

From the Pastor—February 28, 2021

Speaker from Ecuador Late last week, after our bulletin had been published, I was contacted to see if our parishes could host a speaker from Ecuador on Monday, February 22. I determined that we could, and I announced her talk at the weekend Masses. Considering the short notice, we had a good turnout to see Patricia (Pachi) Talbot speak to us about the visions and messages she received from the Blessed Virgin Mary. She also appeared at the parishes in Lexington and Doniphan, and at St. Mary Cathedral in Grand Island. Pachi (pronounced PAW-chee) was a junior in high school in Ecuador when the Mother of God visited her. Pachi's life was in a difficult place at the time; her parents were separated and she was not close to God or the Church. In God's Divine Providence, Pachi was chosen to receive the messages. Pachi visited us with the approval of her local bishop in Ecuador. Without such approval, I could not have given her permission to speak in our parish. *** The Blessed Mother came under the title of Mother Mary, Guardian of the Faith. The messages that Pachi shared with us were ways that the Catholic faith is being distorted and confused in the minds of believers. With each Catholic teaching given, Pachi gave us ways to defend the faith, ways that she learned from the Blessed Mother. For example, Pachi spoke of the prolific availability of abortion and how we need to defend human life. She spoke of same-sex civil unions and how we need to defend the institution of holy matrimony. *** Pachi also gave us the Blessed Mother's calling to attend daily Mass and to go to Confession monthly. I am familiar with messages from many approved apparitions of Mary, such as Lourdes, Fatima, and Guadalupe, but I had never heard of the Blessed Mother encouraging us to attend daily Mass. Pachi's image of Confession was powerful. She said that in confession, Jesus is standing between the penitent and the priest. When the penitent confesses, Jesus rests his Sacred Heart upon the heart of the penitent. *** Pachi's native tongue is Spanish, so we had a translator (thank you Lorena Rodriguez and her sister). But Pachi speaks English well enough that I was able to converse with her before and after her talk. She told me, "I am a nobody" when speaking of St. Bernadette seeing the Blessed Mother in Lourdes. This humility and the demeanor of Pachi were very authentic, as was her conviction of the urgency of her message. *** Pachi was joined by her husband, Andres, and after the talk, he spearheaded sale of religious goods. Attendees had the choice of medals, Rosaries, holy books, and statues. The proceeds go toward helping the poor. *** Pachi's hope is that her talk inspires us to pray the Rosary, attend daily Mass, and go to Confession. She also hopes that we desire to defend the Catholic teachings which are so skewed at times in the view of the world. *** There is a web site listed below (sorry for the elongated address) regarding Pachi and the messages she received from heaven. You can probably find the site by searching for "Patricia Talbot Ecuador Blessed Virgin Mary". Included at the web site is a video of a talk by Pachi as well as more information about her story and her seeing of the Mother of God. I am glad that we were able to host her. *** [https://www.piercedhearts.org/hearts_jesus_mary/apparition/guardian_faith.html#:~:text=Patricia%20\(Pachi\)%20Talbot%20was%20born%20in%20Cuenca,%20Ecuador,,Mary,%20ever%20Virgin,%20the%20Guardian%20of%20the%20Faith.](https://www.piercedhearts.org/hearts_jesus_mary/apparition/guardian_faith.html#:~:text=Patricia%20(Pachi)%20Talbot%20was%20born%20in%20Cuenca,%20Ecuador,,Mary,%20ever%20Virgin,%20the%20Guardian%20of%20the%20Faith.)

Thanksgiving after Communion A favorite spiritual author of mine is Blessed Columba Marmion, OSB. He writes the following about Holy Communion: "According to the general consensus of opinion, the principal effect of the Blessed Sacrament is realized at the moment of reception. However, as long as the sacred species remain with us in their integrity, the Savior, by His union with the soul, is a constant source of divine blessings for it; that is why the time of thanksgiving is so precious for learning to cling to Christ and to form with Him one single spirit in love. Prayer, which becomes more intense after Holy Communion, creates in the heart a precious habit of recollection." I encourage you to make a good thanksgiving after receiving the Sacred Host at Mass

March—In like a Lamb or a Lion? My mother always pointed out to us kids that the month of March tends to begin with either calm or wild weather. It comes in like a lamb or like a lion. I think this Farmer's Almanac type of thinking also includes that however March begins, it will end with the opposite weather. So, we'll see how it plays out this year.

Priest Study Day At our Study Day of all the priests last week, I found myself sitting at the table with two of my predecessors here: Father Craig Doty and Father Dennis Hunt. Also at the table was Father Tom Bush, who with Father Hunt and me is a former pastor at Lawrence and Dewese. It was enjoyable to see them and to see Bishop Conley and all the priests.

Rice Bowls If you wish to collect sacrificial offerings to help the poor, Operation Rice Bowl is always a good option. The rice bowls are available at each of our parishes. The collection from your rice bowls will be taken up at Holy Thursday Mass.

Cancel Culture People speak about the cancel culture that we live in. It occurs to me that the main thing we ought to cancel is sin. Sin is the most hurtful thing that we can do, to God, to others, and to ourselves. Let's live this Lent of 2021 trying to cancel sin out of our lives.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell