

The Fatima Faithful newsletter is published once a month and is available in the bulletin, on our website, and accessible through Facebook. Let us know what you think! Email newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org with suggestions and pictures. The Newsletter Team: Vicki Johnson, Angie Feltz and Guest Columnists.

Take a Closer Look at Busyness

Is it out of necessity or are we addicted to busyness? Does the "I'm sooo busy!" mantra and chronic unavailability validate us? Does it make us feel more important? Like things are moving forward and we're winning at life? The busy life, is it an epidemic?

Staying busy is often seen as a badge of honor and a marker of self-worth, with a lack of leisure time viewed as a direct indication of status. However, over-scheduling ourselves to the point where we are always busy can negatively affect our physical and emotional wellness, and have an impact on our ability to maintain healthy relationships. Workaholics who don't create balance are less productive (true fact) and those who over-commit socially end up feeling like they haven't actually connected meaningfully with anyone. In addition, some people are always busy as a way to avoid or numb painful feelings and situations. By staying super busy, they are unable to focus on what may be bothering them or causing them discomfort beneath the surface.

Too often amid all of our busyness we feel as if we are not really living our lives. Rather our lives are living us, driving us on at a frantic pace. When we are moving too fast, we don't notice the little things that love notices. Why are we all so busy? Most of us spend too much time on what is urgent and not enough on what is important. Being busy and being productive can often be confused with one another. If we are busy, we may have a lot on our plate but this doesn't necessarily mean that we are being productive or using our time efficiently. Being productive means being able to complete a task or get something done. We do not need to be busy in order to be productive.

Eliminating busyness may seem like an elusive dream—kind of like diminishing email pile-ups. Minimizing busyness isn't impossible, but it isn't one-size-fits-all all the time.. What small changes can you make to un-busy yourself each day? Matthew Kelly says, "busyness doesn't make us important, it makes us unloving, overwhelmed, distracted, exhausted, anxious, short-tempered, and disconnected."

Are you one of those Busy People?
Does it make you happy?

A Great Adventure in God's Love by Father Pete

I love being pastor of Our Lady of Fatima and have served since July 2019. We had an amazing Jubilee year starting with the 25th anniversary of the dedication of our church in March 2025 and concluding on November 22, 2025, with a superb mass celebration and a banquet for our 75th anniversary as a Catholic parish. Gratitude erupts from my heart to God and to the many parishioners who made the year so special.

Some know and have asked about a new role I accepted outside of parish ministry. Our Bishop, Mark Beckman, has appointed me to be his Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in May 2025. A Vicar General in a Catholic diocese is a senior priest appointed by the diocesan bishop to be his chief deputy, possessing the same executive authority to govern the diocese in the bishop's name, assisting with pastoral care, and overseeing diocesan structures and staff. The moderator coordinates the exercise of the administrative duties and oversees the department heads, or curia in the diocese. A Moderator of the Curia has been compared to a corporate chief operating officer (COO). Fortunately, we already have a COO, Deacon Sean Smith. We work very closely together. He has served in the diocese as COO for over 20 years with three of our four bishops. I am in the Chancery office two - three days (often half days)/week. Full disclosure: my salary is split between our parish and the diocese. All DOK priests receive the same salary regardless of assignment. Just as the parishes participated in the Catholic Leadership Institute Disciple Maker Index survey, so have employees and priests to evaluate the chancery.

The results have led us to restructure Chancery offices to better coordinate and communicate, and serve the bishop as our chief shepherd. I work particularly with the directors of Catholic Charities, communications, youth and young adult ministry, Hispanic ministry as well as the director of stewardship and development. Deacon Sean works with the directors of other Chancery offices. Some of you have asked how I like my new responsibility. Overall, I am grateful. I thank Frs. Joe and Renzo for being great brother priests who serve OLOF so well. I also thank our deacons and parish staff for taking good care of our parish. It is that collaborative style that I take to the chancery and my gratitude continues as I serve with diocesan leadership. Bishop Mark desires that chancery offices serve the needs of the parishes and institutions. This is also the synodal way that Pope Francis initiated for the Church, to be a better listening and collaborative church at all levels. I am passionate about listening to the Holy Spirit and to others as we discern God's plan for all of us to be in communion as the Body of Christ. I see mutual benefits to my service as VG/MOC because I share what I have gleaned from people and experiences in the parish and similarly, I take home what I learn and experience from the diocese. I recall what a spiritual director wisely said when I was a seminarian: what attracts you to priesthood is not what will always sustain you in priesthood. I have come to accept that my vocation is a grand adventure in God's Love. I know that God is in charge, and when I let go, I am taken on an amazing journey.

The Helping Hand

Books:

Atomic Habits	James Clear
Jesus Shock	Dr. Peter Kreft
Be Healed	Bob Schuchts
The Imitation of Christ	Thomas A Kempis
The Wife of Pilate and Other Stories	by Gertrud Von Le Fort
The Perfect Blindside	Leslea Wahl (ages 13-18)



Thanksgiving Mass



Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath



CCW sponsored Advent by Candlelight



Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Celebration



Fr Brian Advent Reflections



Catholic War Veterans Toy Drive and Chair lift install



We've just passed the 3-year mark of the inception of the Healing Ministry and are happy to say that it is going strong. We pray over people every 3rd weekend of each month after the Spanish Mass on Saturday night and after the 11:00 English Mass on Sunday. Twenty-five trained team members are committed to the ministry and find great joy in sharing God's mercy. If you have never come to be prayed over, I would encourage you or someone you know to do so, should you need any healing. Team members have even made hospital and house calls for those who cannot come in. One need not be Catholic. It is important to note that the healing session is not for counseling. We simply pray in Jesus' name. Healing is up to the Lord, His way, His wisdom, and His time, always for our good.

Some people are nervous about coming for prayer, as they don't know what to expect. Let me give you the spoiler alert and tell you about this simple, beautiful process:

There are 2-4 healing team members on each mini team. You are asked to wait in a designated area, which for the Hispanic are in the pews of the main church, and for the English are chairs outside of the chapel, until someone from a mini team comes to get you individually. After introductions, you will be informed that it is *not* a sacrament. You will be asked if holy water may be used on your palms, and if it is okay to place a hand on your shoulders. If you do not want to be touched, that's okay, we can still pray over you.

Next, you will be asked for what you would like healing. Follow-up questions may be necessary to discern how best to pray. The team will then lay hands gently on your shoulders and pray aloud. The Lord may give a word or visual to you through one of the team members to help during the process. It takes only 5-15 minutes and often results in either healing or reassurance in the form of peace.

A final note. If you have felt God's healing touch through this ministry and would like to share your experience, please call me at 561-315-5911. Feedback is extremely helpful for our ministry going forward.



Saint of the Month by Rayanne Wise

St. Raymond of Peñafort (1175-January 6, 1275) was born at Villafranca de Benadis near Barcelona, Spain. He was a relative of the King of Aragon and finished his studies at a young age. Raymond began teaching philosophy, but gave up all honors and entered the Dominicans at age 41. Pope Gregory IX called St. Raymond to work for him and serve as his confessor. St. Raymond was tasked with gathering all the decrees of popes and councils which he compiled into 5 books called the Decretals. These books were the best-organized collections of the Church until 1917, with the codification of canon law. The "Summa Contra Gentiles" was written by St. Thomas Aquinas at St. Raymond's request. It is said that Raymond was humble, good, and kind to the point of bringing many people closer to God and he always loved the Blessed Mother. King James of Aragon, St. Peter Nolasco, and St. Raymond founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom, which was devoted to saving captured Christians.

In one account, it is said that when St. Raymond went with King James to the Island of Majorca to preach, he chastised the King about a woman. St. Raymond firmly told him to tell the woman he was with to leave. The King did not listen, so St. Raymond decided to leave the island. The King told all ship captains that anyone who brought St. Raymond back to Barcelona would be punished. Instead, St. Raymond laid his cloak in the water and tied a corner to a stick; made the sign of the cross and stepped onto the cloak, using it to sail the six hours back to Barcelona. This miracle caused the King to repent and become a follower of St. Raymond who was a lawyer, teacher, and canonist. He died at age 100 and is the patron saint of canonists. It is said that at St. Raymond's funeral several miracles took place. He was made a saint in 1601 by Pope Clement VIII and his feast day is January 7th.



Spotlight on NEC Testimonies

There will be a National Eucharistic Congress in the summer of 2029. The first Eucharistic Congress in 83 years (2024) produced profound and glorious experiences, results and an outpouring of grace for our country and all of those who attended or participated in some way. Gathered here are some of the fruits of that Congress held in Indianapolis.

"My wife, who has been by my side since 2001 and has helped me raise our kids Catholic even though she's Baptist, made the decision at the NEC that she couldn't live without the Eucharist any longer. She will be joining the Catholic Church soon!"

Matt from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

"I received a profound deepening in belief of the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Being at the Congress gave me so much hope in the future of our Church. It made me realize that to be in the image and likeness of Jesus not only means to be charitable and giving like him, but it means that I empty myself and I die to self for others." *Patty from Covington, KY*

This from *Tyler J. in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles*, who just entered the Church during the Easter Vigil on March 30, 2024! ... "The National Eucharistic Congress, and more specifically Our Lord in the Eucharist, has utterly changed my life. I feel like Saul on the road to Damascus: I simply cannot keep living the way I used to after personally encountering the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. I was struck

with an immense appreciation of and love for others on my journey back home from the Congress, as well as the impression of how bleak things are to those who don't know that Jesus Christ himself is right here! During the days of the Congress, I feel I have been granted a foretaste of Heaven itself, of the fulfillment of all desire, and my heart is ON FIRE for the Eucharist. We need to let others know of the immensity of how LOVED we all are! Blessed are those called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. All glory, honor, and praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen!"

"I attended the NEC as a Protestant to see what this was all about and try to understand what would make people walk from all corners of the country with a wafer. I'm two months into RCIA and just scratching the surface, but the reason is so clear! I cannot wait for my first Communion!"

10TH NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS ATTENDEE

"Because of the National Eucharistic Congress, I know that I am not alone—I will 'see you in the Eucharist'! Even more, I feel a deep need to spread the fire, to somehow show others that the love of Christ finds its fullness in the Sacrament in which he gives us his very Flesh and Blood, true food and true drink. Pray that God grants me the courage to spread the fire, and to be a "living tabernacle" for those he puts in my path!"

Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of the faithful.