



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

Lord, grant us your peace - the peace that only you can give!

***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.

Generally, children do not want to go to bed. They want to keep on playing. They want to have fun. They want to stretch out their days as long as possible.

Do you normally have days that you would not like to end? Are you having so much fun that you would not like to go to bed? If your days are full of fun and you hate to go to bed – congratulations. And if you are not, join the majority of us, who cannot wait to go to bed and crash.

Most of us at the end of the day are tired. Most of us do not find sleep to be a robber that steals our happy playtime. But rather, for most of us, going to bed is a refuge. For most of us, sleep is six or seven hours of relief for our wounded souls.

For us who are tired, the words of Jesus “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will

give you rest” (Matt. 11:28-30) are a huge relief.

If you are not carrying any burdens on your shoulders, you ought to thank and praise the Lord for it. Thank God for making you an exception. Most of us carry many burdens on our shoulders. My neighbor has a burden of a heavy heart. He buried his wife a couple days ago. He is left with three little children to care for. Not long ago, a friend of mine found a note on the table when he returned home from work. It was from his wife. His wife had left him for another man.

Every one of us in this broken world carries a sack of rocks on our shoulders. These rocks come in different sizes and shapes. A burden could come in the form of sickness or in the form of taking care of a sick loved one; or in the form of a job loss for one who must take care of his family; or it could come in the form of a broken relationship that keeps one awake at night.

A burden could also come in the form of guilt – guilt for something we did that we should not have done, or guilt because of something we did not do that we should have done.

Whatever our burdens are, Jesus promises us to ease them. Accept His invitation to come to Him. Whatever burdens you carry,

come to Jesus and He will give you rest.

Come to Jesus. Why Jesus? Jesus offered the invitation. Jesus was the poor rabbi of an oppressed nation. He had no political office. He had no connection to the authorities in Rome. He had not written a bestseller book or earned a diploma. He was a carpenter.

Yet He offers rest to the weary and the burdened. He promises, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matt. 11:29).

People of His day came to Jesus. They brought to Him their weariness and burdens. And Jesus gave them not religion, not doctrine, not a system – but rest. As a result, they called Him “Lord and Savior.”

They called Him “Lord and Savior” not because of what He said, but because of what He did – on the cross.

All those who came to Jesus have one thing in common. They came because they were weary of the futility of life. They all found rest. They found that Jesus was the only man to walk on God’s earth who claimed to have the answer for our burdens.

“Come to Me.” He invites us. Let’s come to Him.

Jesus wants your donkey

We do not know a lot about the fellow who gave the donkey to Jesus for Him to ride on His last journey to Jerusalem. We do not know his name. We do not know what he looked like. All we know is what he gave. I wonder how he knew that Jesus needed a donkey. Did he have a vision? Did an angel appear to him?

Jesus told His disciples to go to town and they would find a donkey tied with its colt; to untie them and to bring them to him; that if anyone would ask them why they are taking the donkeys, to tell them that the master needs them (Matthew 21:3).

“Tell them that the master needs it.” For us, it does not make sense that when someone takes a piece of property from us, the one who takes it would just say “the master needs it.”

But for the folks in Jesus’ time, it made a lot of sense. An ancient law required the citizen to render to the king any item or service the king or one of his emissaries might request. In saying “the master needs it,” Jesus was claiming to be a king. He was speaking as one with authority. He was saying that as a king, He had the right to any possession of His subjects. In others words, Jesus was saying that your donkey belonged to Him.

Jesus wants your donkey. He wants to ride on your donkey to go somewhere. Can you write a check? Or, do you have a credit card? That’s your donkey. Your donkey could help take Jesus to Africa, Asia, South America, and the Pacific Islands; or to the mission areas of the United States like the Appalachian region, the Deep

South, the Mountain States or to Alaska. God could use your donkey to enter the walls of another city, another nation – or another heart.

I wonder how hard it was for the donkey’s owner to give his donkey to Jesus? I ask the question because I like to keep my donkey to myself. When Jesus asks for it, I act like I don’t know Jesus needs it, or sometimes I don’t want to give it to him because I am not sure if he is really asking me for it. And then I feel guilty for not giving it.

The donkey’s owner is only one folk in a long line of folks who gave little things to a big God. The Bible has a gallery of donkey-givers.

God is known to use common things that had uncommon results.

In heaven we will see folks who while on earth viewed their possessions as God’s, who made their possessions available whenever God needed them. In heaven we will see rich folks who while on earth had not forgotten who owned whatever they possessed.

God always needs us. We are God’s mouth. We are God’s hands. God needs our donkey.

We do not know how great will be the harvest that the tiny seed we give to God will produce.

More than two thousand years ago, the man with the donkey didn’t. But when you go to heaven, don’t be surprised when you discover your checkbook, or your credit card is next to David’s sling or Moses’ rod or to the donkey’s rope.

Lord, we praise you and we glorify your Name!

Pope Francis’ February Prayer Intention:

Say “No” to Corruption
That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

Quip:

You can tell you are on the right road - it’s uphill.

Quest:

Make sure your brain is in gear before engaging your mouth.

A joke a priest can tell... LOL!

At St. Peter’s Catholic Church in Toronto, they have weekly husband’s marriage seminars. At the session last week, the priest asked Giuseppe, who said he was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Giuseppe replied to the assembled husbands, “Well. I’ve tried to treat her nice, spend money on her, but best of all is, I took her to Italy for our 25th anniversary!”

The priest responded, “Giuseppe, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your 50th anniversary?”

Giuseppe proudly replied, “I am going to pick her up.”

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