



May 11, 2025  
Bulletin #19

## *Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church*

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



### *Mother's Day*

- \***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- \***Weekday Masses:** Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
- \***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass.
- \***Confession:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment.
- \***Baptism:** Please call the Pastor as soon as baby is born; at least one Godparent must be Catholic.
- \***Weddings:** Please make arrangements at least six months in advance before any other plans are made.
- \***Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Pastor at 304-233-1688
- \***Parish Council:** Lou Khourey, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
- \***Choir Members:** Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
- \***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- \***Altar Server:** Joe Roxby
- \***Altar Boy:** Christopher AlKhoury
- \***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
- \***Women's Society:** Jeannette Wakim, President



#### \***Bulletin Announcements:**

Submit all Bulletin Information to Msgr. Bakhos by Noon on Tuesday every week.

#### \***New Parishioners:**

We welcome you with great joy & invite you to officially register as one of our parishioners.

\***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven.

## *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Resurrection*

Readings: Gen 1:20-23; Heb 13:18-25 and Jn 21:1-14

### *Taking Care of Old Business*

Imagine the ups and downs the disciples experienced surrounding Easter.

Palm Sunday was an emotional high, the Last Supper a deeply moving introspective time, the arrest of Jesus afterward a nightmare, and the Crucifixion an emotional crash. And then there was the Resurrection, which had to be the adrenalin rush of all time!

Then, however, the followers of Jesus are told to go to Galilee, where they will see him. And all at once, the emotional roller coaster grinds to a halt. They go to Galilee, but for a time, *nothing* happens. And that's where our reading for today starts.

With no new instructions from Jesus, Peter says, "I am going fishing."

Of them all, Peter was probably the one who, despite the Resurrection, felt the worst. After all, he was the only one who, on the evening of Jesus' arrest, had been given an opportunity or three opportunities to be specific to declare his allegiance to Jesus. Instead, he had three times denied that he even knew Jesus. The shame and guilt of all that still hung in the air between him and the Risen Christ.

So now, Peter decides to go fishing. He and six other disciples launch out on the Sea of Galilee. They fish all night, but catch nothing. In the morning, Jesus stands on the shore. At first, the disciples don't recognize him, but then John says, "It is the Lord!" And Peter jumps into the water and swims for shore.

Eventually, Jesus takes Peter aside and asks, "Do you truly love me more than these?" Jesus may have been indicating the other disciples, and asking, in effect, "Do you love me more than they do?" But it's more likely Jesus was indicating the boat and fishing equipment, thus asking if Peter was prepared to give up his fishing career once and for all and spend the rest of his life spreading the Gospel. Either way, Jesus was asking Peter if he was ready to follow Jesus no matter what.

Jesus then asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Each time Peter says yes.

Jesus' responses, "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," "Feed my sheep", were ways of telling Peter he was to be a shepherd to the growing Christian flock.

Next, Jesus tells a little parable that predicts that Peter will die in a way that glorifies God. Then he said to Peter, "Follow me." And that is exactly what Peter does, for the rest of his life.

### *Unfinished business*

I wonder how many of us find ourselves in Peter's position. We come to a place in certain relationships where damage has been done, and we are responsible. Perhaps we have blabbed something a friend told us in confidence, undercut a coworker, let somebody else take the blame for our mistake, lied to our spouse, failed one of our children, not followed through on something we promised to do, or, like Peter, failed to live up to our profession of Christ.

Because of such things, it may seem that we can't move forward; our failure is an obstacle. Many people carry burdens like that around. Sometimes, we can approach the person we have failed and apologize. The relationship can be mended if the other person is willing. But sometimes the damage is too great or the hurt too deep or the betrayal too frequent, and the trust cannot be re-established. No matter how genuine our repentance, the relationship is done for. Or perhaps the injured party is no longer around, leaving no opportunity to right the wrong. Are we then stuck there with our shame and sorrow? This encounter between Jesus and Peter shows us something important about that.

Peter is so ashamed he cannot even bring himself to raise the issue of his failure. Most likely, he feels he is in no position to ask for forgiveness. He failed in Jesus' darkest hour; what could he possibly say?

Jesus, however, knows that this old business has to be cleared off the books if Peter is to be a whole person again. So it is Jesus who initiates the conversation that leads to the restoration of their relationship.

Jesus could have said to Peter, "Clean up that mess and then we'll talk." Jesus could have said, "Get down on your knees and confess, and then maybe we can see eye to eye again." Jesus could have at least asked, "Are you sorry, Peter?" But Jesus doesn't do any of those things. He begins with Peter right where he is and asks Peter to once more declare his love. He gives Peter a chance to replace each denial with a declaration of

love. The actual words, “I forgive you,” are never spoken, but surely forgiveness and restoration are what Peter experiences in this exchange.

## *Unspoken repentance*

This conversation seems to run against what we usually hear about the importance of confession and even against what a lot of theology tells us about the need to admit our sins and ask for forgiveness. So do some other biblical encounters:

When the woman caught in adultery is dragged before Jesus, he dismisses her accusers. Then he turns to the woman, but he does not ask, “Are you sorry?” Instead he says, “Has no one condemned you?” When she says, “No one, sir,” he replies, “Neither do I condemn you ... from now on do not sin again.”

There’s Jesus eating in the house of a Pharisee, when a woman of the street comes in and weeps on his feet. Without asking her to confess her wrongdoing, Jesus says to her, “Your sins are forgiven.

There’s Jesus’ story about the prodigal son who finally, in miserable condition, decides to return home. He has a repentance speech prepared. He even rehearses it. But when he shows up, his father runs and embraces him, not even allowing him to get his whole repentance speech out. The relationship is restored without the words being spoken.

In fractured human relationships, the words of apology by the offender are often the necessary first step to restoration. The woman caught in the adultery no doubt looked deeply ashamed. The woman who wept on Jesus feet was clearly acting in a way that expressed regret, and so was the prodigal son.

And here’s Peter, leaping out of the boat, so anxious to get to Jesus that he can’t even wait for the boat to reach shore. But first he puts his clothes *on* to jump in the water, as though he cannot bear for Jesus to see his spiritual nakedness. We can be certain that his hearing broadcast his shame.

## *Moving forward*

In every case, Jesus’ focus is on moving forward. He is not saying, “Well, let’s just pretend the past didn’t happen,” but by offering forgiveness before it’s even asked for, he helps people take care of old business so that the new business of life can take place.

For the woman caught in adultery, the focus is on the future: “Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

For the prodigal, the focus is on becoming part of the family again: “This son of mine was dead and is alive again ...!” be part of the family of God.

For Peter, the focus is on what his work will be: “Tend my sheep” and “Follow me.” Do the work God gives you to do.

That’s what it is for us too. If we have unfinished business because of damage we’ve done to relationships, we need to do what we can to clean up the damage, and a spoken apology is a good start. But our subsequent actions are even more important than our words.

And if we have unfinished business with Jesus, we can begin to seek restoration with a confession to him. But as this story of Peter shows us, he doesn’t even wait for that. He reads what in our hearts and then points us to the future: “Sin no more.” “Be part of the family of God.” “Do the work God gives you to do.” “Follow me.” And in this life at least, that’s how the Resurrection plays out.

## *Mothers’ Day*

### *Some Mother's Day Figures:*

- 1- In the United States, there are about 82.5 million mothers.
- 2- About 96% of American consumers take part in some way in Mother's Day.
- 3- Mother's Day is widely reported as the peak day of the year for long distance telephone calls.
- 4- There are more than 23,000 florists in the United States with a total of more than 125,000 employees. Colombia is the leading foreign supplier of cut flowers and fresh flower buds to the US. California produces two-thirds of domestic production of cut flowers.
- 5- Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year for many restaurants.
- 6- Retailers report that Mother's Day is the second highest gift-giving holiday in the United States (Christmas is the highest).

## *Mother's Vocation*

God created the woman to be a woman and not to be a man. There is a conflict in the world today: a conflict with God's will. The world says, "*Be independent. Be free. Be in control. Rule with your hips. Rule and get your way.*" And God says NO. The world builds self-selfishness: "*Do your own things, get your own way. Self, self, and self.*" And why is this wrong? What are the rods of our Savior? This is My commandment that "*you love one another as I have loved you.*" (Jn15:12)

What is love? It is the opposite of selfishness. Love is to give of yourself. If you are selfish you are sinning against God's commandment of love. You are not allowed to be selfish. You have to deny yourself and love if you are going to be called a Christian. The world strives to influence the man and the woman to be selfish. The world nurtures selfishness.

Think of the Blessed Virgin. She was pictured as one who cared, shared, and gave everything. She had no selfishness in her. What was Mary's vocation? **Mary was a full-time mother.**

God created the woman to be a flower. God created a woman to serve Him by being a mother, to be one who is always there for her children and her man. She must be free of concerns, problems, and worries. Then she can be a perfect vessel of God's love. Worry is what destroys a woman's heart and keeps it from loving. A woman cannot give of herself when she is worried. That is why her husband must protect her from all these worries. Realize that God always provided Mary with a man to take care of her all the way through her life. First, her father, then the temple priest, then Joseph, then Jesus, and then John. All of her life she was protected by a man and cared for so she did not have to worry. She could love full time. This is what God wills for the perfection of the woman. God did not create a woman to be selfish, to manipulate or to deceive. For a woman to be this way is the same as a woman that shines only with evil.

## *Flowers to the Blessed Mother During May*

May the Blessed Mother shower her graces upon all the generous parishioners who sponsored Flowers to decorate her altar during the month of May consecrated to her devotion.

May 11th	Linda Duffy, Luane Frazier, Thomasina Geimer, Regina Hancher
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Susan John Burns, Liz Murad
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Libby G. Magnone, Patrick Stees, Pam Obyc, Kathleen George



## *May 10-18: Masses for Mothers*

### *Masses for the Deceased Mothers and Grandmothers*

† Special Remembrance on these special days:

--on May 11: Gladys Howard by Lou, Charlotte & Louie Khourey

--on May 11: Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

--on May 17: Earl Ragase (Birthday) by his wife Mary Ragase

--on May 18: Rose Olinski (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase

† Deceased mothers & grandmothers of Jamil Harb (MI)

† Louise N. Khourey & Gladys V. Howard by Lou & Charlotte and Emmalena and Louie

† Emily Nader & Nabiha "Lena" Khourey by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Minnie Church Riggs & Cassandra "Cassie" Howard by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Sadie Chidiac (mother), Kathrine & Hasibi (grandmothers) by Msgr. Bakhos

† Mahasen Kazour by her daughter Jocelyne Chahine and Family (Pittsburgh)

† Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart

† Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

† Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

† Eva M. Coury by her son Richard Coury

† Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

† Mary Ann Coury by Richard Coury

† Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin & Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

- † Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Pearl (Nolte) Shutler & Isabelle (Frey) Nolte by Janet Shutler
- † Clara Shutler by Janet Shutler
- † Shirley Elias Nickerson & Amelia Elias by their Loving Family
- † Mariam Joseph & Mary Catherine Habeb by Jean Weisner and Family
- † Chamse Rahi and Marie Rouhana by the Peclinsky Family
- † Dorothy Schweizer by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter
- † Viola Porter by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter
- † Martha Saseen by her son George Saseen
- † Elizabeth Harasuik by her daughter Susan Saseen
- † Mary K. Ferris by Denise Ferris
- † Georgette Joseph, Nancy Valles & Betty Allen by Vickie Joseph
- † Anne Bott & Angela Henning by Don & Roberta Henning
- † Dolores M. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Ginny, Martha, Anna Shia & Edna Jochum by their children & grandchildren
- † Lucille Gibbons by Bob & Paula Gibbons
- † Elizabeth A. Magnone, Giovanni Magnone, Josephine Ferris, Nancy Coffield, Isabel Wolfe, Mary K. Ferris, Bess Garcia, Mary Stees and Zaid Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
- † Charlotte George and Beatrice Stiles by Margaret George (MN)
- † Maryanna George by Margaret George (MN)
- † Cecilia Habdo Mays & Sada Habdo by Carol Dougherty (OK)
- † LaVerne Thomas and Siham Frenn by Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn
- † Anita Martha Weisner & Mariam Joseph by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Helen Schroeder by her son Mark Schroeder & her daughter Jane Wine
- † Dolores Palotay by the Palotay & Jarrett Families
- † Fran Huffman by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Lucy Gibbons & Ann Otterbeck & Sadie Coury by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Nell Duffy & Rose Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Eileen M. Hatty, Mary Ann Hatty & Cecilia F. Hatty by Judge Michael P. Hatty & Family
- † Rose Ann Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Lance Crawley by Rosalie Conti
- † Agnes Jacovetty by Patricia & George Fahey
- † June Fahey by George & Patricia Fahey
- † Mary (Joseph) Shipley & Salema (Awed) Joseph by Thomasina Geimer
- † Annette Togliatti by GiGi Rice
- † Sadie Harb by GiGi Rice
- † Viola Jeannette Yeater and Viola J. Belt by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † Laura Z. Wakim and Edna Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † Margaret Glaser by her Family
- † Ella Boehm by her Family
- † Mary Popovich, Kay Popovich and Anna Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Helen Fielding, Freda Hartman and Angela Montalbano by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Emily Shia Vince and Anna Shia by their children and grandchildren
- † Patricia Gompers by the Matt Gompers Family
- † Sharon Rose Wetzal and Lilly Hebdo by Rose Sharon Hebdo
- † Cecilia John and Carol Burns by their loving children Susan and Ron Burns
- † Sadie John, Tamamie Joseph and Sarah Burns by their loving grandchildren Susan and Ron Burns
- † Milly Manners by NiNi Miller
- † Dorothy Saseen and Marie Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen Connell
- † Mary Jean Stanton and Theresa Sofka by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sofka

- ✠ Anna Spyra by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sofka
- ✠ Rosemarie Henry and Alma Erbacher Welty by Patrick Henry
- ✠ Barbara Orr Wynsel by Laurie Henry
- ✠ Bernadine Elias by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- ✠ Violet Golebiewski by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- ✠ Virginia Porchiran and Ann Ragus by Kathleen George and Family
- ✠ Siberia Cater (Aunte) by Dr. Maryann Cater
- ✠ Foumia Saad Cater (mother) by Dr. Maryann Cater
- ✠ Mary Piko (mother) and Lottie Elwartoski (aunt) by Marcia Laughlin
- ✠ Evelyn Goodson and Mary Joseph by Cathy Goodson
- ✠ Patricia Ross Hankish by Rose Hankish
- ✠ Mary Popovich by her granddaughter Nicky Lenz and Family
- ✠ Barbara Lenz by Nicky Lenz and Family
- ✠ Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski
- ✠ Mary Zaid Stees and Elizabeth A. Magnone by the Stees Family
- ✠ Shirley Bine by Lou and Charlotte Khourey and Family
- ✠ Delia Cetorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Angela Caputi by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Ida Caputi by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Elena Blake by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Antonina Siebieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda

### *Masses for the Living Mothers and Grandmothers*

- ✠ Barb McLaughlin by Brad McLaughlin and Kristen Graney
- ✠ Barb McLaughlin by Nathan and Shane Graney
- ✠ Charlotte Khourey by her children Emmalena and Louie
- ✠ My sisters by Msgr. Bakhos
- ✠ Jocelyne Chahine (Pittsburgh) by her children and grandchildren
- ✠ Susan Saseen by her granddaughter Ginny Naswadi
- ✠ Nancy Valles by Vickie Joseph
- ✠ Josie Fertig, Arlene Magnone, Caroline McDowell, Carla Ferris, Lacey Magnone, Amanda Buzzard, Maria Rayl, Brea Wayt, Angela Snyder, Sherry Sullivan by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Diane Frenn and Brenda Riedel by Dr. Adel and Justin Frenn and Andraeh, Zack & Christian Riedel
- ✠ Margaret Jean Joseph Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ Dolores Oser by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- ✠ Nikki J. Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich, PJ Lenz, Lindsay and Luke Lenz
- ✠ Nikki A. Popovich by Joe Popovich
- ✠ Nikki Popovich and Helen Fielding by their daughter Nicky Lenz and Family
- ✠ Sally Joseph by Nicky Lenz and Family
- ✠ Andraeh Riedel by Dr. Adel & Diane and Justin and Zack and Christian Riedel
- ✠ Libby G. Magnone by her godchild Pat Stees
- ✠ Freda Siebieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Lillian Siebieda by Jeremy Siebieda and Kathy Logan

### *Coming Parish Events*

Sunday, May 11	Mother's Day Brunch served by the gentlemen of the parish after Mass
Spring Bake Sale	Kibbee baking: Wednesday, May 14, 9:00 a.m. Meat pie baking: Thursday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. Order pick-up: Saturday, May 17
Sunday, May 18	Cedar Club Meeting after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday, June 15	Father's Day
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	???????

## ***Mother's Day Brunch (Sunday, May 11 after Mass)***

On Mother's Day, Sunday May 11, the gentlemen of the parish are serving a brunch to honor all mothers. In return, the ladies will serve a brunch on Fathers' Day, June 15<sup>th</sup> to honor all fathers. All are invited.

## ***Festival (Mahrajan) News (Sunday, August 10 from 11 to 6pm)***

--**Outdoor Mass** at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass. No Mass at the church on August 10th.

--**Table Reservations** (ready to be reserved):

1-Under the Tent = \$130. One (1) table and eight (8) chairs under the tent.

2-Open-air = \$65. One (1) wooden picnic table in open-air (under the trees).

Reservation due date: May 15, 2025. Please call Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to reserve a table.

--**50/50 RAFFLE Tickets \$10,000 Prize** (Ready for sale):

...The festival 50/50 Raffle tickets are now ready for sale for \$20 per ticket! We have only printed 1,000 tickets. If all tickets are sold, there is an opportunity to win \$10,000 Cash! Tickets can be purchased from Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Once received, Monsignor will fill-out the raffle ticket and mail the stub to the buyer. THANK YOU for helping us defraying the expenses of the Festival.

## ***Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month***

May 16:	Jacqueline Petros
May 17:	Tina Kitlak, David Weisner
May 18:	Millet L. Fadoul
May 23:	Danny Ferrera
May 27:	Emmalena Khourey, Brad McLaughlin
May 30:	Josie Stees Fertig
June 1:	Billy Committee
June 2:	Debbie Sengewalt
June 5:	Earl "Mickey" Duffy, Kenly George
June 7:	Jean Weisner
June 9:	Ava DeMuth

## ***Your Church Support Last Week***

\$709.00	Sunday Collection
319.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> collection: National shrine
39.00	Candles
20.00	Donation to the church
3,080.00	Mahrajan
3,421.00	Bake sale
\$7,588.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

## ***Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List***

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)

Brian Bleifus, Earl & Linda Duffy, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Becky Ferrera, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

## ***What's New?***

### ***Rummage Sale Items Drop off (all Year Long)***

Please bring with you to the church all the items you wish to donate toward the Rummage Sale. Items are accepted all year long. The Cedar Club and the Women Society raise funds to cover the Building Insurance of our church which exceeds \$22,000. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

## ***Question & Answer (#14)***

**Question #14:** "What is the meaning of life?"

**Answer #14:** The meaning of life is to know, love and serve God. This is where we will find our fulfillment here on earth and in heaven. Love is the underlying theme throughout the Bible. In fact, there are over 600 verses in Scripture which speak of love.

To begin, the creation of human beings was an act of unselfish love by God. (He didn't need us because He was perfect. But He created us because He knew we would like it.) This was an act of love. We are called to this type of unselfish love.

Love is most fully expressed when we give of ourselves with no interest in gaining something from it. Love is wanting what is best for another *simply because it is best for that person*. Love is the greatest of the virtues (1 Cor. 13:13). Love is the opposite of selfishness. God exhibited the ultimate act of love when He gave His only Son as the definitive sacrifice to save the world from its sins (John 3:16). The Son, Jesus Christ, gave His own life for us when He died on the cross. Love truly makes the world a better place. Without love, we have emptiness.

The meaning of life is love: accepting love from God, giving love back to God through obedience to Him and to love others as we love God and ourselves.

## ***Giving in Scriptures***

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Mt 6:19-21)

## ***Spirituality: Scapular***

A Sign of Holiness

Our Blessed Mother Presents the Scapular to St. Simon Stock

A half-century ago any Catholic schoolchild could have described a scapular, but today -in the United States, at least- its use has fallen off sharply. And so, for those who don't know (or don't exactly remember), the scapular consists of two small pieces of cloth connected by pieces of string so that it may be pulled over one's head and then worn front and back. A sacramental (a symbol of religious devotion), it is a modified version of an outer garment dating from the Middle Ages, worn in response to Our Blessed Mother's promise of a happy death to those who use it.

*The scapular comes to us from St. Simon Stock (c. 1165-1265), who, as prior general of the Carmelites, asked for Mary's protection of the order. She appeared to him in 1251, presenting the scapular along with the pledge that "whosoever dies in the habit shall be saved." The devotion spread and has endured for centuries. Church leaders have traditionally endorsed the practice -with the proviso that the wearer of a scapular should not automatically expect to die in a state of grace, but must merit it by living a good life.*

Simon was born in the county of Kent, England, and left his home when he was but twelve years of age, to live as a hermit in the hollow trunk of a tree, whence he was known as Simon of the Stock. Here he passed twenty years in penance and prayer, and learned from Our Lady that he was to join a religious order not then known in England. He waited in patience till the White Friars came, and then entered the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

His great holiness moved his brethren to choose him prior general of the order. In the many persecutions raised against the new religious, Simon went with filial confidence to the Blessed Mother of God. As he knelt in prayer in the White Friars' convent at Cambridge, on July 16, 1251, she appeared before him and presented him with the scapular, in assurance of her protection. The devotion to the blessed habit spread quickly throughout the Christian world. Pope after pope enriched it with indulgences, and miracles innumerable put their seal upon its efficacy. The first of them was worked at Winchester on a man dying in despair, who at once asked for the sacraments, when the scapular was laid upon him by St. Simon Stock.

In the year 1636, M. de Guge, a cornet in a cavalry regiment, was mortally wounded at the engagement of Tehin, a bullet having lodged near his heart. He was then in a state of grievous sin, but had time to make his confession, and with his own hands wrote his last testament. When this was done, the surgeon probed his wound and the bullet was found to have driven his scapular into his heart. On its being withdrawn, he presently expired, making profound acts of gratitude to the Blessed Virgin, who had prolonged his life miraculously, and thus preserved him from eternal death. St. Simon Stock died at Bordeaux, in 1265.

### ***Wisdom: Transform others***

The world that you want to transform in a just manner will not be transformed because you yourselves are not transformed. And so long as you refuse to change yourselves, the world will not change. But the world can change if you change. How do you change? By listening to God, because as the sun is always shining, God is constantly speaking.

### ***Story: Memory that lingers***

I have many memories about my father and about growing up with him in our apartment next to the elevated train tracks. For 20 years, we listened to the roar of the train as it passed by his bedroom window. Late at night, he waited alone on the tracks for the train that took him to his job at a factory, where he worked the midnight shift.

On this particular night, I waited with him in the dark to say good-bye. His face was grim. His youngest son had been drafted. I would be sworn in at six the next morning, while he stood at his paper-cutting machine in the factory.

My father had talked about his anger. He didn't want them to take his child, only 19 years old, who had never had a drink or smoked a cigarette, to fight a war. He placed his hands on my slim shoulders. "*You be careful, Peter, and if you ever need anything, write to me and I'll see that you get it.*"

Suddenly, he heard the roar of the approaching train. He held me tightly in his arms and gently kissed me on the cheek. With tear-filled eyes, he murmured: "*I love you, my son.*" Then the train arrived, the doors closed him inside, and he disappeared into the night.

One month later, at age 46, my father died. I am 76 as I sit and write this. I once heard the New York reporter, say that: "*memories are man's greatest inheritance*" and I have to agree. I've lived through four invasions in World War II. I've had a life full of all kinds of experiences. But the only memory that lingers is of the night when my dad said: "*I love you, my son.*"

### ***Jokes (166)***

#### ***Women & Wealth***

In ancient India much store was set by the Vedic rites which were said to be so scientific in their application that when the sages prayed for rain there was never any drought. It is that a man set himself to pray, according to these rites, to the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, begging her to make him rich.

He prayed to no effect for ten long years, after which period of time, he suddenly saw the illusory nature of wealth and adopted the life of a renunciate in the Himalayas.

He was sitting in meditation one day when he opened his eyes and saw before him an extra-ordinarily beautiful woman, all bright and shining as if she were made of gold.

“Who are you and what are doing here?” he asked.

“I am the goddess Lashmi to whom you recited hymns for twelve years,” said the woman. “I have appeared to grant you your desire.”

“Ah, my dear goddess,” exclaimed the man, “I have since attained the bliss of meditation and lost my desire for wealth. You come too late. Tell me, why did you delay so long in coming?”

“To tell you the truth,” said the goddess, “given the nature of those rites you so faithfully performed you had fully earned the wealth. But, in my love for you and my desire for your welfare, I held it back.”

## ***Prayer***

One day Mulla Nasruddin saw the village schoolmaster leading a group of children towards the mosque.

“What are you taking them there for?” he asked.

“There is a drought in the land,” said the teacher; “and we trust that the cries of the children will move the heart of the Almighty.”

“It isn’t the cries, whether innocent or criminal; that count,” said the Mulla, “but wisdom and awareness.”

“How dare you make such a blasphemous statement in the presence of these children!” cried the teacher. “Prove what you have said, or you shall be denounced as a heretic.”

“Easy enough,” said Nasruddin. “If the prayers of children counted for anything there wouldn’t be a school teacher in all the land, for there is nothing they so detest as going to school. The reason you have survived those prayers is that we, who know better than the children, have kept you where you are.”

## ***The Saints***

Once someone approached a disciple of the Muslim mystic Bahaudin Naqshband and said: “Tell me why your master conceals his miracles. I have personally collected data shows beyond any doubt that he has been present in more than one place at a time; that he healed people by the power of his prayers but tells them it was the work of nature; that he helped people in it to their good luck. Why does he do this?”

“I know exactly what you are talking about,” said the disciple, “for I have myself observed these things. And I think I can give you the answer to your question. First, the master recoils from being the center of attention. And secondly, he is convinced that once people develop an interest in the miraculous, they have no desire to learn anything of true spiritual value.”

## ***Famous Quotes (61)***

Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find. The door will be opened to the one who knocks. “Suppose your son asks for bread. Which of you will give him a stone? Or suppose he asks for a fish. Which of you will give him a snake? Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you. This is what is written in the Law and in the Prophets. “Enter God’s kingdom through the narrow gate. The gate is large and the road is wide that leads to ruin. Many people go that way. But the gate is small and the road is narrow that leads to life. Only a few people find it. (Matthew 7: 7-14)