

What Happened? Cont'd

...our neighbor properly, namely loving him or her in the love of God. So, as we approach Easter, let's think about whether Lent worked, or whether it was only a time of more self-discipline.

Finally, even as we speak of self-discipline, we have to realize that the effort to live in the loving presence of God indispen- sably requires a great deal of self-discipline, because, again, we are not talking about feeling but focus on loving God.

HAPPENINGS

1) Bishop Rice responded to our petition to go to Rome to speak with the Congregation of Religious and Secular Institutes, and to see if he could persuade it that nearly fifty-three years of existence certainly indicated stability, and we didn't need the numbers

that they were requiring, namely forty persons in each branch of our Commu- nity, the Sisters and the Brothers. Whoever he talked with felt that this seemed reasonable and that we could stop talking about numbers. However, after a while, when he returned home, he found that they were still talking about those numbers, though not in as definitive a way as before.

What the Congregation wanted us to do was to es- tablish a New Public Asso- ciation of the Faithful, which would be oriented as such to becoming either two Religious Institutes, or a more recent form of Reli- gious life called "A Family of Consecrated Life of Di- ocesan Right" which would establish both branches of our Community into one Community, while of course the branches would live separately. We decided to accept the form of a Con- secrated Family. The Con- gregation in turn wanted us to be living for the next two years according to the mode

they had formed for this type of life, and so this is what we are doing. This does not give us a guarantee that two years after we had accepted that form, we would be canonically estab- lished as a Religious Com- munity. But we are growing and our hopes are rather high.

2) During this period, since the last Newsletter, four of our Brothers in Nigeria have finished their studies, which means that they are eligible for the Diaconate. There is a question pending as to where they will be in- cardinated, since our Com- munity is not fully a Reli- gious Community yet, but we feel that this is being dealt with presently.

3) Those of you who know more about our Community realize that we have grown in Nigeria, both in the Brothers and Sisters com- munities, and also in the Philippines, but that we have had great difficulty in developing American voca- tions.

We have been praying to St. Joseph about this, and in

fact Fr. John was bawling out St. Joseph recently for lack of cooperation. Never- theless, out of the blue, we now have sixteen American men who are reasonable candidates for our Commu- nity. Some have definitely decided the matter already, but others are still in dis- cernment periods. Covid-19 has blocked any of them from being able to come to the Community to enter or to discern. So we are still on the edge of our seats wait- ing for the virus to termi- nate or greatly diminish. It seems that St. Joseph is at last responding to our pray- ers.

4) Finally, we have a new website which is much more updated than the pre- vious one. It's web address is www.marythefont.org, and it seems to be quite ef- fective in helping our voca- tion work. There is also a "Support Us" page on the website where one can make donations via PayPal or Credit Card. Mass intentions can also be requested on that page of the website.

-----RETREATS-----

Ongoingly we want to encourage you to consider a bit more seriously retreats with us during the Advent and Christmas season and during the Lenten and East- er season, since those times are especially rich in liturgical spiritual content and most worthy of retreat periods. Though we have a great deal of reading material in our library and homilies every morning, we want our facilities to be used pri- marily for private reflection, meditation and deeper prayer. It is significant that we have shrines to Jesus and to Our Blessed Mother all over these 98 acres, and they certainly can be helpful in making a retreat.



BEGGING: Since we have had no Newsletters since the Winter of 2018, this means that we haven't done much begging – but it does not mean that we don't need it! In fact, all sorts of needs have arisen in all five of our Solitudes, and if at all possible, we need your help. A typi- cal example (but only one example) of this is that one of our septic tanks caved in and back-



SAINT JOSEPH

-fired into one of the hermitages we had recently reno- vated. Now we have been able to clean up the her- mitage without too much difficulty but we had to put in a new septic tank and parts, and that amounted to \$8500.00. Such things are inevitable, but obviously are not able to be taken care of without financial help. So please keep us in mind.

OUR DEAR FRIENDS, A VERY BLESSED EASTER SEASON TO YOU!