



March 8, 2026

Bulletin #10

## ***Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church***

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



### ***Sunday of the Prodigal Son***

- \***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
  - \***Weekday Masses:** Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon  
Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.
  - \***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 Servers:** Joe Roxby and Christopher AlKhouri
  - \***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
  - \***Women's Society:** Jeannette Wakim, President
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- \***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.

## *Gospel Reflection: Sunday of the Prodigal son*

Readings: Zech 3:1-7; 2 Cor 13:5-13 and Lk 15:11-32

A preacher showed his congregation a crisp \$20 bill and asked who wants it. All hands went up. Then he crumpled it in his palms and asked who still wanted it. Again, all hands went up. Lastly, he threw it on the ground, marched on it and repeated his question. Still the hands went up. Then he explained to them that the difference between a new, crisp \$20 bill and a rumpled and soiled \$20 in our eyes is the difference between a good person and a bad person in the sight of God. Both are equally acceptable. Basically, both stand equal before God.

In the story that we heard today, both sons were equal in the eye of the loving father. Although the younger one transgressed his rules and went away to live a filthy life. His father never stopped loving him.

His older brother was not much better than him and that was revealed when he raged his anger and refused to come into the house and celebrate the return of his brother who was dead and is back to life now

A teacher was going through the story of the Prodigal Son with the young children. At the end of the story she asked, "Who do you think is the one that ended up in the worst situation?" One of the kids shot up her hands and answered, "The fatted cow." The animal-loving child was certainly correct, but the answer the teacher properly expected was "The elder son." He was the looser.

We don't know what happened to the older son, but he was not in the best positions. Instead of rejoicing that his brother who was presumed dead has come back to life, he is angered by the fact that their father has received him back with a celebration.

We so often act like the elder son. We say "this is unfair, we need justice. He or she is a sinner and deserves punishment." We act as if we were gods or superior to others. Jesus told the hypocrites in the Gospel, "*Whoever of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw the stone.*"

We are all sinners my brothers and sisters and need constantly God's mercy and love. If you are a saint, please don't come to church next week, or better yet come and show us the way to heaven.

Whether your sins are more visible like those of the younger son or more hidden like those of the elder son, the message of the Gospel today is that we all need to repent and return to the father's house.

God's love is far greater than our capacity to love. We often want to punish, God wishes to reconcile, we want to hurt others, God wishes to heal, we want to retaliate, God wishes to forgive. God can forgive what we refuse to forgive. He will always welcome back and rejoices with his angels at the repentance and return of any sinner. Yes, God patiently seeks and awaits the conversion of every person. God will do everything that He can do to save us. He loved us even to the point of dying for us.

Two things I want you to take as a lesson from today's Gospel:

First, that we have a Sacrament in the Church that we call "Reconciliation, or Penance or Confession," that has been forgotten by so many. I urge you to approach it, especially during this season of Holy Lent. As we humbly kneel and recognize our sins, God celebrates our repentance and dresses us with the finest robe, a beautiful ring, and lovely sandals. It is through our union with God, that we experience true joy and peace.

The second thing that I want you to learn and remember from today's Gospel is that we are all called to act like the father in today's Gospel. We are called to forgive and create peace with everyone around us. To love our neighbor as Jesus loved us and even to love our enemies and pray for them.

Jesus said that before you approach the Altar and present your offering, you must reconcile yourself first with anyone that has a problem with you or you have a problem with them. When time comes for Holy Communion, everyone lines up in the aisle, but are we ready to receive the Eucharist worthily? Do we have any grudges, hatred or sinfulness toward anyone? If yes, I should go and reconcile myself with them first and then come and offer my sacrifice and receive Christ into my heart.

If you have a problem with a sibling or an old friend or any person, I urge you to reconcile with them today. Go knock at their doors, pick up the phone and call them, write them a letter of peace and love. Do whatever you have in your power. The choice is yours! Do it today, for tomorrow may be too late for you or them.

The power of Christianity is in love and forgiveness. Even if you do not like someone or get along with them, you must love them.

This is the heart of our Lenten journey, to be forgiven and to forgive. However, if we do not forgive others, we will not be forgiven. Our Father who are in heaven... Forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us.

I hope and pray that this Holy Season will bring a deeper love and appreciation of the gift of forgiveness that God bought for us with the blood of His Son, and I hope that we will all make true peace with everyone around us.

It is at that time that Easter would mean anything to me. It is at that time that I am a child of a Loving Father who loves me and calls me to love so that His kingdom may come and His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

--Rev. Sharbel Maroun, Mpls. 2005

## *Jesus & Fasting*

### **Story of Jesus when he was asked About Fasting**

One day John's disciples came. They said to Jesus, "We and the Pharisees often go without eating. Why don't your disciples go without eating?" Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the groom be sad while he is with them? The time will come when the groom will be taken away from them. Then they will fast.

"People don't sew a patch of new cloth on old clothes. The new piece will pull away from the old. That will make the tear worse. People don't pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst. The wine will run out, and the wineskins will be destroyed. No, people pour new wine into new wineskins. Then both are saved." (Matthew 9:14-17)

## *Meditation for Lent: Fast & Feast*

### ***Lent is a time to Fast, but also a time to Feast.***

Here are a few ways to Fast & Feast:

- 1- FAST from discontent; FEAST on gratitude.
- 2- FAST from anger; FEAST on patience.
- 3- FAST from worry; FEAST on God's providence.
- 4- FAST from lies; FEAST on truth.
- 5- FAST from selfishness; FEAST on compassion for others.
- 6- FAST on laziness; FEAST on enthusiasm.
- 7- FAST from bitterness; FEAST on forgiveness.
- 8- FAST from complaining; FEAST on appreciation.

FAST from hurtful gossip and judging others; FEAST on Christ's dwelling in them and God's perfect love.

## *Miracles of Jesus (1 & 2)*

### **First miracle of Jesus when he changed Water Into Wine**

On the third day there was a wedding. It took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why are you telling me about this?" Jesus replied. "The time for me to show who I really am isn't here yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do what he tells you." Six stone water jars stood nearby. The Jews used water from that kind of jar for special washings. They did that to make themselves pure and "clean." Each jar could hold 20 to 30 gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." So, they filled them to the top. Then he told them, "Now dip some out. Take it to the person in charge of the dinner." They did what he said. The person in charge tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He didn't realize where it had come from. But the servants who had brought the water knew. Then the person in charge called the groom to one side. He said to him, "Everyone brings out the best wine first. They bring out the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink. But you have saved the best until now." What Jesus did here in Cana in Galilee was the first of his signs. Jesus showed his glory by doing this sign. And his disciples believed in him. (John 2:1-11)

### **Second miracle of Jesus when he healed an Official's Son**

After the two days, Jesus left for Galilee. He himself had pointed out that a prophet is not respected in his own country. When he arrived in Galilee, the people living there welcomed him. They had seen everything he had

done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast. That was because they had also been there. Once more, Jesus visited Cana in Galilee. Cana is where he had turned the water into wine. A royal official was there. His son was sick in bed at Capernaum. The official heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea. So, he went to Jesus and begged him to come and heal his son. The boy was close to death. Jesus told him, "You people will never believe unless you see signs and wonders." The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." "Go," Jesus replied. "Your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said, and so he left. While he was still on his way home, his slaves met him. They gave him the news that his boy was living. He asked what time his son got better. They said to him, "Yesterday, at one o'clock in the afternoon, the fever left him." Then the father realized what had happened. That was the exact time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So, he and his whole family became believers. (John 4:43-54)

## ***Diocesan Lenten Appeal***

The Lenten Appeal for the Eparchy (Diocese) of Our Lady of Lebanon is currently underway. A letter from Bishop A. Elias Zaidan regarding the Appeal will be sent to every family, and copies are also accessible online at [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org). The Eparchy counts on your support to uphold our Maronite parishes, to train our future Maronite priests, and to continue charitable efforts at home and abroad. We encourage every family to take part in the Appeal and to give generously. Also you received letter from our church for the same Appeal. Donations can be made to our church or to the Eparchy (Diocese). Please consider supporting your Eparchy. Thank you!

### **Many Thanks for those who fulfilled their 2026 Diocesan Appeal:**

**In Honor of:** Randy Weisner, Thomasina Geimer, George & Patty Fahey, Angele Mansor (OH), Earl & Linda Duffy, Timothy & Diane Pack, Dr. MaryAnn Cater,

### **In Memory of:**

- Dr. A.D.Ghaphery donated \$500.00 in Memory of his Parents and Family Members
- Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac in Memory of his parents & Family members
- Assad Rahi in Memory of his wife Chamse Rahi
- Denny Albaugh in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Albaugh Family
- Janet D. Shutler in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Shutler and Nolte Families
- Jean Weisner in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Weisner & Joseph Families
- Ron & Kim Gibbons in Memory of the Gibbons and Otterbeck Families
- Mark Schroeder in Memory of his parents Helen and Al Schroeder
- Frank & Anna Marie Duymich in Memory of their parents Frank Sr. & Mary Lou Duymich
- Debbie Huffman in Memory of Freddie Oser
- Dennis & Mary Lee Porter in Memory of the Schweizer & Porter Families
- Scott & Alicia Peklinsky in Memory of Chamse Rahi
- Susan John in Memory of John T. & Cecilia John
- Al Depto and Mary C. Davis in Memory of Shirley Bine
- Millet L. Fadoul in Memory of Susie Marie Fadoul
- Bill & Tricia Committee in Memory of Fred & Rita John, Fred John Jr., & Michael John
- David & Greg John In Memory of their mother Cecilia John
- Sue Jochum in Memory of the Shia & Jochum Families
- Jack Palmer DDS in Memory of Pete & Peggy Palmer & Dr. Joe Palmer
- Marge John in Memory of the Joseph John Family
- Cathy Goodson in Memory of her mother Evelyn Goodson
- Sharon & Thomas Beatty in Memory of Susie Fadoul
- Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn in Memory of the Frenn & Thomas Families
- Luane Frazier in Memory of her beloved husband Richard W. Frazier
- Denise Ferris in Memory of her parents Tom & Mary K. Ferris
- Dee Shiben in Memory of her husband John E. Shiben
- Jackie & Pat petros in memory of Geo & Dolores Fahey and Phil & Betty Lou Petros
- Elsie Renzella in Memory of Nicole & Filomena Renzella and Family
- Rob Wodusky in Memory of his mother Mary (Coram) Puperi

- Judy Bedway in Memory of her husband Nick Bedway
- Anna Bris in Memory of her father Ronald Bris
- Nancy Joseph in Memory of Kenny, Bryan Joseph
- John Ritts in Memory of his wife Opal Ritts
- Joe Roxby in Memory of his mother Eugene Roxby
- Gary Weisner in Memory of Linda Hostutler
- Carol Burkhart in Memory of her husband Dana Burkhart and her mother Catherine Arthur
- Nettie Seidler in Memory of the Abraham & Mary George Family
- Juliette Ghaphery-Breit in memory of her husband William Breit
- Nick A. Ghaphery, Jr. in Memory of his mother Nimnoon and his sister Wadad
- Mark & Barb McLaughlin in Memory of the Elias & Selma Joseph and Sara McLaughlin Families

## *Mass Schedule, next Weekend: Sat. 7 and Sunday 8*

### **Saturday, March 7, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Fran Saseen by Anna Battista
- ✠ Betty Abraham, Clara Carter, Evelyn Goodson by Jean Weisner and Family
- ✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise

### **Sunday, March 8, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:**

- ✠ Fran Saseen by gary Weisner
- ✠ Tom Quinn by his Family
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

## *Next Weekdays Mass Schedule*

**Monday, March 9:** No Mass. Pastor's day off.

### **Tuesday, March 10, Mass at Noon:**

- ✠ Sam Jacovetty (Anniversary) by Patty & George Fahey
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

**Wednesday, March 11:** No Mass.

### **Thursday, March 12, Mass at noon:**

- ✠ Robert & Laurel Kate Matiasek by their Last Will
- ✠ Fran Saseen by Jim & Sandy Schlog
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

### **Friday, March 13, Mass at 5:30 followed by Stations of the Cross**

- ✠ Tom Quinn by his Family
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family
- ✠ Fran Saseen by Patricia Day and Liesl Rowe

## *Mass Schedule, next Weekend: Sat. 14 and Sunday 15*

### **Saturday, March 14, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Vincent Blake (Birthday) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda and Mary Blake Sigler & Family
- ✠ Fran Saseen by Patricia Day and Liesl Rowe
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

### **Sunday, March 15, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:**

- ✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Merle McConn (Birthday) by Mary ragase
- ✠ Mary Joseph Shipley (Anniversary) and Robby Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer

## *Coming Events in a glimpse*

March 15	Cedar Club meeting after 10:30 am Mass
March 29	Palm Sunday
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 19	First Communion celebration. See below
May 11-16	Spring Bake Sale Monday, May 11: Onion Prep Tuesday, May 12: Prep meat, roll kibbee balls Wednesday, May 13: Bake kibbee Thursday, May 14: Bake meat pies Saturday, May 16: Pick up orders
Sunday, August 9	Mahrajan (Lebanese Festival) See details below

## ***First Communion Celebration (Sunday, April 19)***

Dear Parishioners,

Msgr. Bakhos and the parents of the three candidates for First Communion (Eloise Chapman, Miriam Sable and Blaze Smay) cordially invite you to the celebration of the First Communion. It will take place on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> during Mass. A complimentary brunch sponsored by their parents will be served to all parishioners after Mass. A special table decorated in white will be set in the middle of the Hall for the three candidates. Please let the candidates feel very “special” on their First Communion and make it a day to remember all their lives by bringing to everyone of them a small gift or a small monetary present in an envelope. They will appreciate you welcoming them to the community. A box of envelopes will be available in the Cedar Hall. --Msgr. Bakhos



## ***Easter Lillies Donated in Memory of:***

Please donate \$25.00 to sponsor a lilly or a hyacinth toward decoration the Tomb of Christ and the altar of the church at Easter. The following generous parishioners donated Easter Flowers In Loving Memory of:

- ✦ Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family
- ✦ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris
- ✦ Adib & Sadie (parents), Nadim (brother), Mona (sister) by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac
- ✦ Pearl Shutler by her daughter Janet Shutler
- ✦ Opal Ritts by her husband John Ritts
- ✦ John & Mary Ritts by their son John Ritts
- ✦ John T. & Cecilia John by Ron & Susan Burns
- ✦ Philip Geimer & all the Deceased Family members of Thomasina Geimer
- ✦ Rick Frazier by his wife Luane Frazier
- ✦ Mary Stees by Jay & liz Murad
- ✦ George & Martha Saseen and Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen and Family
- ✦ Shirley Elias Nickerson and Deceased members of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ✦ Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph and Weisner Families
- ✦ Kenny Joseph by his wife Nancy and the Tucker Family
- ✦ In honor of Dennis & Mary Lee Porter
- ✦ In honor of Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- ✦ In honor of Anthony & Amanda Sable and Family
- ✦ In honor of Frank & Anna Marie Duymich
- ✦ In honor of Michael Duymich
- ✦ In honor of Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✦ In honor of Dr. Nabel & Nisrine Alkhouri & Family
- ✦ In honor of Veronica Mushet
- ✦ In Honor of Janet Shutler
- ✦ In honor of Alicia Peklinsky Family
- ✦ In Honor of Debbie Huffman

## ***May Crowning Procession (Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> after Mass)***

The May Queen this year will be Eloise Chapman, the daughter of Matt and Senator Laura Wakim-Chappman. She is the granddaughter of Chris and Jeannette Wakim. The procession will take place on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> after Mass. All parishioners are invited to a complimentary brunch sponsored by the parents and grandparents of the May Queen.

## ***Lebanese Festival News (Sunday, August 9 from 11 to 6 pm)***

**Outdoor Mass** (Sunday Mass will be at 10:00 am not 10:30 am at Oglebay Park. There will be no Mass at the church that Sunday.)

### **Volunteers:**

--If you are able to volunteer 2 hours at the festival, please call Msgr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Thanks

### **Inflatable Booth:**

--Many Thanks to Tracy Shia and Molly Powell for accepting the responsibility to be the chairpersons of the Inflatables.

### **Diamond Sponsors:**

If you are blessed and able to sponsor one of the four inflatables for the children to play, your name will be published in the Ad Book on the Diamond Level. With your generosity, children can play all day long for \$5.00 instead of \$50.00 if we hire an inflatable company. Let us make everyone happy. Donation is \$450.00

--1<sup>st</sup> Diamond Sponsor: Rob Wodusky sponsored the first inflatable. Many Thanks and May God bless you.

--2<sup>nd</sup> Diamond Sponsors: sponsored by anonymous couple. Many Thanks and May God bless you.

--3<sup>rd</sup> Diamond Sponsor: ??????????

--4<sup>th</sup> Diamond Sponsor: ??????????????????

### **Golden Sponsors:**

--Don & Lori Nickerson donated a \$100 door prize in Honor of their children Emma & Eli (Golden Sponsors)

### **No Canope or Pop-ups at the Festival:**

The Festival committee decided not to allow anyone to bring his/her own canope or pop-up tent to the festival ground -that is rented by the church- for insurance and safety reasons. The committee will ask the owners to remove their pop-up immediately.

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

March 15: Shelby Imer  
 March 16: Mia Ferrera  
 March 18: Kenny Imer, Bill Stees, Patrick Petros  
 March 21: Caroline Stees McDowell  
 March 22: Jennifer Imer  
 March 26: Joseph John  
 March 30: Greg John  
 April 1: Patrick Sengewalt  
 April 6: Ronald Weisner  
 April 8: Jesse John

## ***Stations of the Cross (Fridays during Lent)***

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. It will be followed by the Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Cross. The "Stations of the Cross" is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until His death and burial on Mount Calvary. Many Thanks to these generous families who sponsored light Lenten meal dinners for social hour after the Stations of the Cross. If any other family wants to participate in the meal for social hour, please ask and join the families listed below.

Date:	Volunteers Who are sponsoring the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 13	Meal Sponsors: Susan & Ron Burns and Pat Stees & Libby Magnone ✓
5 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 20	Meal Sponsors: Ron & Kim Gibbons and Msgr Bakhos ✓
6 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 27	Meal Sponsors: Dr. Nabil & Nisrine Alkhouri ✓
Good Friday, April 3	Meal Sponsors: The Cedar Club & Parishioners
Easter Sunday, April 5	Happy Easter

## ***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)*

Lisa Kennedy (daughter of Carol Dougherty, OK), Joe Popovich, Earl & Linda Duffy, Nini Miller, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage, John Frazier. (son of Luane Frazier),

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

\$1,277.00	Sunday Collection
341.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> collection: Caritas Lebanon
1,200.00	Diocesan Appeal
66.00	Candles
11.00	Coffee hour
250.00	Donation to the church
450.00	Donation to the Mahrajan by Anonymous couple. Many Thanks
\$3,595.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Kourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

## ***Around Us***

### ***Trip to France (May 19-28)***

Join Bishop Elias Zaidan to Lourdes and other important sites in France including Paris, Lisieux, Saint Michael, Normandie, and Bordeaux.

Double occupancy: \$4,000 per person.

Contact: Ivette Jackson at 323-336-3168

Jamileh Koury at 818-294-2901. or email [info@eparchy.org](mailto:info@eparchy.org).

### ***Question & Answer (#58)***

Question #58: "Why is it so important to go to church?"

Answer: Why is it important for a lover to be with his beloved? If we love God, we will want to spend time with Him in the way He wants us to. God wants us to go to church, to give ourselves to Him in worship. And He wants us to do it through His Son's own self-surrender and sacrifice, the Eucharist. All that requires our going to church as God commands.

Another reason for going to church: We receive special graces from worshiping God and from receiving the Eucharist. Going to church can change us and convert our hearts. It can teach us we are not the center of the universe — God is — and He deserves our praise and thanksgiving.

One more point: If we're not worshiping God, we're probably worshiping something else — ourselves, television, a movie star or a sports team. Not going to church doesn't mean we won't worship anything, but that we'll worship the wrong thing.

## ***Spirituality: Eucharist as source of joy***

HIS LIBERALITY AND MERCY ARE HERE MANIFESTED MORE VIVIDLY THAN IN THE OTHER SACRAMENTS

None can be compared to the Eucharist. By Baptism, it is true, we receive the title of God's children; heaven is opened to us in consequence, and we are made participators in all the treasures of the Church. By Penance, the wounds of our soul are healed, and the friendship of God is restored to us. By Confirmation, Jesus Christ gives us the Spirit of light and power. By Extreme Unction, he clothes us with the merits of his death and passion. By Holy Orders, he communicates to the priest all his powers. By Matrimony, he sanctifies all our actions, even those in which man seems only to follow natural inclinations. Mercies truly worthy of a God who is in all things infinite!

"But all this seems to be only an apprenticeship of his love for men in the adorable Sacrament of the Eucharist he goes further." He gives us himself; we receive here not the application of his precious Blood, but the author of grace as well.

The Eucharist is Jesus in all his different states it is Nazareth where he renews his Incarnation, Bethlehem where he is mystically born, Galilee where he continues to teach souls and to move them with his grace, the Calvary on which he offers himself in sacrifice. It is Jesus prolonging his life and his benefits in our midst.

What a happiness was the aged Simeon's when he was "pressing to his love-laden heart the child Jesus, who was enkindling and consuming that heart!" "Now, Lord, let me die," he cried out... Truly he was in ecstasy.

But we, are we not happier than Simeon? He could keep Jesus only for an instant; we can keep him always, if we will. He comes not only into our arms, but into our heart

THE EUCHARIST, SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL JOY RESULTING FROM OUR LORD'S PRESENCE

"When we go to Holy Communion, we feel something extraordinary, a well-being which runs through the whole body from head to foot. What is this well-being? It is our Lord, who imparts himself to every part of our body, making it thrill with joy. We are compelled to say, like St John, It is the Lord! Those who feel nothing at all are much to be pitied!

When you have had the happiness of receiving the good God, you feel for some time a gladness, a balm in your heart... Pure souls are always like that; and this union is their strength and happiness.

--The Cure d'Ars

## ***Wisdom: Attitude***

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearances, giftedness, or skill.

It will make or break a company... a church... a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past...

We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way.

We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so, it is with you...

We are in charge of our attitude.

## ***Story***

"It is the habitual thought that frames itself into our life. It affects us even more than our intimate social relations do. Our confidential friends have not so much to do in shaping our lives as the thoughts which we harbor."

Why do we have to learn all of this dumb stuff?” Of all the complaints and questions I have heard from my students during my years in the classroom, this was the one most frequently uttered. I would answer it by recounting the following legend.

“One night a group of nomads were preparing to retire for the evening when suddenly they were surrounded by a great light. They knew they were in the presence of a celestial being. With great anticipation, they awaited a heavenly message of great importance that they knew must be especially for them. Finally, the voice spoke. “Gather as many pebbles as you can. Put them in your saddle bags. Travel a day’s journey and tomorrow night will find you glad and it will find you sad. After having departed, the nomads shared their disappointment and anger with each other. They had expected the revelation of a great universal truth that would enable them to create wealth, health and purpose for the world. But instead, they were given a menial task that made no sense to them at all. However, the memory of the brilliance of their visitor caused each one to pick up a few pebbles and deposit them in their saddle bags while voicing their displeasure. They traveled a day’s journey and that night while making camp, they reached into their saddle bags and discovered every pebble they had gathered had become a diamond. They were glad they had diamonds. They were sad they had not gathered more pebbles.”

It was an experience I had with a student, I shall call Steve, early in my teaching career that illustrated the truth of that legend to me. When Steve was in the eighth grade, he majored in “trouble” with a minor in “suspensions.” He had studied how to be a bully and was getting his master’s in “thievery.” Every day I had my students memorize a quotation from a great thinker. As I called roll, I would begin a quotation. To be counted present, the student would be expected to finish the thought. “There is no failure except .. ” In no longer trying. ‘I’m present, Mr.’ So, by the end of the year, my young charges would have memorized 150 great thoughts. “Think you can, think you can’t -either way you’re right!”

“If you can see the obstacles, you’ve taken your eyes off the goal.” “A cynic is someone who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.” And “If you can conceive it, and believe it, you can achieve it.” No one complained about this daily routine more than Steve -right up to the day he was expelled and I lost touch with him for five years. Then one day, he called. He was in a special program at one of the neighboring colleges and had just finished parole. He told me that after being sent to juvenile hail and finally being shipped off to the authority for his antics, he had become so disgusted with himself that he had taken a razor blade and cut his wrists. He said, “You know, as I lay there with my life running out of my body, I suddenly remembered that dumb quote you made me write 20 times one day. ‘There is no failure except in no longer trying.’ Then it suddenly made sense to me. As long as I was alive, I wasn’t a failure, but if I allowed myself to die, I would most certainly die a failure. So, with my remaining strength, I called for help and started a new life.” At the time he had heard the quotation, it was a pebble. When he needed guidance in a moment of crisis, it had become a diamond. And so, it is to you I say, gather all the pebbles you can, and you can count on a future filled with diamonds.

## *Jokes (211)*

### ***Do As I Don’t, Not As I Say***

Time after time, a well-meaning pastor prayed publicly: “*Lord, be with those who are sick of us.*”

Finally someone took him aside and explained that the prayer actually was, “*Be with those who are sick among us.*”

### ***Read ‘Em and Weep***

Actual reference queries reported by American and Canadian library reference-desk workers: “*Do you have books here?*” “*Do you have a list of all the books written in the English language?*”

“*I’m looking for Robert James Waller’s book, WALZING THROUGH GRAND RAPIDS, (Actual title: Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend.)*”

“*Do you have that book by Rushdie: SATANIC NURSES? (Actual title: SATANIC VERSES.)*”

“*I was here about three weeks ago looking at a cookbook that cost: \$39.95. Do you know which one it is?*”

“*Which outlets in the library are appropriate for my hair dryer?*”

*"Can you tell me why so many famous Civil War battles were fought on National Park sites?"*

*"Do you have any books with photographs of dinosaurs?"*

*"I need a color photograph of George Washington [Christopher Columbus, King Arthur, Moses, Socrates... II*

*"I need to find out Ibid's first name for my bibliography."*

*"Why don't you have any books by Ibid? Ibid has written a lot of important stuff, you know."*

## ***Colonial Flip***

Reading between the lines? In early America, paper was of poor quality, but it cost a day's wages. To avoid an expense, colonists started letters at the top of a page, but when it was full, they turned top-for-bottom and continued writing between the lines of what had already been written. In order to decipher a letter, therefore, the recipient of the letter had to *"read between the lines."* During this period, *"big wigs"* wore large expensive wigs as status symbols. During an argument, any vigorous physical agitation could dislodge the headpiece and send the wig flying. When that happened, the person was said to have *"flipped his wig."* And the phrase *"pulling the wool over your eyes"* comes from a favorite prank of that time.

## ***Chasing Two Hares***

If you chase two hares, both will escape you.

## ***Lost Faster***

Pilot over intercom to passengers: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is we are ahead of schedule. The bad news is we are lost."

## ***Realistic Goals***

Two friends went camping in the woods. They woke up the first morning and were standing by their tent having their first cup of coffee when they suddenly spotted a grizzly bear heading for them at full speed. Quickly, the one man reached down and grabbed his sneakers and started putting them on. The other man looked at him and said, "What are you doing? Do you think you can outrun that grizzly bear?" The first man said, "No, and I don't need to. All I need to do is outrun you!"