



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States  
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

## *Brave Acts of Faith Seldom Happen in Calm Situations*

***To monthly mission donors:  
“Thank you for your support!”***

On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

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She inherited 20 million dollars and had an income of one thousand dollars a day. She was well known, rich, powerful – but miserable.

Her name was Sarah Winchester, the wife William Wirt Winchester, who died of tuberculosis. She became heiress of fifty percent of the Winchester Rifle Company (Wikipedia).

It was guilt that prompted her to build a mysterious mansion with six kitchens, thirteen bathrooms, forty stairways, forty-seven fireplaces, fifty-two sky lights, four hundred sixty-seven doors, ten thousand windows, one hundred sixty rooms and a bell tower.

Legend has it that every midnight, a servant rang the bell to summon the spirits that were Sarah’s guests. At 2:00 a.m. the bell would ring again. Sarah would go

to her quarters, and the spirits would return to their graves.

Who were the spirits? They were the spirits of those U.S. soldiers and Indians who were killed by bullets from Winchester rifles. What brought millions of dollars to Sarah brought death to them, so she spent her years in the castle of regrets providing a home for the dead.

There is worldly sorrow that brings death (2 Cor. 7:8-11). Guilt can be fatal. Guilt is a deadly venom. You do not have to go too far to find people haunted by ghosts of the past. It could be that Sarah Winchester’s story is your own story.

If it is, know that in God’s loving plan there is grace in every storm. Recall Peter’s story. While Peter was sinking in the stormy sea trying to save his life, he saw Jesus’ face. Actually, it is more the story of Jesus than of Peter. It is a story of Jesus extending His hand. It is an answer to the question every person asks: “What does God do when we fail?” Jesus does what He did for Peter – He extends His hand.

If it was a peaceful day and the waters were calm, Peter would not have walked toward Jesus. Peter would not have begged Jesus to let him come to Him had the lake

been smooth and the sailing pleasant.

Brave acts of faith seldom happen in calm situations. Moses raising his staff, which caused the Red Sea to split, was not logical (Exodus 14:21). Naaman having been cured of leprosy by dipping himself seven times in a muddy river is not a result of medical research (2 Kings 5:14).

It was faith that sustained martyrs in their pain and suffering. Faith begins when we see God in a mountain while we are in a valley and we know that we are too weak to climb. You see what you have and you know what you need. And what you have is not enough to accomplish anything. Peter gave his best. But his best wasn’t enough. Moses had a sea in front and an enemy behind. The Israelites could swim or they could fight. But neither option was enough. Naaman had undergone leprosy treatment. But he had to travel many miles to go to a muddy river when there were clean rivers near him. He took a crazy chance.

What does God do when we fail? The answer to the question is not building a mansion and entertaining ghosts of the past like Sarah Winchester did. The answer, my friend, is found in Jesus’ extended hand.

## ***Pope Francis' June Prayer Intention:***

**National Leaders:** That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

### ***Quote:***

“Those who love to be feared fear to be loved”. St. Francis de Sales

### ***What is Peter's Pence Collection?***

The USCCB has designated one weekend a year as Peter's Pence Collection. This year in the Diocese of Columbus the collection will be taken on the weekend of June 24 and 25.

As far back as the 8<sup>th</sup> century the kings of England were making financial donations to help meet the needs of the Pope and to demonstrate their unity with the Church. The idea of sending money to the pope to support his work soon spread throughout England.

The popes became accustomed to these donations and came to expect the donations to come on a recurring basis.

For this reason, the people of England started being taxed in order to make the annual contribution to Rome. The tax was one penny for every house and family with possessions valued over thirty pennies.

This tax of one penny per family was collected and sent to Rome near the celebration of the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, thus the name “Peter's Pence.”

It was not uncommon that the “Peter's Pence” money was sometimes used as a bargaining chip when dealing with Rome. In

spite of that, Peter's Pence donations continued to be collected every year in England until the early 16<sup>th</sup> century at the beginning of the Protestant reformation.

King Henry VIII ended the donation as part of his struggle with Pope Clement VII over his petition to divorce Catharine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. He broke his ties with Rome, forbidding, among others, the payment of Peter's Pence. And the custom ended then.

But out of necessity, the Peter's Pence collection was revived during the reign of Pope Pius IX (1846-1848). That was when the Italian government annexed the Papal States and seized Rome. Pius IX declared himself a prisoner at the Vatican. And so also were his four successors for the next 59 years.

As a result, the pope's source of revenue was drastically reduced. And so countries around the world organized support for the Holy See, and the Peter's Pence collection was revived. The collection brought a large sum of money for the pope. The effort was so successful that one year it raised \$4 million. The Peter's Pence collection largely kept the papacy afloat until 1929 when Pope Pius XI and the Italian government made peace.

The annual Peter's Pence collection, which was re-established to help Pope Pius IX, continues today through the charitable giving of Catholics all over the world. But there is a distinction in how the funds are used now as opposed to the time of Pius IX. During his papacy and earlier, the contributions were used by the pope to support his day-to-day expenses, pay his staff,

provide for his army and fund basic needs.

Today, the focus of the Peter's Pence collection is primarily the pope's charitable efforts to help the poor, the homeless and those in need.

The collection gives parishioners everywhere an opportunity to actively demonstrate unity with the pope, our personal support for his mission as Vicar of Christ, and a way to help our needy brothers and sisters.

### ***A joke a priest can tell: LOL!***

A Franciscan, a Dominican, and a Jesuit were out playing golf one day. They were moving along the course quite well until they got stuck behind a group of golfers who were taking quite a long time and weren't letting anyone else play through. Feeling irritated, the three priests went to the club manager to complain. The manager told them that the slow golfers were blind. “It takes them more time,” he said. “Please be patient.”

The Franciscan was mortified. He got down on his knees and begged God's forgiveness for his anger. The Dominican was also chagrined. He repented of his impatience, and vowed to do more to help the poor and disabled.

However, the Jesuit wasn't impressed. He asked the manager, “why don't you make them play at night?”

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***Leandro (Lany) Tapay, Director***  
***Gina Sergio, Education Coordinator***

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