



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

Jesus takes a Life that is Drifting and Gives it Direction

***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.

Can you imagine the face of the Samaritan woman at the well when Jesus revealed to her that He was the Messiah? Her eyes must have opened wide with amazement. “You are the Messiah?” Then she ran back to town telling the people, “Come. See the man that told me everything I did!” (John 4:29).

She forgot her water jar. She left it behind at the well – the jar that was a burden on her shoulders. She left behind the burdens she brought.

Suddenly, the shame of her broken relationships disappeared. The insignificance of her life was swallowed by the significance of the moment. “God is here! God has come! God cares for me!”

Her excitement made her forget her water jar. She ran to the town. She grabbed the first person she met and told that person of her

discovery. “I just talked to a man who told me everything I ever did and He loves me anyway!”

While the woman was running to town, the apostles came back to where Jesus was sitting. They offered Him some food. He refused to eat. Jesus was so excited. He had just done what He does best. He had taken a life that was drifting and given it direction.

With great exuberance, Jesus pointed to the woman running towards town. “Vast fields of human souls are ripening all around us, and are ready now for the reaping” (Luke 10:2). Who could eat at a time like this?

Perhaps you cannot identify yourself with the Samaritan woman. You belong. You are needed and you know it. You have more friends that you could visit. You have many tasks that you could accomplish. You feel significant. Be thankful.

There are others who are not like you. Like the Samaritan woman, they are avoiding people. If you are like the Samaritan woman, you know what that is like. You have wondered what it would be like to have one good friend. You have been in love and you have wondered if it is worth the pain to do it again. And you have wondered where in the world God is.

“Where is God?” That was the prayer of the Samaritan woman.

That tiny prayer reached the heart of God. For indeed, that’s what it was – a prayer. The prayer reached the Throne of Grace.

***Lord, Help Us
Not to be Anxious***

Anxiety seems to be all around us, all the time. Sometimes the normal hassles of daily living can cause us to be anxious.

Anxiety can steal our ability to enjoy friends, family, and life in general.

Sure – life is full of challenges, conflicts and stressful situations. But we don’t have to let them produce anxiety in our lives.

Anxiety serves no purpose. Life is too short to allow anxiety to steal the joy of living a peaceful, productive and fulfilled life.

God provides us the key to combating anxiety in Philippians 4:6 – 7; “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Prayer with thanksgiving produces peace. And not just any peace, but a supernatural peace that comes from God and that surpasses human understanding. Count your blessings. Put your confidence in God.

Quote:

“Where is God? Where can I find Him?” we ask. We don’t realize that’s like a fish swimming frantically through the ocean in search of the ocean. – Ted Dekker

Quest:

Experience is a hard teacher. She gives the test first, then the lesson.

Ten Funny Facts...

- 1) Banging your head against a wall burns 150 calories an hour.
- 2) In the UK, it is illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day!
- 3) Pteronophobia is the fear of being tickled by feathers!
- 4) When hippos are upset, their sweat turns red.
- 5) A flock of crows is known as a murder.
- 6) “Facebook Addiction Disorder” is a mental disorder identified by psychologists.
- 7) The average woman uses her height in lipstick every 5 years.
- 8) May 29th is officially “Put a Pillow on Your Fridge Day”.
- 9) Cherophobia is the fear of fun.
- 10) Human saliva has a boiling point three times that of regular water.

A Saint with a Sense of Humor:

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), the founder of the Cistercians, liked to laugh at his overly serious monks.

One day, when opening a new abbey near Foigny, France, the monks found a huge swarm of pesky flies filling the church that was about to be dedicated.

Bernard watched his monks swatting, shooing, coaxing - all with no success. Finally, the head abbot

fixed his eyes on the swarming flies and solemnly and loudly declared, “I hereby excommunicate all of you.” Bernard’s monks laughed with him but found hundreds of dead flies all over the floor the next morning.

Pope Francis’ August Prayer Intention:

That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

God Will See You Through

Our lives seem to be under constant assault. Worry, fear, stress, and anxiety make war on many of us daily. Our society has accepted depression and discouragement as common social ailments.

Anxiety threatens to immobilize us, as unfulfilled dreams, loss, divorce, sickness, death, failures, mistakes, and criticism seem to rain down on us like bombs.

But God is not the author or cause of such destructive atrocities. Satan is. He comes to steal, and to kill and to destroy (John 10:10). And Jesus came that we might have life - and life more abundantly.

We cannot fight the enemy of our soul with our own strength. We need to rely on and gain our strength from God. We need to trust God totally and completely.

We need to realize that the battles we face daily are spiritual battles. And we cannot win them with just our own power.

When trouble comes your way or, when bad news hits you right between the eyes, be determined to replace fear with confidence in God, to replace worry with faith in Him, to replace anxiety with His peace.

God has promised to never leave you, or forsake you. God wants to be a part of your life. When you need help, all you have to

do is ask. In your hour of greatest need, God will uphold you and sustain you. He will give you peace in the midst of the storms of life.

God is on your side. God is for you. He will see you through.

If spreading the Gospel and helping the poor is your passion in life, you could perpetuate your passion for generations, by leaving a gift to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in your will.

A Joke a Priest Can Tell.. 😂👏

A sad guy is sitting at the bar just staring at his drink for half an hour when this big trouble-making biker steps next to him, grabs his drink and gulps it down in one swing.

Then the poor little guy starts crying.

“Come on, man. I’m just giving you a hard time,” the biker says. “I didn’t think you’d CRY. I can’t stand to see a man cry.”

“This is the worst day of my life,” says the little guy between sobs. “I can’t do anything right.”

“I overslept and was late to an important meeting, so my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car was stolen and I don’t have any insurance. Then I left my wallet in the cab and when I got home, my dog bit me.”

“So, I came to this bar trying to work up the courage to put an end to my life, and then you show up and drink the darn poison.”

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