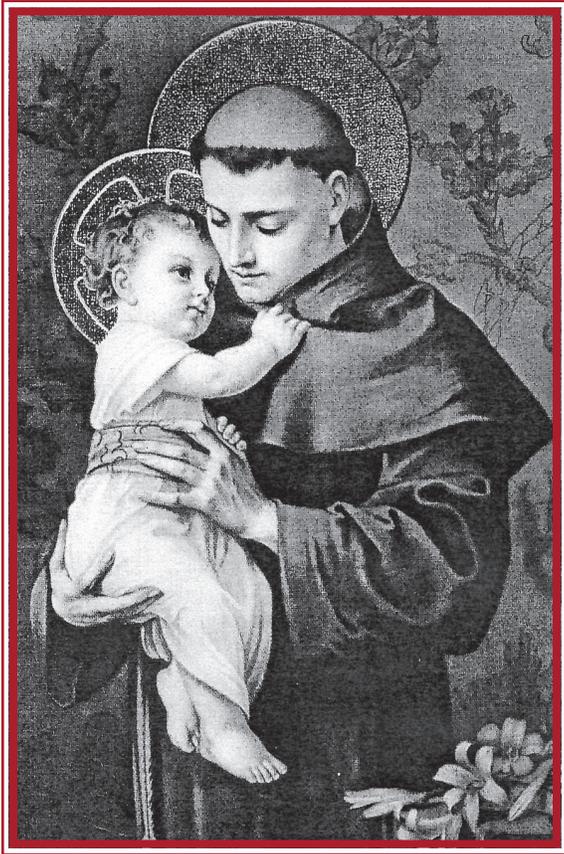
John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., D.D.,
Archbishop of Philadelphia,
June, 1956.

**“The family that prays
together stays together”**

This phrase was coined many years ago by
- Fr. Patrick Peyton



**“Come Holy
Spirit, fill the
hearts of your
faithful and en-
kindle in them
the fire of your
love”.**



SAINT ANTHONY Pray for Us

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY

Gracious God, through the heavenly intercession of St. Anthony of Padua, send Your graces upon us. Bless our family and our home. Watch over and protect us each day. Be our guardian here, and our constant companion when we are away. Provide all we need for good health, happiness and prosperity.

Grant us peace, hope, forgiveness, compassion and love, so we may be united forever with You and with each other. Amen



PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY UNITY

O holy St. Anthony, I fervently ask for your heavenly intercession on behalf of my family. (*Here mention your petition.*) Fill our hearts with mutual love, compassion, and understanding. Help us to be forgiving of each other's mistakes and failures, so that our family may reflect God's presence in our homes and in our lives. Grant us family harmony, unity, and peace. Amen.

A ST. ANTHONY LITANY

From all hardness of heart; from fear, anger and strife;
from every injustice,

St. Anthony, pray for our family

From quarreling and conflict; from envy and jealousy;
from every addiction,

St. Anthony, pray for our family

From self-hatred and lack of self-esteem; from bitterness and evil,

St. Anthony, pray for our family

From all deception and dishonesty; from despair and hopelessness,

St. Anthony, pray for our family

That we may grow in the peace, compassion and generosity of Jesus Christ,

St. Anthony, pray for our family

That we may love our neighbor as ourselves,

St. Anthony, pray for our family

That the Word of God may enlighten our minds and lead us into all truth,

St. Anthony, pray for our family

That we may always advance in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ,

St. Anthony, pray for our family

Through the intercession of St. Anthony, may almighty God Bless us: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of our families. Enkindle in them the fire of your love.



“COME LET US ADORE HIM”

Thoughts on the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the chief source of growth in the spiritual life. We priests, called to have a special kind of union with Christ, should have a unique desire to grow in appreciation of the Eucharist. It is in the Eucharist that we unite with Jesus’ paschal mystery in a special way. Here are some reflections on the Eucharist, Jesus’ great gift of love to us:

- Pope John Paul II told us: “The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic adoration. Jesus waits for us in the Sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet him in adoration and contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease.”¹⁰

- Archbishop Luis M. Martinez offers us these inspiring words: “If we could dispose ourselves at least to think about what He suffered for each one of us! Our souls are enveloped in His tenderness and in His pain. We are the fruit of His love and His martyrdom. We increasingly receive His gifts of all kinds. We receive them tranquilly, at times joyfully. But those gifts are marked with the blood of Jesus, the blood from His veins and from his Heart. In order that we might taste the least of His heavenly consolations, Jesus had to taste the gall and vinegar of interior desolation...”

“Each communion we receive cost Jesus the sacrifice of Calvary...Holy Communion is a banquet from heaven prepared with the blood of Jesus and the bitterness of His Heart.”¹¹



PRAYER FOR THE SPREAD OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son, Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins. We need Your peace in our hearts and among nations. We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness. May we obtain this through prayer and our union with the Eucharistic Lord. Please send down the Holy Spirit upon all peoples to give them love, courage, strength and willingness to respond to the invitation to Eucharistic Adoration. We beseech You to spread exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament in parishes around the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

JESUS WILL BLESS YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND THE WHOLE WORLD FOR THIS HOUR OF FAITH YOU SPEND WITH HIM IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

“Blessed are they who do not see and yet believe...” “Faith can move mountains...”
 “What is needed is trust...” “Behold I come to make all things new.” (jn 20;29; Mk 11:23; Mk 5:36; Rev. 21:5)

EACH HOUR I SPEND WITH JESUS WILL DEEPEN HIS DIVINE PEACE WITHIN MY HEART

“Come to Me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you...”
 “Cast all of your anxieties upon the Lord, who cares for you.” (Mt 11:28; 1 PT 5:7)

Editor’s Note: We have available in the A.H.S. office material to help your parish get started with adoration - material for your committee, bulletin, etc...all you need to know about Eucharistic adoration. It’s yours for the asking. Just send our office a card or letter today!

Synod meets its objective, sets agenda and discussion for yearlong consultation

Synod Final Document Reaffirms Church Teaching

(*LifeSiteNews*)- The final document of the Extraordinary Synod was released Saturday, October 18, 2014 as the synod fathers voted to approve all 62 paragraphs, but with three paragraphs not receiving the normally required two thirds majority vote.

The three paragraphs, which in the past would not have been included in a final synod report, speak of: 1) permitting certain remarried divorced Catholics to receive Communion after a period of penitence, 2) invoking a deeper call to understanding of the issue of spiritual communion for the divorced and remarried, and 3) receiving homosexuals “with respect and gentleness.” However, the document has removed the much-criticized language that spoke of “valuing” the homosexual orientation.

With obvious input from cardinals who objected strenuously to the midterm report, and who insisted on the publications of the summaries of the ten working groups, the final document contains several very positive developments.

It, notes, for instance, that “Openness to life is an intrinsic requirement of conjugal love.” And in that context it promotes natural fertility regulation. It also urges a rediscovery of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*.

The final document or *Relatio Synodi* addresses parents’ freedom to “choose the kind of education to be given to children according to their beliefs.” It notes that the Church plays a supportive role to parents in the education of their children, especially faith.

Some of the language criticized as ambiguous by synod fathers in the original *Relatio Synodi*,

including the use of the term “gay” and that spoke of unqualifiedly “welcoming” homosexuals while “valuing” their orientation, is no longer present. Rather the document speaks of the “pastoral care” for people with homosexual orientation.”

While the document stresses accepting persons with homosexual tendencies and avoiding “every sign of unjust discrimination,” it says clearly: “There are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God’s plan for marriage and family.”

Moreover, the *Relatio Synodi* calls it “totally unacceptable” that some pastors of the Church suffer pressure from international bodies that make financial aid to poor countries conditional upon the acceptance of “marriage’ between persons of the same sex.”

The document notes that the Church recognizes the family as the basic cell of human society.

It quotes at length Jesus’ words reaffirming the “indissoluble union between a man and a woman” in marriage. It recalls the approach of Christ to sinners, to approach them with love, but always to lead them to repentance and conversion.

Nevertheless, although the proposal is contentious among the fathers, it calls for easing of the process of annulment, and consideration for Communion for Catholics remarried after divorce in restricted circumstances.

The voting numbers of each of the paragraphs has been published by the Vatican.

See <http://press.vatican.va/> for background information.

EXTRAORDINARY SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Theme: “The pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization”

Dates: Oct. 5-19, 2014

Where: Vatican City

Agenda: According to the instrumentum laboris - the gathering’s preparatory document - the purpose of the synod is “to define the status quaestionis (“current situation”) and to collect the bishops’ experiences and proposals in proclaiming and living the Gospel of the Family in a credible manner.” The instrumentum laboris states the synod “will thoroughly examine and analyze the information, testimonies and recommendations received from the particular Churches in order to respond to the new challenges of the family.”

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

Theme: “Love is our mission: The family fully alive”

Dates: Sept. 22-27, 2015

Where: Philadelphia

Agenda: The website for the World Meeting of Families (worldmeeting2015.org) states there will be daily Mass, devotions, keynote addresses and multiple break-out sessions.

ORDINARY SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Theme: “Jesus Christ reveals the mystery and vocation of the family”

Dates: Oct. 4-25, 2015

Where: Vatican City

Agenda: The instrumentum laboris states that the ordinary synod will “reflect further on the points discussed so as to formulate appropriate pastoral guidelines” for the pastoral care of the person and the family.

The Christian family is the Church in its smallest and most powerful form. When the family gathers together to pray then Christ is in the midst in a special way. He blesses the father, mother and children in their unique relationship with one another. Through sharing in prayer the family grows together in Christ.

POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN 2015

The visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia in September 2015 for the World Meeting of Families will be a “joyful moment,” said Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Pope Francis made his intention to travel to the United States public on November 17, in an address to the Colloquium on the Complementary of Man and Woman at the Vatican.

“The presence of Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in our country will be a joyful moment for millions of Catholics and people of goodwill. Our great hope has been that the Holy Father would visit us this year to inspire our families in their mission of love. It is a blessing to hear the Pope himself announce the much anticipated news,” said Archbishop Kurtz.

The World Meeting of Families, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Family, is the world’s largest Catholic gathering of families and is held every three years. World Meeting of Families 2015 will be September 22-27, 2015, hosted by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and will focus on the theme “Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive,” emphasizing the impact of the love and life of families on society.

More information about the meeting, including open registration, is available online: www.worldmeeting2015.org/.

The Vatican has not announced additional dates or cities for the 2015 papal visit at this time.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

In this Sacrament the spouses receive the Holy Spirit as the communion of Love of Christ and the church. The Holy Spirit is the seal of their covenant, the ever available source of their love and strength to renew their fidelity.

Fidelity, Love and Patience give strength and endurance to the marriage bond and all three must be supplied by the Holy Spirit.

Family life will be a happy one if based on these three gifts. More attention must be given to the Holy Spirit in the efforts to sanctify family life in the Spirit of Christ.

The vows made on a wedding day have to be rethought and remade many times over the years.

A Few Excerpts From The New Catechism of the Catholic Church

It can seem difficult, even impossible, to bind oneself for life to another human being. This makes it all the more important to proclaim the Good News that God loves us with a definitive and irrevocable love, that married couples share in this love, that it supports and sustains them, and that by their own faithfulness they can be witnesses to God's faithful love. Spouses who with God's grace give this witness, often in very difficult conditions, deserve the gratitude and support of the ecclesial community.

"By its very nature the institution of marriage and married love is ordered to the procreation and education of the offspring and it is in them that it finds its crowning glory."

Children are the supreme gift of marriage and contribute greatly to the good of the parents themselves. God himself said: "It is not good that man should be alone," and "from the beginning [he] made them male and female"; wishing to associate them in a special way in his own creative work, God blessed man and woman with the words: "Be fruitful and multiply." Hence, true married love and the whole structure of family life which results from it, without diminishment of the other ends of marriage, are directed to disposing the spouses to cooperate valiantly with the love of the Creator and Savior, who through them will increase and enrich his family from day to day.

Families, You Are Not Alone!

Vatican City (Zenit) - In a Saturday, July 2, 2011 audience with pilgrims from a southern Italian diocese, the Holy Father offered a profile of children formed in the faith: mature, coherent, joyful.

Benedict XVI says that learning about God is a lifelong endeavor, much broader than simply preparing a child to receive the sacraments.

The Pope made this observation Saturday, July 2, when he received in audience a group of several thousand pilgrims from the southern Italian Diocese of Altamura-Gravina-Acquaviva delle Fonti.

The diocese is having a local synod, and the Holy Father spoke of this occasion as an opportunity to experience the Church as a pilgrim people. He said that particular attention must be given to Christian education.

"In this educational effort, the family remains the first responsible party. Dear parents, be the first witnesses of the faith," the Pontiff exhorted. "Do not be afraid of the difficulties amid which you are called to realize your mission. You are not alone! The Christian community is close to you and sustains you."

He spoke of catechesis as permanent formation. "We must grow throughout our lives in knowledge of God, thus in knowledge of what it means to be a man," he said.

The Holy Father called on parents to find light and strength for their educational efforts in the liturgy, particularly in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.

He invited parents to take advantage of diocesan opportunities for education and volunteer work so as to form people who know how to live in solidarity, "open and attentive to situations of spiritual and material hardship."

"In short," the Pope said, "pastoral action should be geared to forming persons mature in the faith, able to live in contexts in which often God is ignored; persons coherent with the faith, so that the light of Christ will be taken to all environments; persons that live the faith with joy, to transmit the beauty of being Christians."

Pope Benedict XVI has said: "If you follow the will of God, you know that in spite of all the terrible things that happen to you, you will never lose a final refuge. You know that the foundation of the world is love, so that even when no human being can or will help you, you may go on, trusting in the One who loves you" (Jesus of Nazareth)

VOCATIONS NURTURED IN THE HOME

By Sr. M. Annrita Bauer, S.M.

John Bauer and Anna Rosalia (Fronk) Bauer were blessed with fourteen beautiful and healthy children given to them by God - seven boys and seven girls.

This is how it all came about as told by Ann Bauer, a Sister of Mercy.

When my Mother was very young, she always wanted to enter the convent and she kept that desire burning in her heart until she was a young lady. One day she said to her sister, Liz. "Why don't you marry John Bauer? He is such a nice young man!" Liz answered, "Why don't you marry him yourself?" My Mother responded emphatically, "But I am going into the convent!"

So having this great desire in her heart, my Mother decided one day that she would promise God that she would never marry, but would enter the convent. However, God in His great love and providence, had other plans for her. When the day came on which she decided to make this promise to God, her plans were changed. As she was walking up for Communion to make this promise, she heard a voice saying, very clearly and distinctly, "No, you must not!" Being the obedient young girl that she was, she did not make the promise that day but instead, went home and made a novena to know God's Holy Will for her. On the ninth day of the novena, she received a letter from my father, asking her for a date. As God would have it, they were married in the Catholic Church in North Ridge, (now Defiance), Ohio on September 16, 1890.

My mother had a great devotion to Our Blessed Mother, so the first girl was given the name, Mary. "There was no doubt about it!" says Ann. Then Stella and Regina arrived, followed by the first boy, Alphonsus (the father of Sr. M. Annrita). Two more girls, Cecilia and Leona; two more boys, John and Bernard, followed by Loretta and Lawrence. By this time, Dad had found a farm near Brooklyn, Michigan. So in March of 1908, my Mother traveled by train with the nine children, while Aphonsus traveled with Dad and the livestock.

Later, three more boys were born, Joseph, Edwin, and Francis. By this time my Mother was getting up in years. My grandmother said to my Mother: "Look, Annie, you know the German custom of naming one boy after the father and one girl after the mother. You are getting older, in fact you are old already (46)! You probably won't be having any more children and you don't have one girl named Ann! My Mother said: "You leave that up to God!....." Ann says: "I was born on the Feast of St.

Ann, and given the name, Ann, which was also my Mother's name. My Mother would often say: "God gave me my Annie, the very last girl to care for me." Then Ann added, "and I did until her death in 1953." It was then that I became a housekeeper for the priest in Manchester, Wyandotte and Grosse Ile, Michigan. I did this for forty-two years.

It was Stella, the second oldest girl, who was the first to seek out a Religious vocation by entering the Sisters of Mercy of Jackson, Michigan, in 1912. She had always said she didn't care how long she would be there, but that she just wanted to go to the convent. Barely completing her novitiate, she died of a ruptured appendix but was able to make her final vows on her deathbed. Her four sisters, one by one, followed her into the convent at Jackson.

Regarding the boys, Bernard answered an ad in the Sacred Heart Magazine, and became a Holy Cross Brother. Lawrence followed him by becoming a Holy Cross Priest at Notre Dame, Indiana. Two weeks before his ordination, Dad died suddenly. Lawrence was ordained in June and by October was on a freighter for India. he spent forty years there in the missions.

A few years later, another brother, Edwin, became a Holy Cross Priest and then Francis became a Holy Cross Brother. Now just how did this all come about, that nine of the fourteen children became Religious? We had two Holy Cross Priests, two Holy Cross Brothers of Notre Dame, Indiana and five Sisters of Mercy of Jackson, Michigan.

First and foremost, it was all in the Providence of God, but was most surely nurtured by the deep faith of dad and mother. Also, it was because of my mother's great love for Our Blessed Mother, as well as her young childhood desire to become a Sister herself, when God called her to the blessed state of marriage, from which came these nine vocations to the Religious Life instead of just one.

These vocations were also nurtured by the family prayer life. Ann says: "The whole family always prayed together. We said our morning and night prayers together, including the Family Rosary. We all knelt before our small altar, in the living room. We had a crucifix, a statue of Mary and St. Joseph, and two blessed candles."

In the Holy Year of 1950, my Mother was chosen the NATIONAL CATHOLIC MOTHER OF THE YEAR'. In her later years, when she could no longer work, she would sit in her chair and pray the Rosary continuously for her family.



"The family that prays together stays together"

This phrase was coined many years ago by - FR. Patrick Peyton



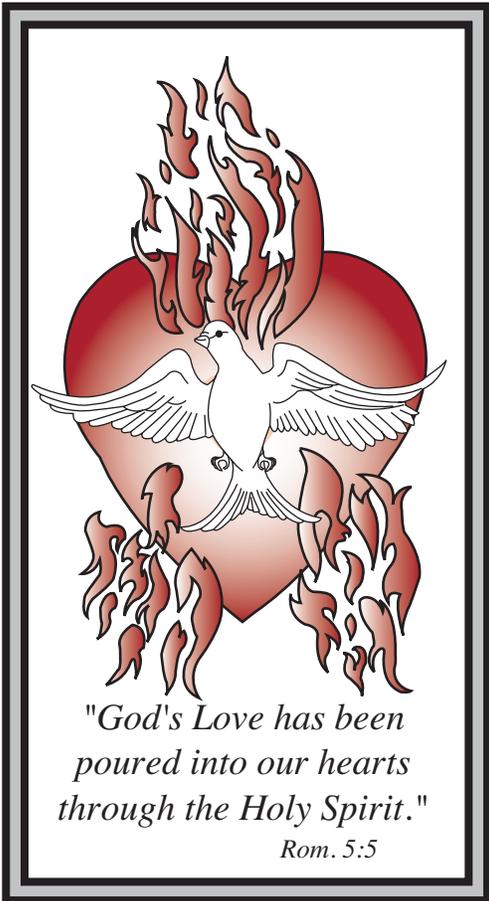
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust.

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12 HOLY SPIRIT GRANT UNITY TO THE HUMAN FAMILY



Prayer For Unity

One only Holy Spirit of Father and Son
in whom all are baptized,
one Giver of many gifts,
one Tree of many fruits,
one Speaker of every tongue,
renew in our day
the wonders of Pentecost.
Grant that people of every race and nation
may understand one another,
and as one, proclaim
the praises of God.
Grant that all may be one
as you, Spirit, with the Father and the Son
are one God, one Lord.
Grant unity to the Body of Christ;
grant unity to the human family.
Sole breath of every living thing,
may all be one who, in you,
live and move and have their being.

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Carl K. Moeddel
Vicar General and Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati
February 19th, 1997

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4th PRINTING
Now available,
a colorful prayer card.
Both sides shown.
Red heart and flames,
cream
colored background
with gold edges.



1 to 10 Free
upon your request.
We ask that you
serve God by asking
the Holy Spirit where
you should give one
hand to hand.