



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

## *God wants to Set us Free, so We can Fly Home*

***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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Hans Babblinger of Ulm, Germany, wanted to fly like a bird. But he lived in the sixteenth century when there were no planes, helicopters, or flying machines. What he wanted to do was impossible.

However, Hans made a career out of helping people do the impossible. He made artificial limbs for amputees to help them deal with their disabilities. In time Hans used his skills to construct a set of wings and tested them in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps where updraft currents were common. His friends rejoiced with him when he jumped from an embankment and soared safely down.

Days later, the king was coming to Ulm and the bishop and the citizens wanted to impress the king by showing off Hans' ability to fly. But they wanted Hans to change the place where he would jump because the embankment from which he had successfully

jumped earlier was difficult for the king and the villagers to climb.

Unfortunately, the place they chose did not have updraft currents. As a result, in front of the king and the villagers, Hans fell like a rock into the river below. The king was disappointed and the bishop was mortified.

The next Sunday the bishop mentioned in his sermon that man was not meant to fly. But the bishop was not the only one to tell people what they cannot do.

Jesus says, If you have faith and do not doubt, you will be able to do anything (Matt. 21:22). Faith is believing that God will do what is right every time; that God will do what it takes to bring us home to Him.

God is the shepherd in search of the lost sheep. With His legs scratched, His feet sore, His eyes burning, He scales the cliffs and traverses the fields. He explores the caves and cups His hands to His mouth and calls into the canyon (Luke 15:3-7). And the name He calls is yours.

God is the housewife in search of the lost coin. It does not matter that He has nine others. He won't rest until He has found the tenth. He searches the house; He moves furniture; He pulls up rugs; He cleans out the shelves; He stays up late; He gets up early. All other tasks can wait. Only one

matters. The coin is of great value to Him; He owns it; He will not stop until He finds it. (Luke 15:8-10) The coin He searches for is you.

God is the father pacing the porch. His heart is heavy. He seeks His prodigal son. He searches the horizon. He yearns to see a familiar figure and a recognizable gait. He does not care about His business or His earnings or His investments. His concern is His son who bears His name, the child who bears His image (Luke 15:11-32). The child is you. God wants you home.

It is only through the light of God's passionate love for us that we can understand this incredible promise: "If you believe, you will get anything you ask for in prayer" (Mark 11:24). But we cannot reduce this great promise by asking for a new car or a huge paycheck. We cannot reduce this great promise by asking for perks and favors. What God promises us is greater than earthly wealth.

God wants you to fly. God wants you to fly free of yesterday's guilt. God wants you to fly free of today's fears. God wants you to fly free of tomorrow's grave.

Sin, fear and death – these are the mountains God has moved. These are the prayers God will answer. Freedom from sin, fear, and death, this is the grace God will grant. God wants to set us free so we can fly home.

## ***A Gangster Done Good***

His name was Eddie, a famous Chicago lawyer who worked for Al Capone. He ran Capone's dog tracks. He mastered the technique of fixing the race by overfeeding seven dogs and betting on the eighth.

Eddie was wealthy and famous. Eddie lacked nothing. But he turned himself in, by squealing on Al Capone. Why did he do it? He knew the consequence of what he did. But he had made up his mind.

Eddie revealed his reason. His son. Eddie squealed on Al Capone so his son could have a fair chance.

Eddie had spent his life with the despicable. He had smelled the stench of the underground long enough. Eddie wanted more for his son. He wanted to give his son a name by clearing his own.

Eddie was willing to take the risk so that his son could have a clean slate. Eddie did not see his dream come true. Two shotgun bullets silenced Eddie forever.

Was it worth? For Eddie's son it was. Eddie's son lived up to the sacrifice. His son is one of the best known names in the world. Had Eddie lived to see his, Butch, grow up he could have been proud of him.

Eddie would have been proud of Butch's appointment to Annapolis. He would have been proud of the commissioning as a World War II Navy pilot. He would have been proud as he read of his son downing five bombers in the Pacific night and saving lives of hundreds of crewmen on carrier Lexington.

Eddie's name was cleared when Butch received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

When people see the name O'Hare International Airport in Chicago they don't think gangsters. They think of Butch O'Hare an aviation hero of World War II. When you happen to be at O'Hare Airport think of a gangster done good.

***Jesus says...***

***"Do Not Be Afraid"***

Fear can steal our joy and rob our peace. It can dull our senses. It can confuse our minds and can produce irrational thoughts and behavior. Fear can stop God's blessings from flowing into our lives.

We need to recognize that fear is a spiritual force and can be conquered only by a greater spiritual force - our faith in God.

"Fear not!" Jesus says. Jesus knows the devastating affect fear can have on our life.

"Fear not" or, "Do not be afraid" or other variations of the phrase, occurs 365 times in the Bible. That is one for every day of the year.

We fight fear with our faith. We activate our faith with our words.

When you begin to fear say it aloud: "Jesus has not given me the spirit of fear. Jesus has given me power and love and a sound mind. I will not be afraid because Jesus said so. I will remain calm and trust in the Lord. "I will not fear."

***Quip:***

So live that when death comes the mourners will outnumber the cheering section.

***Pope Francis'***

***September Prayer intention:***

That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

***Quest:***

Why not wear a smile. It's just about the only thing that you can wear that isn't taxed.

***A joke a priest can tell...*** 

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

Good morning, Pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor McGhee, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who have died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally managed to ask, "Which one, the 9:00 or 10:30 service?"

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