



May 2014

## Greetings!

May is the month of our Blessed Mother, Mary, and this is the month in which we remember our Mothers, living and deceased. Oh, the prayer warriors we have interceding for us! Magnificat, being a Ministry to Catholic Women, places on each of us a special calling to be mothers to those entrusted to our care, whether biologically or spiritually.

Happy Mother's Day to all!

Blessings,



*Kathy MacInnis*

Central Service Team

Kathy MacInnis, Coordinator

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**Volume 5 Issue 14**

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## Holy Father's Monthly Intentions



### Mary 2014

**Media.** That the media may be instruments in the service of truth and peace.

**Mary's Guidance.** That Mary, Star of Evangelization, may guide the Church in proclaiming Christ to all nations.

### June 2014

**Unemployed.** That the unemployed may receive support and find the work they need to live in dignity.

**Faith in Europe.** That Europe may rediscover its Christian roots through the witness of believers.

### July 2014

**Sports.** That sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth.

**Lay Missionaries.** That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest of countries.

### August 2014

**Refugees.** That refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and protection of their rights.

**Oceania.** That Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all people in that region.

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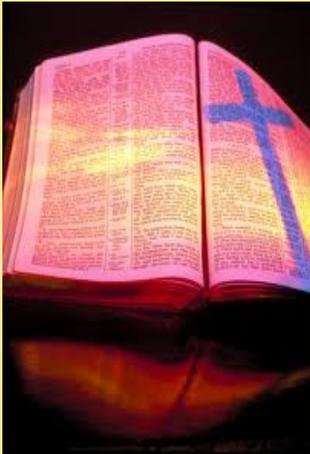
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## Liturgy of the Hours

Office of Readings

Second Reading

From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop

*Rejoice in the Lord always*

The Apostle tells us to rejoice, but in the Lord, not in the world. *Whoever wishes to be a friend of this world, says Scripture, will be reckoned an enemy of God. As a man cannot serve two masters, so one cannot rejoice both in the world and in the Lord.*

Let joy in the Lord prevail, then, joy in the world is no more. Let joy in the Lord go on increasing; let joy in the world go on decreasing until it is no more. This is said, not because we are not to rejoice while we are in the world, but in order that, even while we are still in this world, we may already rejoice in the Lord.

You may object: I am in the world; if I rejoice I certainly rejoice where I am. What is this? Do you mean that because you are in the world you are not in the Lord? Listen again to the Apostle, speaking now to the Athenians: in the Acts of the Apostles he says this of God and the Lord our creator: *In him we live and move and have our being.* If he is everywhere, where is he not? Surely this was what he was exhorting us to realize. *The Lord is near, so not be anxious about anything.*

This is a great truth, that he ascended above all the heavens, yet is near to those on earth. Who is this stranger and neighbor if not the one who became our neighbor out of compassion?

The man lying on the road, left half-dead by robbers, the man treated with contempt by the priest and the Levite who passed by, the man approached by the passing Samaritan to take care of him and help him, that man is the whole human race. When the immortal one, the holy one, was far removed from us because we were mortal and sinners, he came down to us, so that he, the stranger, might become our neighbor.

*He did not treat us as our sins deserved.* For we are now sons of God. How do we show this? The only son of God died for us, so that he might not remain alone. He who died as the only Son did not want to remain as the only Son. For the only Son of God made many sons of God. He bought brothers for himself by his blood; he made them welcomed by being rejected; he ransomed them by being sold; he honored them by being dishonored; he gave them life by being put to death.

So, brethren, *rejoice in the Lord*, not in the world. That is, rejoice in the truth, not in wickedness; rejoice in the hope of eternity, not in the fading flower of vanity. That is the way to rejoice. Wherever you are on earth, however long you remain on earth, *the Lord is near, do not be anxious about anything.*

## The Canonization of Two Beloved Popes

By Nancy Skok, CST

The rain in the forecast could not dampen the spirits of the millions who had traveled for this incredible event. This special day would be remembered by the millions who were in Rome to celebrate. The city was packed. Our group met with people from Togo who were living in Paris. They had driven to Rome and had no place to stay. They were sitting at sidewalk tables soaking up the graces of the moment. They were enjoying just being there with fellow pilgrims. We saw a group carrying a Lebanese flag. Carol Dazzio said hello and asked them if they were familiar with Fr. Labacki, a friend of Carol and Pete's for many years. One of the pilgrims was from the same town and lived next door to Fr. Labacki! Amazing!



Screens were set up all over the city so the millions who were not able to get close to the square would be able to see and hear. Even way in the back, near Castle San Angelo, Pope Francis' voice and the Mass responses could be heard.

Of course, there were huge groups of Polish pilgrims, 1500 buses came from Poland. They were dressed in their traditional costumes and waving flags, marching in groups and singing. They were so joyful and proud of their native son who had been elevated to sainthood.



We were unable to get into St. Peter's Square. Many people, mostly young, were camping on the street. Walking around Rome on Saturday evening, soaking up the excitement of the crowds, gave us a tremendous sense of belonging to the beautiful Roman Catholic Church of ours. We did manage to get into St. Peter's one morning so that our little group could celebrate Mass together.

Our group, the Magnificent Seven, was made up of myself, Carol and Pete Dazzio, Kathy and Johnny Hains, Dr. Bruce Kestler, and Fr. Al Davidson. What wonderful memories for us to cherish from this second trip to Rome together!

**Fr. Kevin's Korner**  
**Magnificat CST Spiritual Advisor**  
**Fr. Kevin Scallon, C.M.**



**Saint John XXIII**

I was still in the seminary when John XXIII was elected in October 1958. Our director came to tell us the news that Angelo Roncalli had been elected Pope, a seventy-eight year old Cardinal whom no one had ever heard of. Our director had just returned from Rome with his doctorate in Canon Law *under his arm*. Pius XII had been Pope: a giant and a saint. The director stood ashen-faced before us telling us that Roncalli had been elected, and then he added, uncharacteristically for him: "I don't think the Holy Spirit had much to do with this." Within a week, Pope Pius XII was forgotten and this little rotund smiling man was winning the whole world by his wit and joy.

The Cardinals who elected him would have considered him, to use a football idiom, "a safe pair of hands" who would surely do nothing to rock the barque of Peter. Pope John was probably thinking "well have I got news for you." What did he do? Out of the blue he called an Ecumenical Council, now known to us as Vatican II. All the Cardinals in the Vatican and many outside thought this little new Pope had lost the run of himself. By academic training Pope John was an historian. He had acquired a doctorate in church history as a young priest, so he knew a lot about how the Church had fared down the ages. It would have been hard to shock or surprise him.

In his meetings with the Cardinals in preparation for the Council he observed a lot of heated exchanges. When this occurred, instead of offering a solution, he would begin to talk about his father who was a farmer in Bergamo. His observations about sowing seeds and patiently waiting seemed to diffuse many debates and brought people back to quietness and to an acceptance of other people's view points. Many stories have been told about him. Once when someone asked him how many people worked in the Vatican, he answered "about half." But shortly after that, he decided to double their wages. I remember after his election how he found a sweater which his priest's secretary from Bergamo had left behind. The Pope sent it to him with a note: "in the cold of Bergamo, you will need this more than I do." I read another story in a newspaper around the same time about an Anglican (Episcopal) priest who left his new Latin breviary in St. Peter's. He wrote to the administrator there, who gave the letter to Pope John, and guess what he did? He wrote to the priest and sent him the four volumes of his own breviary with a note asking the priest to pray for the Pope.

What I have learned from Pope John is that life is essentially about becoming a saint, becoming holy. You see this in his book "Journal of a Soul." As Papal Nuncio in Eastern Europe, he helped all the poor people who came to see him, and enabled many Jewish people to escape to safety and freedom. Indeed he and Pope John Paul II have brought about an extraordinary healing between Christians and Jews. When Pope John saw a need, he did something. When he saw a needy person, he never asked any questions. Saints act like this, and Pope John taught us that real Christ-like holiness should permeate everything we do, every moment of our lives. Let us pray then to Saint John XXIII and ask him to intercede for the Church, for Magnificat, and for the whole world. Amen.

## **Marian Consecration and Spiritual Motherhood**

By Kathleen Beckman, CST Advisory Team Member



At the closing of the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops they turned to Mary, Star of the New Evangelization and reminded us to entrust ourselves to her:

The figure of Mary guides us on our way. Our journey, as Pope Benedict XVI told us, can seem like a path across the desert; we know that we must take it, bringing with us what is essential: the gift of the Spirit, the company of Jesus, the truth of his word, the Eucharistic bread which nourishes us, the fellowship of ecclesial communion, the impetus of charity. It is the water of the well that makes the desert bloom. As stars shine more brightly at night in the desert, so the light of Mary, the

Star of the new evangelization, brightly shines in heaven on our way. To her we confidently entrust ourselves. (Rome, October 26, 2012)

Entrusting ourselves to Mary becomes especially real through the spiritual exercise of Marian Consecration as taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort and St. Maximilian Kolbe. This lived reality of communion with Mary is exemplified more recently in the lives of saints such as Saint John Paul II and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

The founding team of Magnificat entrusted this ministry to the united Sacred and Immaculate Hearts in 1981. The fruit of such entrustment has manifested in glorious ways in many nations where this ministry has spread without any formal promotion except the breath of the Spirit and the shared personal testimony of thousands of women.

Marian Consecration is a covenant of love that results in the union of our hearts with Mary's. Various saints and the tradition of the Church tell us that this is the surest pathway to Jesus. Our new unity with Mary draws us into her mission on earth. What is Mary's mission? To birth Jesus on earth! God formed Mary to bring Jesus into the world, made her the Mother of the Eternal High Priest, and then made her the Mother of all priests.

While Mary's spiritual motherhood of all the faithful began at the Incarnation, it was at the foot of the cross that her expiring Son Jesus commissioned her to behold John the Beloved as her son. Jesus made evident the primacy of Mary's maternity of priests when, with some of his last dying breaths, he labored to say from the Cross, "Behold, your son." John became the icon of Jesus for Mary, and Mary became the Mother of all priests. She would serve him as she served Jesus. John is the continuation of the mission of the Eternal High Priest. Mary beholds the beloved apostle as her own son. She gives the first fruits of her maternal heart to John, Peter, and every priest down through the ages.

At the foot of the cross was also Mary Magdalene. Was she not also consecrated to Jesus through Mary since she had completely converted and was always close to the Lord and His Mother? It seems logical that Mary of Nazareth formed the holy women of the early Church to assist her in her spiritual support of priests. Women like Mary Magdalene would have been Mary's first spiritual daughters.

Now, many centuries later, there exists a spiritual army of women who place themselves at Mary's disposal. Marian Consecration has formed this army, which is also a sisterhood. Mary's daughters are her pupils in the art of spiritual maternity of priests. Humble but mighty in the Spirit, they are flower buds being cultivated in the rich soil of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These daughters are desirous of living a life of poverty of spirit, humility, silence, prayer, mortification, and charity. They now come forth to defend the faith and uphold the priests on the frontlines of a spiritual war.

## **Marian Consecration and Spiritual Motherhood - continued**

Mary teaches us not only how to pray for priests but also how to serve them according to God's will. Spiritual mothers of priests carry them to the immaculate womb of Mary, where they are formed anew by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mary teaches us how to offer humble and hidden acts of reparation and sacrifice. She positions her daughters like spiritual hedges of protection around her priest-sons. She sends her well-schooled daughters to make prayer vigils on the watchtower of the Cross. She dresses her daughters in the supple spiritual armor of her mantle of grace. This army of Marian women form a fulcrum of spiritual sanctity to help press Mary's heel onto the head of the serpent, who, above all, attacks the shepherds in order to scatter the sheep.

God ordained that Mary protect priests with her maternal grace. He also ordained that Mary have her retinue of daughters to work with her in the service of the priesthood.

What are the first fruits of being a woman consecrated to Jesus through Mary? Spiritual maternity of priests! God asks spiritual daughters of Mary to behold her priest-sons.

What is the urgency? The anguished cry of the Church is a unified, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Consecration to Mary and spiritual maternity of priests will help bring about a renewed, illuminated, humbler, stronger, poorer, yet resplendent Church at the threshold of a New Pentecost, waiting in joyful expectation for the Eucharistic reign of Jesus.

I am writing this reflection for Magnificat after returning from my visitation to the Aruba Magnificat Chapter where I spoke at their Sunday Brunch. Among the 200 women present were three priests who sat at the table with the service team and me. When Father introduced himself to me he said, "I like Magnificat-the women are alive! The faith is alive in them!" What a compliment! When Marian women who are alive in the Spirit surround priests, they are given an infusion of new life.

Priests give us Jesus in the Eucharist, forgive our sins, baptize our children and anoint our sick. We, daughters of Mary, give them some of Mary's joyful love, affirmation and sacrifice. Our Marian consecration is lived out when the first fruit becomes spiritual maternity of priests. Magnificat spiritual maternity of priests is not limited to Magnificat Meals. It goes deeper when we offer our sufferings for priests; offer our Holy Communion or Holy Hours for the sanctification of priests and vocations.

At the Magnificat Brunch, Father also shared with me that he could barely keep up with the needs of his parishioners on the Island. Just the night before a family brought to his rectory a young boy who was fully possessed. What would Mary do? Pray for the priest who is alter Christus!

(Adapted from Kathleen's newest book: Praying for Priests: A Mission for the New Evangelization to be released in July by Sophia Institute Press)

## CST At-Large Advisory Team Member – Diane Dundenhoefer



The CST is constantly amazed at the caliber of women the Lord keeps raising up for leadership in Magnificat! Diane joins us on the Advisory Team as Formation Chairwoman. Diane graciously said YES when asked to take over the reins of Chapters in Formation from Kathy MacInnis. The formation process is very detailed and since Kathy administered the program for the process for the past 15 years, she knew she would recognize the person that would be needed when the Lord presented them. Kathy knew of Diane's background in education as teacher for over 27 years, as an Asst. Administrator of a Charter School, and a participant in a 5 year diocesan course in Ministry Formation.

Wow! Her background is foundational and her enthusiasm for our ministry are the precise ingredients to handle this very important piece of our ministry. She entered the Charismatic Renewal through a talk at an Episcopal Church when she went to hear a presentation on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. She was prayed with there and received a complete healing from Rheumatoid Arthritis in the following weeks. She and her husband started a prayer group which met weekly for many years. When her women's prayer group discovered Magnificat, and the beauty of devotion for Mary, coupled with the Life in the Spirit, she knew she was supposed to be in our ministry. She was on the founding team of Our Lady of the Lake Chapter in Huron, OH which is beginning its 8th year, and is presently Assistant Coordinator of that Chapter. Diane is very excited to be able to help other women in the formation process so that our Chapters can be beacons of light and hope all across this nation and beyond to the nations of the world. God is so good!

## Visitation Experience

By Kay Burkot, CST Advisory Team Member

The "visitation experience" is an example of helping someone in need. The role model, of course, is Mary's "Visitation" to Elizabeth. I would like to share an example of a visitation that is taking place in Pittsburgh.

It's a story about Nancy. Nancy and I have a mutual friend. My friend once served as one of Nancy's volunteers, and told me what Nancy is doing for the homeless people of Pittsburgh.

It all started with an overcoat. Nancy felt led to give a homeless person an overcoat. Soon after, she felt God was calling her to do more. Now, Nancy drives downtown every Monday night to help the homeless. She begins with prayer, and then hands out food, coats, blankets, and clothing. As she hands out the items, she talks with each person individually, making them feel special.

Nancy is in her 70s, and has been serving the homeless in Pittsburgh for 20 years. She bought the house next door to hers to store donated materials. She shuns publicity, claiming that it is God's work, and she can't take the credit.



And the man who received that first overcoat – he now has a full time job and is helping others less fortunate.

## Motherhood by the Numbers

By Julie Goodrow, Atlanta Chapter



My story could begin in so many ways; how I met my husband in high school, or how we both would say we wanted 4 kids before we were even talking about marriage, or with saying "yes" to my high school sweet heart and best friend in 2000, or the day we realized we didn't want to be bored anymore so we should start a family. However, I think it best to start with the story of how my plan for my life and family collided with God's plan.

Our first child, Elena, born in 2004 almost didn't make it. She was very sick due to complications from a meconium ileus, an intestinal blockage that is a sign of having Cystic Fibrosis (CF). We watched as our little baby who was only a few days old was in and out of surgeries and for several months her life was uncertain. Her diagnosis with CF was a surprise to our entire family. None of us knew we were carriers of this life shortening genetic disease that affects the lungs, pancreas, and digestive system.

Our plan was to have our first baby, wait a year or two until the next baby, and so on until we reached that magical number 4 in our brain. However, with the CF diagnosis, our plan began to fade. We had daily realizations of the emotional pain, physical exhaustion, and financial expense of life with CF. It took us three years to open our thoughts and our hearts to another child. Our love for children was vast and we learned that we may be able to expand our family through adoption. The fear of having another child with CF was paralyzing for many reasons. (The health risks for siblings with CF are profound). Adoption was a whisper in our ear as we began the thought process of how to expand our family. That Christmas when Elena was about to turn four, we decided to move forward with adoption. God's plan was clear in our lives as we carried our newborn son, Ethan, through our front door to our home three months after our decision was made.

The struggles of CF were daily, but my heart was so full of love. Mothering these two angels was a great joy every day. When Elena turned five and Ethan turned one we filed the adoption papers and started the process again expecting it to take longer than our first lightning quick adoption. However, less than two months later we had another baby girl in our family, Emily! Emily made our growing family even more full of life. Every day was a new adventure. We accepted God's plan for our family and embraced our three cutie pie kiddos.

It was shortly after Emily turned one that I started counting heads of our kids when we would be out running errands and I would frantically search for number 4. We had three kids, yet why did my heart search for 4. We could not consider adoption again because of cost. We thought we were pretty successful at Natural Family Planning AND having our own was NOT worth the risk of CF anyway. I did not over think it and just went back to enjoying what I DID have.

It was on my birthday when God's plan was revealed again. Elena was 6, Ethan was 2, Emily was 1, and I was holding a positive pregnancy test in my hand. After two days of crying with my husband as we let the fear of CF wave through us, we stood up, smiled, and quickly realized this was our 4th. This 4th child was going to be a great blessing. God told me so at a Mass during Advent! I was only a few months pregnant and the priest asked for all expectant mothers to come forward for a blessing. As I walked back to my seat holding the hand of my oldest child who has CF, Elena, I heard the words "HE will be a healthy baby boy." That following week we learned that we were indeed having a boy. In June of 2011, we passed around a little boy who was free of Cystic Fibrosis. God is good, all the time.

It is now 2014 and my journey of motherhood has included love of my husband of fourteen years, blessings in mothering my 4 adorable children ages 10, 6, 4, and 2, growth as a Catholic converted when in college at UGA sixteen years ago, home schooling my kids, staying home so I can run my home for my family, advocating and fundraising for CF, and it was all God's plan, not mine. These 4 children have taught me what it is to be a mother and being their Mommy is one VERY important job that I will embrace every day.

May the Blessed Mother bring you patience, strength, and love each day as you discover what it is to be a Mommy on YOUR amazing journey of motherhood!

## Enlighten Us, Lord!

By Marilyn Heap, CST Advisory Team



At the time of the Roman Empire, Pilate who ruled and judged the fate of the Accused, asked, "Shall I crucify your king?" The crowd, POLLED by shout, yelled, "Crucify Him!!" Fast forward, 2000- plus years. The Clarion Herald, the weekly newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA, reported in its January 25, 2014 edition that Seattle Archbishop J. Peter Sartain said the local Eastside Catholic High School's requirement that the vice principal quit after it learned of his same-sex marriage was not discriminatory but held to Church's teaching and the school's mission. School officials contend that he is "violating his signed agreement to abide by Catholic teachings."

According to the Clarion article, "In the weeks since his departure, Eastside Catholic students have staged a sit-in protest and launched a petition not only in support of the vice principal, asking for his reinstatement but in an effort 'to change the Catholic Church's opposition (to) gay marriage'. As of Jan. 17, 2014 the petition had more than 33,000 signatures of people around the country. The archbishop said, 'Leaders of Catholic schools are charged with the responsibility of both imparting and modeling the Catholic Church's teaching. The decision has been misunderstood and mischaracterized by some, and we now have an opportunity to help our students learn even more about Catholic teaching.'

Students are not alone in this regard. All of us need to challenge ourselves to learn the rationale behind the Church's opposition to what is erroneously called an "alternate" lifestyle. There are laws that govern the nature of the universe and the nature of the human person. For example, there is the law of gravity. If one attempts to jump from a high place, it is absurd to think that just because that person believes the law of gravity can be defied, it can be. The person will wind up dead or at least seriously injured. Likewise, when one believes a law of human nature can be violated, it is absurd to not understand that to defy this law will result in serious consequences.

What is this law of human nature referenced here? As Catholics, and throughout the history of humanity, it has been held that in order to keep the human race existing in a viable way, the ordinary means to do this is through the physical union of a man and a woman joined in a lawfully-committed love relationship that will sustain and care for what is procreated. This is a natural law written on our hearts. It dictates what is necessary not only to continue the human race, but to continue it in a viable manner. Today we are faced with "other" means outside the ordinary means dictated by the natural law to procreate and are being told there are "other" equally good means to care for what is procreated. It is absurd to think that we can introduce, bit-by-bit, activities that will defy a law of human nature and not suffer consequences as persons and as society. The laws of human nature are on equal par with the laws of the universe.

Jesus tells us to love God and our neighbor. We are not called to "like" everyone but we are called to "love" everyone, that is, to desire whatever is good for them. This applies not only to individual persons, but also to communities of people, society as a whole. It is LOVE, our desire for what is good for individuals and society, that impels us when we admonish persons and society about harmful behavior. To think otherwise is a lie! The issue of same sex "marriage" is a hot topic and we need to be able to explain our reasons for opposing it. This requires understanding the rationale behind the church's teachings. We must take steps to be enlightened so we can be outspoken in our concern about this issue when opportunity presents itself. It may be that we are out-pollled contrary to our views, but TRUE LOVE which desires the REAL GOOD for others, always seeks ways to persuade especially at times when those views are being suppressed, oppressed or down right "persecuted".

## Enlighten Us, Lord– continued

Now is the time to take heed, to challenge ourselves to allow the light of the Holy Spirit to guide us so we can stand-up for truth. We must always be ready to share and explain what we believe to be truth because that is what will set those we love free! Are you ready?

Furthermore, if you believe that persecution of Christians in this country is on the horizon, please read the article below giving Pope Francis' advice on this topic. It's time now to be prepared to safeguard our precious gift of faith.

### TRANSMITTING THE FAITH

There's a sense these days that we are being issued an urgent call to become well-informed about what we believe and why we believe it so we can pass-on our Catholic faith. The Clarion Herald, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA, reports in its January 25, 2014 issue that Pope Francis in his weekly general audience on January 15, 2014 advised "Christians facing difficulties and discrimination, especially in the Middle East, can learn a valuable lesson from Japanese Christians who survived by clandestinely baptizing, praying and hiding during 250 years of harsh persecutions" that began in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He was quoted as saying that every single priest was expelled from the country while thousands of Christians there were killed and those who were left went underground. When missionaries were allowed to return they found thousands of Christians ready to help the Church blossom again.

The Pope in a series of talks on the sacraments reminded us that it is through Baptism that "we become members of the body of Christ and the people of God". He said that just as parents pass the gift of life from generation to generation, the gift of grace is passed on with each person's rebirth through Baptism. Japanese Christians "survived with the grace of Baptism", which, because there were no priests, was conferred to every newborn by his/her baptized mother or father. "They maintained, even in secrecy, a strong spirit of community because Baptism made them become a single body in Christ; they were isolated and hidden, but they were always members of the people of God, of the Church." He stated further that every Christian has the duty to transmit the faith and are disciples "because we receive the faith and missionaries because we transmit the faith".

As we ponder the Pope's message, let's be clear about our understanding of its fuller meaning. It is taken for granted that once we bring another into the faith, into God's family through Baptism, it is important to transmit the church's teachings to them correctly and conscientiously. This requires taking steps to further our own knowledge of these teachings so we serve Jesus faithfully and bring His Light into the gloom and darkness that prevails.

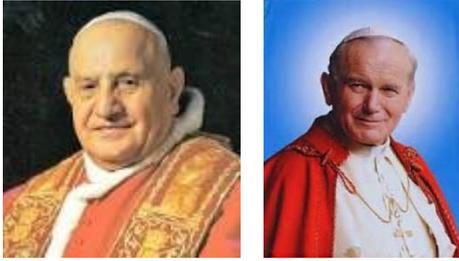
***Happy Visitation Feast Day,  
Magnificat!  
Saturday, May 31st***



**“My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord  
and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior!”**

A quote from Pope Francis on

**Divine Mercy Sunday...**



**"May these two new saints and shepherds of God's people intercede for the Church, so that during this two year journey toward the Synod, she may be open to the Holy Spirit in the pastoral service to the family."**

Pope Francis from his Divine Mercy Homily  
April 27, 2014

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**Praise the Lord**

God is good and being a Magnificat woman has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. Attending the conferences and Masses in New Orleans with Susan Potvin's group, "Living Praise," was the closest thing to heaven that I have experienced. I am grateful to God for allowing me to be part of a ministry to Magnificat sisters."



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## Unexpected Graces Received in the Most Holy of Places

By Elise Botch, CST Communications Ministry



In a recent Pilgrimage to France during the Easter Triduum, I participated in Good Friday Services in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. As expected, the lines were long getting into the Cathedral, but especially this day because the relic of the Crown of Thorns was being exhibited, the most precious and most revered of all relics, making a rare public appearance from the hours of 11 am until 5 pm. The relic has been a treasure of Christendom for sixteen centuries. In 1248, St. Louis, King of France commissioned the building of Sainte Chapelle to house this relic in which it remained until the Revolution, then it was deposited in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in 1806. Ninety years later (in 1896) a magnificent new reliquary of rock crystal was made for it, covered for two- thirds of its circumference with a silver case and precious jewels.



As I waited in line, slowly moving up closer to venerate this precious relic, you could hear a pin drop in the silence of private prayer and adoration. Then it was finally my turn and I approached the Bishop who was cradling the relic on a pillow and the surrounding Priests and kissed the 'Crown of Thorns'. In that moment, I stood there in 'awe' of this unanticipated experience. As I walked away, I felt this prompting to look at my watch, it was exactly 3 pm. The bells began to ring and we all in one accord, knelt in reverence of the 3 o'clock hour. My heart filled with praise, God had granted me this inexplicable grace in the most holy of holy places.

***Happy Mother's Day!***



***Let us prayerfully honor our mothers and all the special women in our lives.***

***“Magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name forever!” Psalm 34:3***

## *Proclamation of the Kingdom*



**13<sup>th</sup> International Leaders' Conference  
April 23-26, 2015 Washington, D.C.**

**Come to the 13th International Leaders' Conference and feel the joy of being together celebrating our shared mission and commitment to Magnify the Lord! This conference is in a new format and a new location in Washington, D.C. "See I am doing something new!" Isaiah 43:19 Magnificat is a Ministry of Evangelization, Praise, Prayer, Fellowship and Teamwork. Be encouraged and amazed with us!**

**See you there April 23-26, 2015!**

### **Are You Experiencing Distorted Views in the Newsletter?**

Are photos deleted or piled upon each other? Do you see too much spacing between paragraphs? Are the articles truncated on the right side? Any of these issues **could be** due to the browser or email program you are using. It may not be compatible with the program we are using to create the newsletter.

One of ways to resolve the distortion is to open up the document in a different browser. Recommended browsers for the best compatibility are Google Chrome or Firefox. The other option is click on the link to the printer-friendly version of the newsletter. The result will be a more pleasant reading experience so you won't miss out on any details of an article.

Please make copies available for those you know without email and for your Chapter Meals. Your parish priest might appreciate one also. This is a great way to share the Magnificat ministry with others and to keep in touch.

**This Newsletter is brought to you by the Magnificat Central Service Team**

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