



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

Let us Build our Castle with a Child's Heart

*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.

It was a beautiful sunny afternoon at a North Carolina beach, and the tide was low. My plan was to spend the afternoon reading a good book while enjoying the ocean breeze.

But my attention was diverted to a little boy building a sandcastle near our tent. I enjoyed watching the little architect. With a plastic shovel he scooped and packed the sand into a red plastic bucket, upended the bucket, and created a castle tower.

The whole afternoon he diligently labored building his castle. He built walls and used popsicle sticks as bridges and bottle tops as sentries. A beautiful sandcastle was built.

But as dusk approached the tide started to rise. The waves were getting larger and they pounded closer to his sandcastle. Every second the waves were getting closer to his masterpiece. The boy

knew that eventually the waves would destroy his beautiful creation. But the boy did not panic. He was not surprised. The pounding of the waves reminded him that the end of his creation would come. He knew that tides come and go. He knew what would happen to his castle.

And as the waves pounded closer to his castle the little boy began to jump on his feet and began to clap. He was not sad. He was not afraid. He had no regrets. He knew what would happen to his castle.

And finally a large wave hit his castle. His masterpiece was destroyed. But he smiled and picked up his tools, took his father's hand and went home. I picked up my unread book and went home too.

Sand castles – we too build them and with diligence. We build them on the beach of life.

Like the little boy, we labor diligently to build them. We too know that the high tide of life will come and we will have to leave our castle behind.

But unlike the little boy, we adults often ignore the pounding of the waves of time. We know that every sunrise and every sunset brings us closer to the end. We know that the end will come and that we will leave our castles behind.

The end will come and Jesus wants us to be ready for it. No one knows the day and time – not even the angels in heaven. Only the Father knows (Mark 13:32). Jesus will return – at the end of life, or at the end of time, whichever comes first. No one knows when, so we must be ready.

That is the message of the parable of the virgins (Matt. 25); that is the message of the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30); that is the message of the parable of the sheep and goats (Matt. 25:31-46).

The end will come – that's the message we need to heed, but we often ignore it. Often we live our lives as if this world is our home. It is not. Some people are proud of what they have built and accumulated in life and they hope that they will never have to leave them behind. But they will. We all will. We all are transients in this world.

Many of us do not know much about sandcastles. But children do.

Let us watch them and learn from them. Let us go ahead and build our castles – but build them with a child's heart. Like the little boy, let us applaud when the sun sets and the waves of life take our castle away.

Let us respect and honor the process of life, and when the end comes, let us take our Father's hand and go home.

God wants us to live a worry-free life

Everyday we face many things to worry about - health, job, family, finances and the economy to name a few.

Worries can consume of our lives if we let them. They rob us of our peace. They accomplish nothing except produce anxiety, distress and fear; they cloud our mind and prevent us to think clearly.

Worries are not part of God's plan for our lives. God wants us to live a worry-free life by putting our complete trust and confidence in Him and in His Word.

God has promised us that He would not leave and forsake us (Matt, 6L 25 - 34).

There is no situation or circumstance too great for God. Our problems are so small compared to how big God is.

It is not enough to tell ourselves not to worry about something; we need to replace our worry thoughts with God's thoughts. We need to renew our mind (Rom. 12:2).

Reading and meditating on God's Word and speaking God's Word will transform our lives.

When worry knocks at the door of your heart, keep calm and trust God. God is going to take care of you. You are precious to Him - more precious than gold.

Ask God to help you not to worry about anything. Look for God through your situation; Cast your concern and worry on God.

Put your trust and confidence in God. He will not let you down. Know that God is your loving Father.

Quote:

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow - it empties today of its strength. (Corrie Ten Boom)

Quest:

What is in the well of your heart will show up in the bucket of your speech.

Quip:

A brook would lose its song if it has no rocks.

Pope Francis' August Prayer Intention:

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

What is the meaning of life?

The secularists say, they do not know; or man is a sophisticated animal, or at worst, man is a rearranged space dust.

What a contrast to God's vision of man. “We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to devote ourselves to the good deeds for which God has designed us” (Eph. 2:10).

In God's eyes, we are special. We existed in the mind of God even long before we were born.

Each one of us is a child of God. And God loves us dearly.

And God loves us forever. Should you ever turn from Him and walk away, He has already provided a way back.

Nothing can separate you from God's love.

If you anchor this truth firmly in your heart you will be ready for whatever you may encounter on the road of life.

God is an Awesome God

God does not condone our sin, nor does He compromise His standard.

God does not ignore our rebellious attitude, nor does He relax His demands.

Rather than dismiss our sins - He assumes our sins - and He punishes Himself for sins.

In so doing, God's holiness is honored. Our sins are punished. And we are redeemed.

God does what we cannot do, so we can be what we cannot be - perfect in the eyes of God.

A joke a priest can tell... LOL!

Father O'Malley answers the phone.

- Hello, is this Father O'Malley?
- It is.
- This is the IRS. Can you help us?
- I can.
- Do you know a Ted Houlihan?
- I do.
- Is he a member of your congregation?
- He is.
- Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?
- He will.

Leandro (Lany) Tapay, Director
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