

The Bell Ringer

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS + MAY 2021



On May 24, we honor Our Lady as Mother of the Church. Read more on page 3.



As background for Father Michaels Sunday series on the interior life, see the article on page 4

The Bulletin Board runs two pages as May brings lots of items to peruse on pages 6 & 7

Words:
WISDOM

The Wisdom of Mary and more on page 8 & 9



John Paul II Defined Pentecost And the ‘Spirit’ in Our Lives

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life.”

“With the words of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, the Church proclaims her faith in the Paraclete; a faith that is born of the apostolic experience of Pentecost. The passage from the Acts of the Apostles . . . recalls in fact the marvels worked on the day of Pentecost, when with great astonishment the Apostles saw Jesus’ words come true. As was mentioned in the passage from St John’s Gospel proclaimed a few moments ago, on the eve of his Passion he had assured them: *I will pray to the Father and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you for ever* (Jn 14:16). *This Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you* (Jn 14:26).

“And the Holy Spirit, coming down upon them with extraordinary power, enabled them to proclaim the teaching of Christ Jesus to the whole world. Their courage was so great, their determination so sure, that they were prepared to do anything, even to give up their life. The gift of the Spirit had released their deepest energies, concentrating them on the mission entrusted to them by the Redeemer. And it will be the Counsellor, the *Parakletos*, who will guide them in preaching the Gospel to all. The Spirit will teach them the whole truth, drawing it from the wealth of Christ’s word, so that, in turn, they may communicate it to people in Jerusalem and the rest of the world.

“How can we not give thanks to God for the wonders the Spirit has never ceased to accomplish in these two millenniums of Christian life? Indeed, the event of grace at Pentecost has continued to bear its marvellous fruits, everywhere instilling apostolic zeal, a desire for contemplation, the commitment to live and serve God and our brothers and sisters with complete *(Continued on page 2)*

Pentecost . . . Continued from Page 1

dedication. Today too, the Spirit sustains great and small acts of forgiveness and prophecy in the Church and gives life to ever new charisms and gifts, which attest to his ceaseless action in human hearts. . . .

“St Paul writes in the Letter to the Romans: *All who are led by the Spirit of God are Sons of God*. These words suggest a further way of understanding the wonderful action of the Spirit in our life as believers. They open the way for us to reach the human heart: the Holy Spirit, whom the Church calls upon to give ‘light to the senses’, visits man inwardly and directly touches the depths of his being.

“The Apostle continues: *But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you.... For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God* (cf. Rom 8:9, 14).

“Contemplating then the mysterious action of the Paraclete, he adds with deep feeling: *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery. . . but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry ‘Abba, Father!, it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God’* (Rm 8:15-16).

“Here we are at the center of the mystery! It is in the meeting between the Holy Spirit and the human spirit that we find the very heart of what the Apostles experienced at Pentecost. This extraordinary experience is present in the Church born of that

event and accompanies her down the centuries.

“Under the Holy Spirit’s action, man fully discovers that his spiritual nature is not veiled by corporeity but, on the contrary, it is his spirit which gives true meaning to his body. Indeed, by living according to the Spirit, he fully manifests the gift of his adoption as a son of God.

“It is in this context that we find the fundamental question of the relationship between life and death, which Paul touches on when he says: *If you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live* (Rom 8:13). It is exactly so: docility to the Spirit gives man continuous opportunities for life. . . .

“What exciting prospects the Apostle’s words offer to each of you, dear friends!

“By letting yourselves be guided by Jesus, you will be able to experience concretely the marvellous action of his Spirit, which Paul speaks of in the eighth chapter of his Letter to the Romans. . . .

“*Veni, Sancte Spiritus!* The magnificent sequence, which contains a rich theology of the Holy Spirit, would also be worthy of meditation, stanza by stanza. Here we will reflect only on the first word: *Veni, come!* It recalls the waiting of the Apostles after Christ’s Ascension into heaven. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke presents them to us gathered in the Upper Room in prayer with the Mother of Jesus. What better

words than these could express their prayer: *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* — the invocation, that is, of the one who moved over the face of the waters at the beginning of the world, whom Jesus had promised them as the Paraclete?

“The hearts of Mary and the Apostles at those moments were longing for his coming, alternating between ardent faith and the confession of human inadequacy. The Church’s piety has interpreted and passed on this sentiment in a hymn *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*. The Apostles know that the work Christ has entrusted to them is arduous, but decisive for the history of humanity’s salvation. Will they be able to complete it?

“The Lord reassures their hearts. At every step of the mission that will lead them to proclaim and witness to the Gospel to the furthest corners of the globe, they will be able to count on the Spirit. The Apostles, recalling Christ’s promise on the days between the Ascension and Pentecost, will focus their every thought and sentiment on that *Veni* — come! . . . Thus beginning her invocation to the Holy Spirit, the Church makes her own the substance of the Apostles’ prayer as they gathered with Mary in the Upper Room; indeed, she extends it in history and makes it ever timely. . . over and over in every corner of the earth, her fervor unchanged, firmly aware that she must remain in the Upper Room, always awaiting the Spirit. . . .” +

Delivered on May 31, 1998

Three years ago, Pope Francis decreed that the ancient devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Mother of the Church, be inserted into the Roman Calendar, to take place on the Monday after Pentecost. In a decree by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Cardinal Robert Sarah, its Prefect at the time, said the Pope's decision took account of the long tradition surrounding the devotion to Mary as Mother of the Church.

In the decree, Cardinal Sarah wrote: "The joyous veneration given to the Mother of God by the contemporary Church, in light of reflection on the mystery of Christ and on his nature, cannot ignore the figure of a woman, the Virgin Mary, who is both the Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church."

Saint Augustine and Saint Leo the Great both shared this opinion. Augustine says that Mary is the mother of the members of Christ, because with charity she cooperated in the rebirth of the faithful into the Church, while Leo says that the birth of the Head is also the birth of the body, thus indicating that Mary is at once Mother of Christ, the Son of God, and mother of the members of his Mystical Body, which is the Church. The decree noted: "These considerations derive from the divine motherhood of Mary and from her intimate union in the work of the Redeemer, which culminated at the hour of the cross. Indeed, the Mother standing beneath the cross, accepted her Son's testament of love and welcomed all people in the person of the beloved disciple as sons and daughters to be reborn unto life eternal. She thus became the tender Mother of the Church which Christ begot on the cross handing on the Spirit. . . .

"As a caring guide to the emerging Church Mary had already begun her mission in the Upper Room, praying with the Apostles while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit. In this sense, in the course of the centuries, Christian piety has honored Mary with various titles, in many ways equivalent, such as Mother of Disciples, of the Faithful, of Believers, of all those who are reborn in Christ; and also as 'Mother of the Church' as is used in the texts of spiritual authors as well as in the Magisterium of Benedict XIV and Leo XIII."

Pope Paul VI declared the Blessed Virgin Mary as "Mother of the Church, that is to say of all Christian people, the faithful as well as the pastors, who call her the most loving Mother" and established that "the Mother of God should be further honored and invoked by the entire Christian people by this tenderest of titles".

Subsequently, during the Holy Year of Reconciliation (1975), a votive Mass in honor of Blessed Mary Mother of the Church was subsequently inserted into the Roman

Missal. The Holy See also added the invocation of this title in the Litany of Loreto in 1980 and published other formularies in the Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1986. Some countries, dioceses and religious families who petitioned the Holy See were allowed to add this celebration to their particular calendars.

On Monday, May 24 this year, the day after the Church's Birthday, we honor Mary, Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed, the Virgin who offers all to God and who shows how Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, the oblation of Christ in the Eucharist, and docility to his will. +



Mary, Mother of the Church's Feast Is on Monday, May 24

Truly, Only Saints Get to Heaven

“How many of you want to be a saint?” a priest asked at Mass one day. Very few hands went up. Then he asked: “How many of you want to go to heaven?” All hands went up.

Why is it we are reluctant to be saints, but aspire to go to heaven? Well, when we are offered the choice between heaven or hell, the answer is pretty obvious. But, it is true, only saints get to heaven! Do we perhaps believe we are not worthy to be saints or we think it is too ambitious, beyond our efforts to be a saint?

The saints declared so by the church often have been martyrs or heroic examples of lives lived out in tireless service to the poor, the needy, the sick and the dying. That can be a turnoff. But there are far more saints, not identified as such, whom we believe are saintly — maybe even your grandmother or father, or the aunt who was your godmother.

Saints are men and women with a strong desire to belong to God completely, despite their defects. They recognized that they couldn't do it on their own, that they needed God's grace to succeed. They started by making the desire for holiness flourish in their souls, telling God, “I want to be a saint” or at least “I want to want to be a saint!”

Saints who have written on the need for an interior life in becoming a saint, such as Thomas Aquinas and John of God, agree that developing an interior life is for all the one thing necessary to reach that goal.

Recently, we have been hearing about how one can get to heaven by developing an interior life thanks to Father Michael's series of Sunday homilies. He told us how Our Lady of Fatima in 1917 spoke of this as did Pope Leo XIII. But combined with a very secular culture, he noted many of us have been denied the tools needed to become saints through the progressive attention to developing an interior life and thus be “prepared” for an eternal life in heaven.

Father has focused on John of God's way to heaven by progressing through the three stages of the spiritual life — the Purgative Way, the Illuminative Way, and the Unitive Way. He has likened these stages to the transitions people experience in their physical development. He has also used the three “conversions” of St. Peter as examples of these stages and how growth in

the spiritual life is only possible with the Lord's help through his gift of sanctifying grace.

Father Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P., a well-respected 20th century theologian, wrote *The Three Ages of the Interior Life*, which offers insight into the teachings on the spiritual life based on Scripture, the Fathers of the Church, including Thomas Aquinas and John of God. The following excerpts provide some background to Father Michael's ongoing series.

One Thing Necessary

“As everyone can easily understand, the interior life is an elevated form of intimate conversation which everyone has with himself as soon as he is alone, even in the tumult of a great city. From the moment he ceases to converse with his fellow men, man converses interiorly with himself about what preoccupies him most. This conversation varies greatly according to the different ages of life; that of an old man is not that of a youth. It also varies greatly according as a man is good or bad.

“As soon as a man seriously seeks truth and goodness, this intimate conversation with himself tends to become conversation with God. Little by little, instead of seeking himself in everything, instead of tending more or less consciously to make himself a center, man tends to seek God in everything, and to substitute for egoism love of God and of souls in Him. This constitutes the interior life. No sincere man will have any difficulty in recognizing it. The one thing necessary which Jesus spoke of to Martha and Mary consists in hearing the word of God and living by it.

“The interior life thus conceived is something far more profound and more necessary in us than intellectual life or the cultivation of the sciences, than artistic or literary life, than social or political life. Unfortunately, some great scholars, mathematicians, physicists, and astronomers have no interior life, so to speak, but devote themselves to the study of their science as if God did not exist. In their moments of solitude they have no intimate conversation with Him. Their life appears to be in certain respects the search for the true and the good in a more or less definite and restricted domain, but it is so tainted with *(Continued on page 5)*

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self-love and intellectual pride that we may legitimately question whether it will bear fruit for eternity. Many artists, literary men, and statesmen never rise above this level of purely human activity which is, in short, quite exterior. Do the depths of their souls live by God? It would seem not.

“This shows that the interior life, or the life of the soul with God, well deserves to be called the one thing necessary, since by it we tend to our last end and assure our salvation. This last must not be too widely separated from progressive sanctification, for it is the very way of salvation.

“There are those who seem to think that it is sufficient to be saved and that it is not necessary to be a saint. It is clearly not necessary to be a saint who performs miracles and whose sanctity is officially recognized by the Church. To be saved, we must take the way of salvation, which is identical with that of sanctity. There will be only saints in heaven, whether they enter there immediately after death or after purification in purgatory. No one enters heaven unless he has that sanctity which consists in perfect purity of soul. Every sin though it should be venial, must be effaced, and the punishment due to sin must be borne or remitted, in order that a soul may enjoy forever the vision of God, see Him as He sees Himself, and love Him as He loves Himself.

“The interior life of a just man who tends toward God and who already lives by Him is indeed the one thing necessary. To be a saint,

neither intellectual culture nor great exterior activity is a requisite; it suffices that we live profoundly by God. This truth is evident in the saints of the early Church; several of those saints were poor people, even slaves. It is evident also in St. Francis, St. Benedict Joseph Labre, in the Cure of Ars, and many others. They all had a deep understanding of these words of our Savior: *For what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul?*

“If people sacrifice so many things to save the life of the body, which must ultimately die, what should we not sacrifice to save the life of our soul, which is to last forever? Ought not man to love his soul more than his body? *Or what exchange shall a man give for his soul?* our Lord adds. *One thing is necessary*, He tells us. To save our soul, one thing alone is necessary: to hear the word of God and to live by it. Therein lies the best part, which will not be taken away from a faithful soul even though it should lose everything else. . . .

“To wish to get along without God, first Cause and last End, leads to an abyss; not only to nothingness, but also to physical and moral wretchedness that is worse than nothingness. Likewise, great problems grow exasperatingly serious, and man must finally perceive that all these problems ultimately lead to the fundamental religious problem; in other words, he will finally have to declare himself entirely for God or against Him. This is in its essence the problem of the interior life. Christ Himself says: *He that is not with Me is against Me.*”

To develop a plan for growth in our interior life, listen to Father Michael's future homilies. +

The Prayer Intention for May

Let us endeavor through the prayers of the Holy Liturgy and the Holy Rosary to deepen our gratitude for the mystery of our Baptismal rebirth in Christ.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be to the Father.



The Bulletin Board . . .

On May 2, the Statue of the Holy Family Will Be Blessed at Its Outdoor Location



Timothy P. Schmalz's sculpture of the Holy Family, entitled "Love's Bond," will be blessed at its outdoor location in the Parish Green, just across from the church's west wing on Sunday, May 2. We have been fortunate

to view the statue upclose while it was present in the church and look over the miniature replica that is available to buy as a devotional at home. The replica certainly is a perfect gift for Mother's and/or Father's Day as well as for a loving family seeking to imitate the Holy Family. +

May 9 Is First Holy Communion Day for A Baker's Dozen of our Children

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, thirteen of our children, ranging from second through sixth grade completed their preparation to receive the Holy Eucharist. Meeting every other week on a Saturday morning, the class was in session from October through April. On Sunday, May 9 at the 11 o'clock Mass, they will receive the sacrament with their families beside them. Pray for our newest communicants as they receive Our Lord for the very first time. Do you remember when your first received the Lord? +

Parish Mission Drew Both Parishioners and Visitors in Church and OnLine

The Rev. Wolfgang Seitz of Opus Angelorum delivered three conferences and celebrated three

Masses during our Parish Mission. His focus was on the role of the angels in heaven and on earth. St. Michael the Archangel was of particular interest. The amazing presence of angels in our lives — and Father related a host of extraordinary manifestations of the heavenly host — including our Guardian Angels was enlightening and eye-opening. Don't forget that God in his goodness assigned an angel to each one of us and our angel is always ready to assist us on the path to heaven — open your soul to your angel — and daily show your love and gratitude for this ever present advocate for your sanctification. +

USCCB Ponders the Effects of Pandemic on Church Attendance and Evangelization

Auxiliary Bishop Andrew Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, cited a recent Gallup Poll that found Catholics who say they're a member of a church dropped 18 points, from 76 percent to 58 percent, from 1998-2000 to 2018-2020. "What we're seeing, and this is I think what the Gallup Poll numbers show, is that the time for cultural Catholicism is dead, and even cultural religiosity. It's just dying, and unless people are intentional disciples, as Jesus actually calls us to be, people won't come to church." That idea of people becoming missionaries, or intentional disciples, is part of a shift from "maintenance to mission" that Bishop Cozzens believes needs to happen to get people back in the pews once the pandemic ends. "The only way the faith is going to grow today is by one person sharing their faith with another person," he said. "Helping our people come to understand the gift of our faith, and the people who survived well through Covid understand it, so they become, in a certain way, our missionaries to go forward." Bishop Cozzens isn't sure if online Mass should continue, but he said it shouldn't be the new normal. "We definitely need to help people understand that going to Mass in my living room with my coffee cup when I can go to church is not the same, and it's not as good," he said. [No fooling!] +



First World Day for Grandparents and Elderly scheduled for July 25

The First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday, July 25, according to the Vatican's Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this inaugural commemoration is "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20). It expresses the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic. The theme, "I am with you always" is also "a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share." The presence of young children and youth to older relatives is rewarding for both. Older people and grandparents also have to realize they have a mission too, of evangelization, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith. +

Pope Calls for Global Prayer Marathon During May for End of Pandemic

Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic. "The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world" so that individuals, families and communities all take part in reciting the rosary, "to pray for the end of the pandemic," and the paralyzing fear surrounding it, noted the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization last month. "It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father "that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God.'" The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the church

prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle. Each day in May, there will be a livestream from one of 30 chosen Marian shrines or sanctuaries to guide the prayer at noon Eastern Daylight Savings Time on all Vatican media platforms. The pope will open the marathon of prayer on May 1 and conclude it May 31. +

USCCB Launches Campaign to Stop Using Abortion-Derived Stem Cells for Vaccines

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities has launched a campaign urging Catholics to write letters to pharmaceutical companies urging them to stop the use of abortion-derived cell lines in the development and testing of vaccines. Among the companies singled out are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson for their COVID-19 vaccines, GlaxoSmithKline for its Shingrix shingle vaccine, and Merck for its MMR, Chickenpox, and Hepatitis-A vaccines. The secretariat provides sample letters on the USCCB website — [usccb.org](https://www.usccb.org) — you then go to the Search symbol and insert the following phrase to obtain the form letters - 'Letters to Pharmaceutical Companies'. The letters include the names of top officials and the address for each company. Here's a great way to stay active and Pro-life during the shutdown. +

How to Purchase the Holy Family Statues And Bricks for the Outdoor Family Shrine

You will be able to obtain the forms necessary to order and purchase either the miniature replica of the Holy Family statue, as well as memorial bricks to be placed around the outdoor statue in Church on the table in front of the north section of pews in the church's east wing. The forms are also located on the parish website. The cost of the miniature statue is \$100 and the cost of a 4 x 8-inch brick is \$150. The proceeds from the sales of both items help support the parish. +

Words OF WISDOM

The Wisdom of Mary

"The Virgin Mary possessed wisdom in superabundance. The divine wisdom possessed by all the Apostles, Church Fathers and Doctors put together remain but a dim reflection of the fullness of resplendent wisdom residing in the Immaculate Heart of our dearest Mother and Teacher, Mary.

"On the level of mere natural understanding and penetration of truth, the Immaculate Virgin did not have the intellectual dullness and darkness consequent to original sin. She possessed a keenness of intellect that surpassed all creatures, even the Angels, since She was eternally predestined to be the Mother of God and was therefore given singular graces to fulfill this role from the moment She came into being. However, wisdom goes beyond natural knowledge of things, and even surpasses the Spirit's gift of understanding which accompanies faith. Wisdom is not content with knowing and believing in the truth revealed by God. No, wisdom desires union with that truth — wisdom loves the truth it knows; wisdom tastes and savors the truth believed; and wisdom judges all things in light of this divine truth.

"In fact, from the first moment of Her Immaculate Conception She was already the true Seat of Wisdom. Isaiah had prophesied of the Messiah that 'the spirit of the Lord shall

rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and of godliness. And he shall be filled with the spirit of the fear of the Lord' (Is. 11:2-3a). Since this also applies in general to all who are in a state of grace, how much more does this apply to the Blessed Mary who was filled with the Spirit of the Lord from the first moment of Her Conception!

"St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe explains that 'Mary, insofar as She is Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and therefore elevated above every other created perfection, fully accomplishes the will of the Holy Spirit who dwells in Her, and this right from the first instant of Her Conception' (SK 1229). From Her very existence in the womb of St. Anne, the Immaculate was filled with the Spirit of Wisdom and corresponded completely to His loving action in Her soul. Wisdom found a throne in Her Immaculate Heart from the beginning.

"As a child Our Lady exceeded all the chosen people of Israel in penetrating the Torah, the Psalms, the Wisdom literature, and the Prophets regarding the covenant, the commandments, and above all the coming Messiah. She longed for the coming of Emmanuel: whose name would be Wonderful, Counselor, God the Mighty, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace (cf. Is. 7:14; 9:6). And thus Eternal Wisdom, that is to say the Logos, the Second Divine Person of the Trinity, first dwelt in Her Heart through faith (cf. Eph. 3:17). Already She could "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 33:9).

"'But when the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman...' (Gal. 4:4) so that She, who was already spiritually the Seat of Wisdom through faith, became also the Seat of Wisdom Incarnate as Mother."

— Fr. Maximilian Mary Dean, F.I.



Words^{OF} WISDOM

"If you ate only one meal a week would you survive? It is the same for your soul. Nourish it with the Blessed Sacrament."

— **St. André Bessette**

"Do not look for the faults of your friend. Do not repeat the shortcomings of your neighbors in your talk. You are not the judge of creation. You do not have dominion over the earth. If you love righteousness, admonish your soul and yourself. Be the judge of your own sins, and chastise your own transgressions."

— **St. Ephrem the Syrian**

"I urge you with all the strength of my soul to approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible. Feed on this Bread of the Angels from which you will draw the strength to fight inner struggles."

— **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**

"I worry some of you still have not really met Jesus — one to one — you and Jesus alone. We may spend time in the chapel — but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus — not from books but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? Ask for the grace; He is longing to give it. Until you can hear Jesus in the silence of your own heart, you will not be able to hear Him saying 'I Thirst' in the

hearts of the poor. Never give up this daily intimate contact with Jesus as the real living person — not just the idea."

— **Saint Mother Teresa**

"There is not a moment in which God does not present Himself under the cover of some pain to be endured, of some consolation to be enjoyed, or of some duty to be performed. All that takes place within us, around us, or through us, contains and conceals His divine action. It is really and truly there present, but invisibly present, so that we are always surprised and do not recognise His operation until it has ceased.

"If we could lift the veil, and if we were attentive and watchful God would continually reveal Himself to us, and we should see His divine action in everything that happened to us, and rejoice in it. At each successive occurrence we should exclaim: 'It is the Lord', and we should accept every fresh circumstance as a gift of God. We should look upon creatures as feeble tools in the hands of an able workman, and should discover easily that nothing was wanting to us, and that the constant providence of God disposed Him to bestow upon us at every moment whatever we required."

—**Fr. Jean-Pierre de Caussade**

The good man is like a tree planted by the water-side that will bring forth its fruit in due season, because when a soul is watered with charity, it brings forth good works seasonably and with discretion."

— **St. Francis de Sales**

"The spirit of humility is sweeter than honey, and those who nourish themselves with this honey produce sweet fruit."

— **St. Anthony of Padua**

The Month of May 2021

Monthly Focus: The Virgin Mary



In May, we focus on Mary's everlasting chastity and purity, her fidelity to God's will, and as a role model for Christian mothers. During this Year of St. Joseph, we begin on May 1 with his feast as Joseph the Worker. While the Ascension this year falls on May 13, it is also the date Our Lady first appeared to the children at Fatima in 1917, then on the Monday after Pentecost, we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, and close the month on May 31, with her Visitation to Elizabeth.

Prayer Intention

Let us endeavor through the prayers of the Holy Liturgy and the Holy Rosary to deepen our gratitude for the mystery of our Baptismal rebirth in Christ.

The Virtue: Wisdom

This gift of the Holy Spirit perfects the virtue of charity. Wisdom transmits to the soul a love whereby it understands and loves God in a most tender way. This love is what we commonly call *fever*, which activates our desire to serve Our Lord as He wills.