

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. The Newsletter Team: Vicki Johnson, Angie Feltz and Guest Columnists.

Take a Closer Look at Virtue

"A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good" (CCC 1803). It's a stable disposition, an orientation to what is good. Pope St. John Paul II notes that "virtue is not something abstract, detached from life, but, on the contrary, it has deep 'roots' in life itself, it springs from the latter and forms it" (G.A., November, 22, 1989). The ancient Romans used the Latin word *virtus* to refer to all of the "excellent qualities of men: physical strength, valorous conduct, and moral rectitude." The word virtue "was borrowed into English in the 13th century." A virtue is a trait of excellence, including traits that may be moral, social, or intellectual. The cultivation and refinement of virtue is held to be the "good of humanity" and thus is valued as an end purpose of life or a foundational principle of being. In human practical ethics, a virtue is a disposition to choose actions that succeed in showing high moral standards: doing what is said to be right and avoiding what is wrong in a given field of endeavor, even when doing so may be unnecessary from a utilitarian perspective. When someone takes pleasure in doing what is right, even when it is difficult or initially unpleasant, they can establish virtue as a habit. Such a person is said to be virtuous through having cultivated such a disposition.

Values and virtues both represent ideals and standards. Values are standards of behavior. They represent what's important to an individual. Values are aspirational. That is, values are personal. Virtues, in contrast, are universal ideal standards and qualities of behavior and being. They are considered to be good for all.

All virtues have high moral values. They represent "the highest good." However, not all values are considered morally desirable. Values are internally derived. We determine our personal values based on our individual experiences. That is, values are more subjective. Virtues are internal, too, but they are also universally accepted as morally desirable. In the latter sense, they are external and objective.

One gets the sense that the possibility for virtue is planted deep within the human heart, made in God's image and likeness though hardened by sin. If one can cultivate that seed and sprout it, it has the capacity to bear fruit that, in turn, drops its own seed and softens the hard surface of the heart. What's in your heart?

ROSARY VARIATIONS by Deacon Bill Jacobs

In the month of October, the Catholic Church celebrates the month of the Rosary. This is in conjunction with the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, which is celebrated on October 7 each year. Most of us are familiar with the Mysteries of the Rosary. During our Rosary devotions, many of us are familiar with reflecting upon the joyful mysteries (Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation, Finding of the Child Jesus), the sorrowful mysteries (Agony in the Garden, Scourging, Crowning with Thorns, Bearing of the Cross, Crucifixion), the Glorious Mysteries (Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost, Assumption and Coronation of Mary), as well as the "new devotion on the block" instituted by Pope St. John Paul II, the Luminous Mysteries (Baptism of Jesus, wedding feast at Cana, proclamation of the Kingdom, Transfiguration, institution of the Eucharist).

Such are the standard, "canonical" mysteries of the Rosary. These are the ones that carry indulgences with them and are officially linked to the Rosary prayer.

But there are rosary devotions with which you may not be familiar. These popular devotions are meant only for personal prayer and are not canonical. But you might consider some of these mystery sets as a means to further your reflections on biblical events linked to the life and teachings of Jesus and his Church. In fact, there were several popular variations on the luminous mysteries prior to the proclamation that made those official in 2002.

Here are some of the popular variations of rosary mysteries for personal reflection.

Mysteries of Saint Joseph: betrothal to Mary, annunciation to Joseph (his

dreams), Nativity (Joseph as guardian of Jesus), flight into Egypt, death of Joseph. Mysteries of Mercy: institution of the Sacrament of Penance, institution of the Eucharist, mercy shown in Jesus' passion, the Resurrection as the victory of mercy, gift of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Mercy.

Mysteries of Hope: Christ's Second Coming, the resurrection of the dead, the Last Judgment, the new heavens and new Earth, eternal life with God.

Mysteries of the Cross: Jesus takes up his Cross, Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus, Veronica wipes the face of Jesus, Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem, Jesus is stripped of his garments.

There are also some modern additions, which allow some room for you to add to them as you might consider appropriate, such as Environmental / Creation Mysteries (prayed by some eco-spiritual Catholics, inspired by *Laudato Si'*), Pro-Life Mysteries (focuses on conception, birth, dignity of life, suffering, resurrection), and Mysteries of Peace (centered on reconciliation, forgiveness, and social justice).

Or you could create your own unofficial mysteries, based on Jesus' parables, or his miracles, or the Beatitudes. Google has several references to unofficial rosaries that may resonate with you at certain times during your journey of faith.

The official mysteries of the Rosary have been an important part of the devotional life of the Catholic Church for many centuries and continue to be so today. The Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries are the official rosary reflections of the Church. But once in a while, you might consider one of these alternative sets of mysteries for variety and for enriching your prayer life. Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

Books:

The Loser Letters A Comic Tale of Life Death and Atheism by Mary Eberstadt
Living Metanoia: Finding Freedom and Fulfillment in Christ by Fr. Dave Pivonka

You Tube: The Called Videocast with Fr. Mike Schmitz (also a podcast)

Formed: Pier Giorgio Frassati: If I Didn't Have Love

Lead Kindly Light: The Life and Message of Saint John Henry Newman

Formed for Kids: Owlegories 15 Episodes

Awesome Animals and Mini Me 15 Episodes



CCW Welcome Back with Ellen Marie Dodd



September 13th—Bioblitz



September 13th—Kermés



New Sunday Morning Parent Study





Last month, Father Pete shared that 93% of our parishioners believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This is wonderful news and we should all be excited and exhilarated at that finding! It seems that the attendance at daily mass and Exposition is also growing. These are positive signs that indicate we are headed in the right direction. The first two years of the revival have been an internal focus. We focused on our own relationship with Christ in the Eucharist. The last year of the revival is about our mission for others. Christ calls us to himself so that we may draw others to him. If you think about it, Jesus spent three years developing his disciples. He then gave them the sacraments to nourish them in his absence. But his final command in Mt. 28:19, was "Go make disciples."

We spend a great deal of our faith journey in preparation. We learn to love others, we learn to pray, we learn the faith, we learn scripture, we receive the sacraments and we receive our Charisms. But the purpose for all of this is not just to benefit ourselves. We prepare so that we are able to draw others closer to Christ. The name "Christian" means that we are to share Christ with others.

We learn so that we can help others grow closer to Christ. This is "what" we are called to do. We are given our Charisms as unique gifts so that we are able to reach others in a very specific way. Our Charisms are "how" we are each specifically gifted to share with others. When we partake in the Eucharist, Reconciliation and Adoration, our spirit is nourished so that we have the strength and guidance to help others.

The more we receive Christ, the closer we become. The more time we spend with him, the stronger we become. If we desire to be disciples, we must draw closer to him, so that He will flow through us to others.

Now is the time to demonstrate our belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Let us fill the Adoration Chapel, each of us spending time with our Lord. Let us each commit to an extra mass per week. Let us grow closer to Christ individually, so that we can be his presence in the community. And let us welcome and embrace the newcomers that will be drawn to Jesus Christ through the parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima.

Saint of the Month

A future saint is Chiara Badano, born on October 29, 1971 in Italy to Ruggero and Maria Teresa Badano. In 1980, at 9, Chiara was introduced to the Focolare movement. The group focused on the crucified Christ to face their struggles with his assistance. Chiara said 'I discovered that Jesus forsaken is the key to unity with God and I choose him as my only spouse. I wish to be ready to welcome him when he comes, to prefer him above all else.' In high school she was teased by fellow students for her pious beliefs; yet she had a joyous childhood listening to pop music, dancing, singing as well as tennis, hiking and swimming. At 16, Chiara had an experience with "Jesus Forsaken" with the Focolare movement in Rome during the summer of 1988. Returning home, she began corresponding with Chiara Lubich and asked for a new name, for a new life centered on Christ. Chiara Lubich wrote to her and said, "Your luminous face shows your love for Jesus" and was given 'Chiara Luce,' 'clear light.'

Also, that summer she was diagnosed with bone cancer. She responded to this by saying "It's all for you, Jesus, if you want it, I want it too!" In the hospital Chiara Luce, in pain, would walk with another patient who was depressed. When told to go back to bed, she said 'I can sleep later.' She prepared her parents for her death and began planning her funeral telling her mother, "Don't shed any tears for me. I'm going to Jesus. At my funeral, I don't want people crying, but singing with all their hearts." She died on Oct. 7, 1990 and her love for Jesus Crucified is an example to all of us. In 2001, Andrea Bartole suffered from fulminant meningitis. His parents prayed for the intercession of Chiara to heal him from the disease that was destroying his organs. When he was suddenly healed, doctors could not explain what happened. She was beatified Sept. 25, 2010 at the Sanctuary of Divine Love in Rome. Reasons for canonization were dedication to caring for children and the elderly and "heroic" behavior in the face of illness, as well as Andrea Bartole's miraculous return to health.



Spotlight On Comfort Food by Debbie Garrett

What do you think of when someone mentions comfort food? I think of mom's famous chocolate cake or lasagna or that ever popular, chicken soup Sunday! Everyone has their favorite comfort food with memories or just good 'ol everyday eating like biscuits and gravy or meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy. Many years ago, Father Brando started the Hospitality Ministry with the help of Dotty Berry. They hosted receptions for First Communion, RCIA, Senior Class receptions, etc. In 2005, Dotty reached out to Marie Muse and said we need to do something more rewarding to help the parish. They made a few calls to obtain donated potluck dishes and served a few funerals on paper plates and Solo cups. As the ministry grew, so did the kitchen, decorations and the Knights also donated to the cause. Together Dotty and Marie continued Hospitality for 13 years, battling through both family and medical problems, arranging beautifully decorated tables and homemade food for receptions and funerals.

Around November 2023 Dotty and Marie knew it was time to turn over the baton and Father Pete approached me and asked if I would be interested in taking over. I knew I had big shoes to fill, but said yes. Father Pete explained he wanted the ministry changed to be a little more simplified. This was the beginning of the newly named ministry: Comfort Food.

So, you ask...

First - What is the Comfort Food Ministry? We host a beautiful, yet simple meal for family and friends after a funeral Mass. Second - how does the Comfort Food Ministry work? The ministry is divided into two parts. The service end in which volunteers work the kitchen; set up, serve and clean up for approximately four hours. Then we have the food end. The protein or main part of the meal is provided by OLOF and volunteers are called by Rose Taibbi, who does a marvelous job, and asked to make and drop off side dishes, deserts and drinks the morning of the funeral.

And finally...How can you become involved? We have a wonderful group of men and women volunteers, but really need more hands on deck for both service and food preparation. There is no specific schedule and only requires a few hours, cooking skills or good 'ol Walmart.

Please consider joining this fun ministry by contacting Debbie Garrett (865-924-1655) or the office.



"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted" Matthew 5.4