



May 18, 2025
Bulletin #20

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



5th Sunday of the Resurrection

- ***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 1st 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 AlKhouri
- ***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.

5th Sunday of the Resurrection

Readings: Ezek 34:11-25; Eph 2:1-10 and Jn 21:15-19

The gospel reading appears to be a composite of distinct episodes that have been brought together and now appear as one. It begins with an account of a miraculous catch of fish into which is woven a second report, that of a meal on the shore (vv. 1-14). This is followed by an exchange between Jesus and Peter (vv. 15-19).

The encounter of Jesus with the group of disciples begins and ends with the announcement that the risen Jesus revealed himself to his disciples (vv. 1,14). This tells us that even those who had been his intimate companions did not recognize the Lord in his risen state (v. 4). Here recognition comes through Jesus' actions, not through his words. He called them "children", a term that may be affectionate but that also carries the sense of undeveloped understanding. He directs them to cast the nets on the right side, the preferred side for right-handed people. Only after they pulled in the multitude of fish did the disciple whom Jesus loved identify the man on the shore: "it is the Lord." When they had come safely to shore, the others also recognized him, though there seems to have been a fundamental difference in his present state. They are tempted to ask who he is while at the same time somehow knowing his identity (v. 12).

Much has been made about the disciples having gone to Galilee and resuming their former occupations. Some interpret this as evidence of their lack of faith, even apostasy. This is not necessarily the case, since there was a tradition in the early Church that the risen Jesus told them he would meet them in Galilee (cf. Mark 14:28; 16:7). Besides, nowhere in this passage does Jesus reprimand them for their behavior. This group of seven included Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the two sons of Zebedee, and two unnamed disciples. The Beloved Disciple, though not clearly identified, was one of them. Most interpreters believe he was one of those not explicitly named. However, this could have included the sons of Zebedee, for they were not expressly named either. Though he was the one in the boat who recognized the Lord, he does not play an important role here. The primary focus is on Peter.

There are two major reasons for suggesting the report of the meal is a separate tradition. First, the episode of the miraculous catch is complete without it. Second, the net captures a multitude of fish, but Jesus prepares other fish. Verse 10 seems to link the two scenes. A meal prepared by Jesus, especially the risen Jesus, certainly has Eucharistic or at least eschatological connotations. He feeds them, though he himself does not eat.

Finally, Jesus' exchange with Peter has many links with Peter's earlier denial of him. The charcoal fire Jesus prepared is the same kind of fire near which Peter stood warming himself when he denied knowing Jesus (cf. 18:18). Having been sobered by this denial, Peter does not now declare that he is capable of being more faithful than the others (v. 15; cf. Mark 14:29-30; Matt 26:33-35). Three times Peter denied; three times he is called upon to declare his love. When he does, he is commissioned to assume the role of shepherd in the place of Jesus. He is now a shepherd who can show compassion those who have failed.

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 18 th	Susan John Burns, Liz Murad
May 25 th	Libby G. Magnone, Patrick Stees, Pam Obyc, Kathleen George

Feast of the Ascension (Thursday, May 29)

On Thursday, May 29th, we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension of our Lord into heaven Body and Soul. Mass is at noon. It is a day of obligation. So try your best to attend the Mass.

Coming Parish Events

Sunday, May 18	Cedar Club Meeting after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday, June 15	Father's Day. Complimentary brunch after Mass to be served by the ladies.
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	???????

Masses for the Living & Deceased Fathers & grandfathers

From Saturday, June 14 until Sunday, June 22:

Masses for the Deceased Fathers and Grandfathers

Special Remembrance on special days:

On June 14: † Earl & Helen Ragase by Mary Ragase

† Pearl (Nolte) Shutler (Anniversary) by her daughter Janet Shutler

† Rosemarie Henry (Birthday) by Patrick and Laurie Henry

† Robert "Henk" Henry (Birthday) by Patrick and Laurie Henry

On June 15: † Mary Miller (Birthday) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Mary Stees (Birthday) by Denise Ferris

On June 19: † Alois Marchy (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase

† Denise Ferris (Birthday) by Libby G. Magnone

On June 21: † Cathy (Sharp) Howard (Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

† Mariam Joseph (Anniversary) by the Weisner and Joseph Families

On June 22: † Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin (Birthday) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

† Habib Khourey, Louis Khourey Sr., & Nassif Nader by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Charles "Pud" Howard, Bruce Cody Riggs and Franklin C. Howard by Lou & Charlotte & Family

† Adib Chidiac (father) & Nadim Chidiac (brother) and my grandfathers by Msgr. Bakhos

† Aziz Kazour and Youssef Chahine by Jocelyne Chahine and Family (Pittsburgh)

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

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

† Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

† Ray McLaughlin, Sr. and Elias Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† John Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Dana Burkhart by his wife Carol Burkhart

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

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

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

† Robert J. Shutler, Sr. and Harry J. Nolte and Fred Shutler by Janet Shutler

† Harry F. Nolte by Janet Shutler

† Alfred Felici by Francie Felicie and children Stephanie Richards and Brian Felici

† Donald A. Nickerson Sr. and Albert Nickerson by their Loving Family

† Nimon Joseph and Maroon Habeb by Jean Weisner and Family

† William Schweiger by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter

† Hurry Porter by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter

† George Saseen by his son George Saseen

† Steve Harasuik by his daughter Susan Saseen

† Thomas Ferris by Denise Ferris

† Mike Joseph and Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph

† Albert Valles and Clay Allen by Vickie Joseph

† Joseph Bott and John Henning by Don & Roberta Henning

† George A. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Philip G. Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Thomas Jochum Jr. and Sr. by Sue, children and grandchildren

† Tim and Gus Shia by their children and grandchildren

† Robert Armstrong by Bob & Paula Gibbons

† Abdo Ferris, Nicholai Magnone, Tom Ferris, Ted Ferris, Wm. Magnone, John Ferris, Greg Ferris, Ray Young, Sr. by Libby G. Magnone

- † Tony George and Sam George by Margaret George (MN)
- † Albert Stiles by Margaret George (MN)
- † Elias Frenn and Jim Thomas by Dr. Adel, Diane and Justin Frenn
- † Robert and Charles by Carol Dougherty (OK)
- † William Dougherty by Lisa Kennedy
- † George Alan Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Al Schroeder by his son Mark Schroeder and his daughter Jane Wine
- † Ray Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
- † Fred Oser by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Allen Huffman by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Barkett Coury and Al Otterbeck and Sadie Coury by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Joseph Duffy and George Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Angelo Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Michael T. Hatty, Louis M. Hatty and Joseph P. Hatty by Judge Michael P. Hatty & Family
- † Richard Frazier by his wife Luane and sons Rick and John
- † Vincent Jacovetty by Patricia & George Fahey
- † Dennis Fahey by George & Patricia Fahey
- † Albert Togliatti by GiGi Rice
- † Khalil Harb by GiGi Rice
- † Robert Glaser by his Family
- † Albert Boehm by his Family
- † Melo Wakim and John G. Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † William M. Yeater Jr and William M. Yeater Sr. by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † Lawrence J. Belt by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † George Popovich, Mike Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Augie Montalbano, Don Fielding, Stan Fielding, Nick Stan, Joe Montalbano by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Donald Vince and Constantine (Gus) Shia by their Children and grandchildren
- † Samuel John Hebdo by Rose (Hebdo) Oberst
- † John T. John and D. William Burns by their loving children Susan and Ron Burns
- † Thomas John, David Joseph and Donald Burns by their loving grandchildren Susan and Ron Burns
- † Danny Manners by NiNi Miller
- † Abdoo Saseen and Bernard Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen Connell
- † Robert “Herk” Henry and James Henry by Patrick Henry
- † Tim Stanton and William Sayre by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sofka
- † Steve Sofka by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sofka
- † Samuel Elias by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Alphonse Golebiewski by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Rudy Porchiran and Joe Ragus by Kathleen George and Family
- † Paul Hankish by Rose Hankish
- † George Lenz by Nicky Lenz and Family
- † George Popovich and Augie Montalbano by his granddaughter Nicky and Family
- † Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- † Constantino Cetorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Friend Blake by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Josef Siembieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Nicola Caputi by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Orval A. Blake Sr. by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Matthew Siebieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Russell Wetzel by Rusty Wetzel

Masses for the Living Fathers and Grandfathers

- † Louis H. Kourey by his children Emmalena and Louie

† George Saseen by his granddaughter Ginny Naswadi

† Louis Valles by Vickie Joseph

† Trent Jochum by Alec, Sarah and Katie

† Nick Magnone, Bill Stees, Josh McDowell, John Ferris, Nicky Magnone, Chuck Rayl, Travis Wayt by Libby G. Magnone

† Dr. Adel Frenn by Diane and Justin Frenn and Andreah, Zack & Christian Riedel

† Chris Wakim by Laura Chapman and Jackson and Eloise and Chris (Nathan) Wakim

† Joe Popovich by Nikki Popovich, PJ, Nikki J, Lindsay and Luke Lenz

† PJ Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich

† PJ Lenz by his wife Nicky and children Lindsay and Luke

† Joe Popovich by his daughter Nicky and Family

† Larry Siebieda by Jeremy Siebieda and Kathy Logan

† Butch Dennis by Annette Wetzel

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 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

June 14: P.J. Lenz, Kathy Boehm

June 15: Becky Joseph Ferrera, Grace Ferrera

Your Church Support Last Week

\$2,066.00	Sunday Collection
38.00	Candles
20.00	Donation to the church
1,975.00	Mahrajan
1,304.00	Bake sale
\$5,403.00	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,

From our Diocese

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light will host a Discernment Retreat Weekend (June 6-8th) at their Mother of the Light Convent, 856 Tucker Rd Dartmouth, MA. Please share the information with your communities for those who may be interested. Also, if anyone would like to contact the other religious congregations, please give them the following information:

Antonine Sisters: Sister Samia Abou-Shakra at anto9srs@aol.com

Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family: Sister Rose Therese Tannous at rosetheresetannous@gmail.com

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ, Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

Question & Answer (#15)

Question #15: “Did God begin or start the whole world? If not, how did the world begin?”

Answer #15: Yes, God created the whole world. A carpenter makes a chair from wood. A poet makes a poem from words that already exist. Making something implies that the original materials are there first. But God did not merely *make* us. He *created* us from nothing. Although we speak of people *creating*, only God creates in the strictest sense, for only God can bring something from nothing.

God brought the universe into existence from nothing. He creates each and every human soul from nothing at conception.

Why did God create the universe from nothing rather than something? What else would He have created it from? Not from Himself, for there are no parts in God which He could “break off” to fashion us from. And if He used something else, where would that have come from? Being all-powerful, God can do what no one else can: create something from nothing. Scripture says: “He spoke and they were made. He commanded and they were created” (Psalm 148:5).

Giving in Scriptures

From your Hands, we give you back

King David and all his people gave donations to build the Temple. Then David blessed the Lord in the sight of the whole assembly and said:

“Blessed are you, Lord, God of Israel our father, from eternity to eternity. Yours, Lord, are greatness and might, majesty, victory, and splendor. For all in heaven and on earth is yours; yours, Lord, is kingship; you are exalted as head over all. Riches and glory are from you, and you have dominion over all. In your hand are power and might; it is yours to give greatness and strength to all. Therefore, our God, we give you thanks and we praise the majesty of your name.

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should have the means to contribute so freely? For everything is from you, and what we give is what we have from you. For before you we are strangers and travelers, like all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without a future. Lord, our God, all this wealth that we have brought together to build you a house for your holy name comes from you and is entirely yours. I know, my God, that you put hearts to the test and that you take pleasure in integrity. With a whole heart I have willingly given all these things, and now with joy I have seen your people here present also giving to you generously. Lord, God of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep such thoughts in the hearts and minds of your people forever, and direct their hearts toward you. Give to my son Solomon a wholehearted desire to keep your commandments, precepts, and statutes, that he may carry out all these plans and build the palace for which I have made preparation.”

Spirituality: Self Control

The totalitarian regimes are symptomatic of a disease that has also attacked the men and women in countries that are free. It is the disease of disorder within humanity. Few realize the terrible dimensions of the present catastrophe; they are blinded by the fact that man has made great material progress. The truth of the matter is, however, that humanity has lost control over itself at the very moment when it has gained control over nature. Because humans have lost self-control and denied the spiritual purpose in life, they utilize for destructive ends the forces of nature that they have harnessed. Every gain in mastery of the forces of nature becomes a potential danger unless it is matched by an equal gain in man's mastery over his animal impulses.

To just the degree that a materialist psychologist interprets self-expression as the release of the animal instincts, he contributes to the world's present woe and disorder. Animal-guided humans cannot conduct a civilization. They are more at home in war than in peace. We of today can be united against a common enemy through hate; it takes spirit and a common purpose to bind us together when peace comes. It used to be that wars were hard to wage, that peace came naturally with victory. Today the situation is reversed; the powers of destruction are greater than the powers of construction in the modern world.

Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, 1949, pp.181-182.

Wisdom: Truths to Remember

1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
2. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
3. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home every day.
4. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
5. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
6. Do the math. Count your blessings.
7. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
8. Dear God: I have a problem. It's me.
9. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
10. Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging.
11. The most important things in your home are the people.
12. Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.
13. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
15. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
16. We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.
17. Nothing is real to you until you experience it, otherwise it's just hearsay.
18. Surviving and living your life successfully require courage. The goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk-taking. Learn from the turtle, it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
19. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

Story: Memory that lingers

I watched as many poor people walked about in tattered clothing, visiting, eating tacos ... and smiling. "What do they have to be so happy about?" I wondered. I was attending a medical conference in 1991 and had taken time out to visit Guadalupe. The image of our Blessed Mother on the five-hundred-year-old cactus fibers of a peasant's tilma is truly amazing. But it was the crowd milling around outside the shrine that captured my attention. I could not understand why I, a successful physician with a prestigious medical practice in USA, should find happiness so elusive while joy radiated off these poor peasants?

I had it all, and yet I had nothing. In spite of money, status, material possessions, and a beautiful family, personal satisfaction eluded me. The fact that I had a wonderful wife and three children and was a Catholic since birth should have been my compass in life. Instead, I was on a course for disaster. Trapped in a lifestyle of

women, materialism, and workaholic tendencies, I was sinking fast. There's a saying: "Your sin will find you out," and thankfully, mine did. Although I did not feel that way at the time, by being confronted with my involvement with other women, the last shreds of my life began to unravel. Looking back, I can see I was not thinking straight. My twisted life needed to unravel before I could begin again to be straight with my family and with God.

When I hit rock bottom, I was anxious and depressed, wondering how I ever could rebuild my life with who I was. How could my wife and I start to build a new relationship on the rubble of my past? It was at this time that a friend sent me literature on the devotion to Divine Mercy. The pamphlet explained that Saint Faustina had written a diary in which she recorded her mystical experiences—in particular Jesus Christ's desire that the world accept His unfathomable mercy. When I read, "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my Mercy " I was overcome with remorse and gratitude. Tears of sorrow flowed like a river, as if expelling the pus of my wounds of sin. I read the words again and again realizing that in the depths of sin, there was help—even for me.

Christ's Divine Mercy became a life jacket that kept me afloat and kept me from drowning in a sea of misery. Later that year, my wife and I went to counseling and slowly, through God's grace, began constructing a solid marriage. We both became part of the Divine Mercy ministry, sharing our own story, as well as educating people on Divine Mercy and the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Initially, I balanced my medical practice with volunteering in the ministry, but over the ensuing five years, I felt called to leave medicine behind. I cried the day I wrote a letter to the medical board giving up my license to practice medicine. But in my heart, I fully believed God was calling me out of one healing ministry to another; from the physical to the spiritual. Although it meant making big changes in our lifestyle, my wife and I decided we could manage by living off our savings. It was a new path in our walk down the road of life. I knew we needed to fully trust in God.

Years later, the fruit of our healed marriage was born. Our newborn son was special from the start. At his birth, he struggled with life; turning blue and unable to breathe. We prayed intently and he soon stabilized and fully rebounded. A friend distributing Holy Communion walked into the room and said, "Wow, what happened? I can really feel the presence of God."

I understood in my heart how God had truly blessed us. My three daughters did not always fully understand the changes of going from being doctor's kids to children of one dedicated to simple life of service to God. And yet they surely benefited from the renewal of our marriage and my commitment to fatherhood as a holy vocation.

Few months later, I returned home from a conference in the early morning hours. That evening a Mass was going to be celebrated in our home. In spite of very little sleep, I awoke early to take care of some of the outside work. I stepped onto our back patio, opened the gate to our swimming pool, and walked out to the backyard. My son suddenly yelled from the front for help starting the lawnmower. After helping him, I was reminded that it was time to drive my daughter to swim practice. We jumped in the car and hurried off. While on our way, I received a call on my cell phone from my son. "Dad," he said in a strained voice, "my youngest brother is dead. Someone left the pool gate open."

My wife and I had found our baby lifeless; he was not breathing and did not have a palpable heartbeat. As a trained nurse, she was already administering CPR in an effort to pump life back into his little body.

I told the girls what had happened and we immediately said a Hail Mary together. The rest of the drive was spent in tears and silent prayers. "Jesus, have mercy on him and me," I cried. Guilt overwhelmed me as I envisioned my helpless little boy bobbing up and down in the pool, all because I left the gate open. He had been a part of my healing—a child of promise for us. "Jesus, why would You take him from us now?" my heart cried. Then, as I frantically had to wait at a red light, I was suddenly hit with the scripture story from Genesis of Abraham being asked to offer his son, Isaac, up to God. "God, are you asking me for my son?" I asked, my heart breaking. It was the moment of truth for me. I had been preaching trust in God's Divine Mercy for four years. God was calling me to a deeper trust. I wanted my little boy to live. I loved him with all my heart. Could I accept God's will if it meant never holding him again in this life?

"Jesus," I prayed. "I trust in You, in all situations. I submit to Your will, whatever that means." I told God that I did not understand why He would take him from us at this time, but that I offered my son back to

Him. I also thanked God for the time He had given us with him. I told Jesus that I placed my trust in Him and wanted only that His will be done. I reflected on the deep trust of Abraham as he was told to sacrifice Isaac. I felt a deep sense of peace after that.

When we arrived at the house, the emergency squad had also just gotten there. Although my little baby was bloated and unresponsive, my wife felt a slight pulse after doing CPR. I was ecstatic. There was still hope! Upon arriving at the hospital, I called my sister who lives in another town and asked her to pray for my baby that night with her prayer group. Within two days, I saw my sister a couple of weeks later as she drove up to join our family for Thanksgiving. She said to me, "I never told you this story. But the morning following our prayer group, my friend called and said that she knew your baby was going to recover. While praying in the morning, she had a vision of Abraham offering Isaac back to God the Father. Then Jesus, The Divine Mercy, stepped in the middle and gave him back." Tears streamed down my cheeks, and I said to her, "Well, let me tell you the rest of the story ..."

I'm happy to report that our child is now a typical, healthy seven-year-old boy. And the rest of the story is really that I have never been the same since that lesson in trusting Jesus.

Jokes (167)

Prayer

The Indian sage, Narada, was a devotee of the Lord Han. So great was his devotion that he was one day tempted to think that in all the world there was no one who loved God more than him.

The Lord read his heart and said, "Narada, go to this town on the banks of the Granges for a devotee of mine dwells there. Living in his company will do you good."

Narada went and found a farmer who rose early in the morning, pronounced the name of Han only once, then lifted his plough and went out to his fields where he worked all day. Just before he fell asleep at night he pronounced the name of Han once again. Narada thought, "How can this rustic be a devotee of God? I see him immersed all day in his worldly occupations."

Then the Lord said to Narada, "Fill a bowl to the brim with milk and walk all around the city. Then come back without spilling a single drop." Narada did as he was told.

"How many times did you remember me in the course of your walk around the City?" asked the Lord.

"Not once, Lord," said Narada.

"How could I when you commended me to watch that bowl of milk?"

The Lord said, "That bowl so absorbed your attention that you forgot me altogether. But look at that peasant who, though burdened with the cares of supporting a family, remembers me twice every day?"

Truth

A soldier was rushed back home from the front because his father was dying. An exception was made for him because he was all the family his father had.

When he walked into the Intensive Care Ward he suddenly saw that this semi conscious old man with tubes coming out of him wasn't his father. Someone had made a colossal mistake and rushed back the wrong man.

"How much longer does he have to live?" he asked the doctor.

"Not more than a few hours. You've only just made it."

The soldier thought of this dying man's son fighting; God knew where thousands of miles away. He thought of the old man holding on to life in the hope of being with his son one last time before he died. Then he made up his mind, he leaned forward, held the old man's hand and said softly, *"Dad, I'm here. I'm back."*

The dying man clutched at the hand offered to him; his unseeing eyes opened to scan the surroundings: a contented smile spread over his face and remained there till he died about an hour later.

The Saints

One day a bishop knelt before the altar and, in an outburst of religious fervor, began to beat his breast and exclaim, *"I'm a sinner, have mercy on me! I'm a sinner, have mercy on me!"*

The local priest, inspired by this example of humility, fell on his knees beside the bishop and began to beat his breast and say, *"I'm a sinner, have mercy on me! I'm a sinner, have mercy on me!"*

The sexton who happened to be in church the time was so moved he could not restrain himself. He too fell on his knees, beat his breast, and cried out, *"I'm a sinner, have mercy on me."*

Whereupon the bishop nudged the priest and, pointing towards the sexton, said with a smile, *"Look who thinks he's a sinner!"*

Famous Quotes (62)

Jesus' teaching on True and False Prophets and Disciples

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you pretending to be sheep. But on the inside, they are hungry wolves. You can tell each tree by its fruit. Do people pick grapes from bushes? Do they pick figs from thorns? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit. But a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree can't bear bad fruit. And a bad tree can't bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down. It is thrown into the fire. 20 You can tell each tree by its fruit.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven. Only those who do what my Father in heaven wants will enter. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord! Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we drive out demons in your name? Didn't we do many miracles in your name?' Then I will tell them clearly, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who do evil!' (Matthew 7: 15-23)