



APOSTLES of the HOLY SPIRIT

Bulletin

Fall 2015

THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's children can bear much fruit. He who has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear "The fruit of the Holy Spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Gal. 5:22-23

The beautiful fruits of the Holy Spirit help us discern whether the Holy Spirit dominates or whether we are still allowing the world, the flesh, or the devil to dominate. To grow in the fruits of the Spirit is to grow spiritually through a rich relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

From our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Encyclopedia

The phrase appears only at Galatians 5:22-23, which lists nine fruits: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. These fruits are mentioned in the context of contrasting Christian freedom in Christ (5:1,13) to slavery(5:1), which occurs by accepting circumcision as a means of reconciliation with God (5:2-3,11) or in contrast to a life lived under the power of the “flesh” (our fallen nature: 5:13, 16-17, 19-21). The fruits of the Spirit are in direct contrast and quite antagonistic to a life in the flesh (Gal 5:17).

These “fruits” are the result of two fundamental steps in the process of salvation. First, the “fallen nature” or, in Paul’s language, “flesh” must be crucified, that is, it must undergo a death which is linked to Christ’s death on the cross (Rom 6:5); it must cease to have power over the mind, the will and the whole personality. Second, with the death of the “flesh,” God and Christ fashion a new creation (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:15; 4:24), which means that one has entered into reality of resurrected life at an initial stage (Gal6:15). The “fruits” are the net effects of living this life in the Spirit or resurrected life within relationships. In the language of classical theology, when infused graces transform the person’s heart, mind, soul and will, one can expect to find an ample yield of fruits of the Spirit.

LOVE IS THE FIRST GIFT

733 “God is Love” and love is his first gift, containing all others. “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

734 Because we are dead or at least wounded through sin, the first effect of the gift of love is the forgiveness of our sins. The communion of the Holy Spirit in the Church restores to the baptized the divine likeness lost through sin.

735 He, then, gives us the “pledge” or “first fruits” of our inheritance: the very life of the Holy Trinity, which is to love as “God [has] loved us.” This love (the “charity” of *1 Cor 13*) is the source of the new life in Christ, made possible because we have received “power” from the Holy Spirit.

736 By this power of the Spirit, God’s children can bear much fruit. He who has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear “the fruit of the Spirit:...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” “We live by the Spirit”; the more we renounce ourselves, the more we “walk by the Spirit.” Through the Holy Spirit we are restored to paradise, led back to the Kingdom of heaven, and adopted as children, given confidence to call God “Father” and to share in Christ’s grace, called children of the light and given a share in eternal glory.

- The above excerpts are from the Catechism of the Catholic Church



FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I wish I had learned long ago about the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We did learn the names of them, that is true, but we never went further than that; and because, all strung out in a row, they merely sounded like the virtues of “nice people”, we took it for granted that they came automatically with being “good.” Like patience, for example. Anyone could consider the quality of patience and see that there was a great gap between patience and being patient; but most of the time we were convinced that those who were patient were born that way. We had no real conviction that you could get that way. It was all very vague. After a while even the names of them got mixed up with the names of other things. We couldn’t remember if they were fruits, or gifts, or virtues, or what. It was safe to say that they were nouns.

Now we discover that the whole struggle between the flesh and the spirit could be changed if we understood about the fruits of the Holy Spirit - and acted on it. It is the most encouraging thing yet to realize that the fruits are the effects of using the gifts, not just something you grit your teeth and vow to acquire or bust.

Mary Reed Newland

GOOD FRUITS VS. BAD FRUITS

When the needs of the flesh dominate us, the fruits are hatred, revenge, sadness, frustration, restlessness, impatience, enmity, greed, doubt, anxiety, lust - we are on a death march because our spirits are starving. When the needs of the spirit come into contact with the Holy Spirit we are lifted up with renewed life. As the Holy Spirit takes dominion there is an obvious change. We are able to love others the way God does; there is an inner joy; the peace that comes from knowing and experiencing that God is with us reigns. There is a new power to stand strong in trials and suffering as patience overcomes worry and anxiety; we are for others rather than for ourselves; we seek ways to share our time, talent, and treasures with others; our faith, trust and confidence in God grows; violent reactions are overcome as we react to what is difficult. Our desire for sexual pleasure is disciplined by the desire to be for others rather than take advantage of them.

*A page from the book
“Perpetuating Pentecost”
by Bishop Joseph McKinney*



Prayers to the Holy Spirit

LET US ALWAYS START ALL OUR
PRAYER WITH A SIMPLE

“COME, HOLY SPIRIT”



Come, Holy Spirit

Replace the tension within us with
a holy relaxation.

Replace the turbulence within us
with a sacred calm.

Replace the anxiety within us with
a quiet confidence.

Replace the fear within us with a
strong faith.

Replace the bitterness within us
with the sweetness of grace.

Replace the coldness within us with
a loving warmth.

Replace the night in us with your
light.

Straighten our crookedness.

Fill our emptiness.

Dull the edge of our pride.

Sharpen the edge of our humility.

Light the fires of our love.

Quench the flames of our lust.

Let us see ourselves as You see us

That we may see You as You have
promised, and be fortunate
according to Your Word;

“Blessed are the pure of heart, for they
shall see God” (Mt.5:8).

An Act of Consecration To The Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, divine Spirit of light and love, I
consecrate to You my understanding, my heart and my
will, my whole being from time and for eternity.

May my understanding be always submissive
to your heavenly inspirations and to the teachings of
the Holy Catholic Church, of which You are the infalli-
ble Guide.

May my heart be ever inflamed with love of
God and of my neighbor; may my will be ever con-
formed to the divine Will, and may my whole life be a
faithful imitation of the life and virtues of Our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and
You, Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever, Amen.

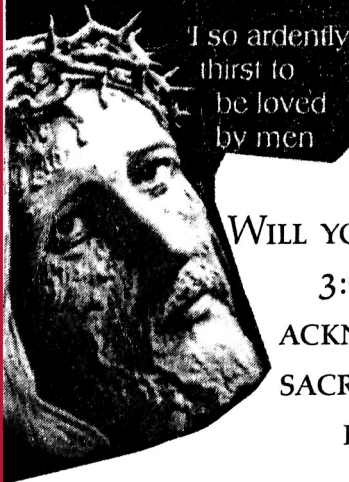
St Pius X

June 5, 1908



Holy and divine Spirit! Through the interces-
sion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your spouse, bring
the fullness of your gifts into our hearts. Comforted
and strengthened by You, may we live according to
Your Will and may we die praising Your infinite
mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

“I THIRST”



The 3 O'Clock
Prayer

Jesus died for
the love of us
at
3 O'clock.

WILL YOU TAKE TIME AT
3:00 PM TO
ACKNOWLEDGE HIS
SACRIFICE AND PRAY
FOR PEACE?

Peace in our world,
Peace in our homes,
Peace within our own families.
AMEN.



Saint Lawrence the Martyr, Santa Clara, CA

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

The Holy Spirit desires to fashion us into an ever greater likeness of Christ according to Jesus' pattern of death-resurrection. Mary our Mother cooperates with the Spirit, whose spouse she is, in this process. Obviously, we should pray to the Holy Spirit each day. There are many ways we can do this. We can do this by simply turning our attention to the Spirit at various times during the day as we ask for His guidance. This method can also be complemented by saying certain established prayers. Here is a Holy Spirit prayer from the Church's Liturgy of the Hours:

Father, Lord of earth and heaven,
King to whom all gifts belong,
Give Your greatest Gift, your Spirit,
God the holy, God the strong.

Son of God, enthroned in glory,
Send your promised Gift of grace,
Make Your Church Your holy Temple,
God the Spirit's dwelling place.

Spirit, come, in peace descending
As at Jordan, heav'nly Dove,
Seal Your Church as God's anointed,
Set our hearts on fire with love.

Stay among us, God the Father,
Stay among us, God the Son,
Stay among us, Holy Spirit:
Dwell within us, make us one.

A HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

The Holy Spirit is given to us to form us more and more according to the image of Christ - to an ever greater growth in the Christ life. Here is a Holy Spirit prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, Almighty Sanctifier, God of love, who filled the Virgin Mary with grace, who wonderfully changed the hearts of the apostles, who endowed all your martyrs with marvelous courage, come and sanctify us. Enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, purify our consciences, rectify our judgment, set our hearts on fire, and preserve us from the misfortunes of resisting your inspirations. Amen."

**One Candle
May Light A Thousand**

PRAYER FOR THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, God of Love, Who strengthen and rejoice the souls of Your children, in Your infinite mercy, grant that we may be most fruitful branches, so that, after glorifying the Father and the Son in this world by a holy life, we may, through You, continue to praise them forever, together with Mary, the Angels and the Saints."



Holy Spirit, God of love and peace, I adore you who are present in my heart and I implore You to establish your peace in me; the peace which Jesus so lovingly wished to his Apostles after his Resurrection; the peace which is the condition for intimate life with Christ and with the Father, the condition which is also the crowning of your sanctifying action in souls.

I beg you, Holy Spirit, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, your most holy Spouse and Queen of Peace, to grant me humility of heart and perfect fidelity to your holy inspirations, so that after experiencing your divine peace in this world, I may, through you, fully enjoy it throughout eternity in Heaven.



Holy Spirit, through whom all graces come to us, kindly inflame our hearts with divine love. Make us become all things to all. Make us rejoice with those who weep. May we be faithful in this world to the precept of love of the Divine Master and merit to enjoy with him the love of the Father for all eternity.



Holy Spirit, Spirit of Holiness and Purity, Divine Fire that inflames the hearts of the Blessed, come and consume everything in us that is displeasing to you. May we be purified from all unruly affection and freed from all attachment to sin, so that with Jesus and Mary, we may forever glorify the Father through you, Divine Spirit, who live and reign with him and the Son, in eternal blessedness.

*When you are finished with
your Bulletin pass it on*



Reader's Various Shared Thoughts

Dear Apostles,

Thank you so much, praise God for the good work that George and Mary Schulhoff started may we carry the torch proudly that they have started. It is so wonderful to find a company that believes and feel the Holy Spirit at work and in our lives. Truly feel like them I have had many experiences that only are credited to the power of the Holy Spirit - Praise God. I thank you so much again. I gave the booklets to the children receiving their confirmation and their parents I hope feel the power in them that they so want to spread, we will let the Holy Spirit do its work. I know it is too late to request more booklets before Pentecost, but next year maybe we will order 100 of "I called on the Holy Spirit", and "Listening to the Holy Spirit" and Novena to the Holy Spirit for the parish.

I truly feel the Holy Spirit is starting a new spring time in our church.

God bless you and the work you do.

J.A.W.

Rockland, Ontario, Canada



Dear Apostles Of The Holy Spirit,

You cannot imagine the joy of finding your precious bulletin in the back of our church Holy Family Of "Leisure World" Seal Beach California.

I have read it over and over. The prayers are so beautiful! Thank you for bringing me closer to the Holy Spirit. I am 90 years old and learning how to increase my faith and appreciation for what I have.

I can truthfully say your bulletin has given me greater faith than I ever knew I had.

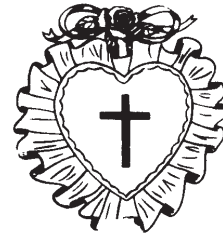
God Bless you and thanks with all my heart.

I would love to receive 2 Bulletins in order to spread your Blessing to someone else.

Yours In The Love
Of The Holy Spirit

A. G. S. , Seal Beach, California

A Love Letter



Dear Friend,

How are you? I just had to send a note to tell you how much I love you and care about you.

I saw you yesterday as you were talking with your friends. I waited all day, hoping you would want to talk with Me also. As evening drew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you - and I waited. You never came. Oh, yes, it hurts Me - but I still love you because I am your Friend.

I saw you fall asleep last night and longed to touch your brow, so I spilled moonlight upon your pillow and face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you! You awakened late and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

Today you looked so sad - so all alone. It makes my heart ache because I understand. My friends let Me down and hurt Me many times, too, but I love you.

Oh, if you would only listen to Me. I love you! I try to tell you in the blue sky and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in the colors of the flowers. I shout it to you in mountain streams and give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature scents. My love for you is deeper than the ocean and bigger than the biggest want or need in your head. Oh, if you only knew how much I want to walk and talk with you. We could spend an eternity together in heaven.

I know how hard it is on this earth; I really know! And I want to help you. I want you to meet My Father. He wants to help you, too. My Father is that way, you know.

Just call Me - ask Me - talk with Me! Oh, please don't forget Me. I have so much to share with you!

All right, I won't bother you any further. You are free to choose Me. It's your decision. I have chosen you, and because of this I will wait - because I love you!

Your Friend,
Jesus

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

November 29, 2014- February 2, 2016

During this YEAR of Consecrated Life we recognize that the consecrated life...

Is deeply rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord and is a gift of God the Father to His Church through the Holy Spirit,

•We praise and thank you, O Lord!

Is at the very heart of the Church as a decisive element for her mission,*

Last November Pope Francis surprised everyone when he announced that in 2015 the Church would celebrate a special YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE.

Meeting with the leaders of 120 religious communities, the Holy Father called upon consecrated women and men to “wake up the world” by their evangelical witness and apostolic work.

Prophetic Witnesses of the Gospel - In the World, But Not of the World!

You know that secular values have infiltrated the minds and hearts of many, many people who no longer look to Christ Jesus - “the Way, Truth and Life” (Jn 14:6) - to know God’s will as the true way to think, act and live.

The world desperately needs the prophetic witness of the consecrated life to wake it up from its sleep. Only by a radical return to Gospel life can society hope to survive!

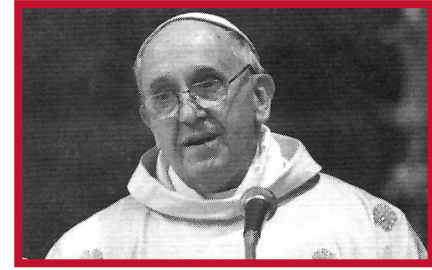
Living the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, religious men and women are “a tangible sign of the presence of God’s Kingdom, a foretaste of the eternal joys of Heaven.”

Consecrated religious strive to embody Our Lord’s directive to His Apostles, “to be in the world, but not of the world” (cf. Jn 17:14-15).

“Waking Up the World” from Indifference, Ignorance & Immorality

And so, how can consecrated men and women “wake up the world”?

First of all, the *vow of poverty*, in which reli-

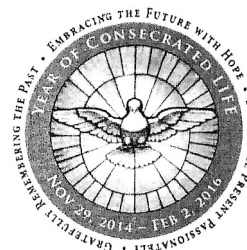


gious own nothing of their own but place all at the disposal of God, speaks volumes to a world entangled in consumerism and materialism. We need to be awakened from the poverty of indifference that permeates our culture - an *indifference* that esteems personal comforts but overlooks the unborn, the elderly, the alienated and the helpless. More now than ever, religious men and women must be a sign of contradiction!

By the *vow of obedience*, consecrated religious place their lives in the hands of superiors and the Church, confident that in this they are led by the Good Shepherd. With this foundation, consecrated religious must preach, teach and witness to God’s Word “in season and out of season” (2 Tim 2:4), combating the *widespread ignorance* of Truth: God’s revelation regarding faith and morals.

Let Us Pray:

Heavenly Father, during this Year of Consecrated Life, help us to grow in a greater appreciation for those men and women who have responded to the call to follow Christ Jesus through the profession of poverty, chastity and obedience. May their evangelical witness and apostolic work manifest the mystery of the Kingdom of God, already at work in history, even as it awaits its full realization in Heaven. Inspire the People of God to remember gratefully the past, to embrace the future with hope and to live the present passionately so that all creation will come to know, love and serve You. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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"COME LET US ADORE HIM"

Thoughts on the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the chief source of growth in the spiritual life. We priests, called to have a special kind of union with Christ, should have a unique desire to grow in appreciation of the Eucharist. It is in the Eucharist that we unite with Jesus' paschal mystery in a special way. Here are some reflections on the Eucharist, Jesus' great gift of love to us:

- Pope John Paul II told us: "The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic adoration. Jesus waits for us in the Sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet him in adoration and contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease."¹⁰

- Archbishop Luis M. Martinez offers us these inspiring words: "If we could dispose ourselves at least to think about what He suffered for each one of us! Our souls are enveloped in His tenderness and in His pain. We are the fruit of His love and His martyrdom. We increasingly receive His gifts of all kinds. We receive them tranquilly, at times joyfully. But those gifts are marked with the blood of Jesus, the blood from His veins and from his Heart. In order that we might taste the least of His heavenly consolations, Jesus had to taste the gall and vinegar of interior desolation..."

"Each communion we receive cost Jesus the sacrifice of Calvary...Holy Communion is a banquet from heaven prepared with the blood of Jesus and the bitterness of His Heart."¹¹



PRAYER FOR THE SPREAD OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son, Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins. We need Your peace in our hearts and among nations. We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness. May we obtain this through prayer and our union with the Eucharistic Lord. Please send down the Holy Spirit upon all peoples to give them love, courage, strength and willingness to respond to the invitation to Eucharistic Adoration. We beseech You to spread exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament in parishes around the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

JESUS WILL BLESS YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND THE WHOLE WORLD FOR THIS HOUR OF FAITH YOU SPEND WITH HIM IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

"Blessed are they who do not see and yet believe..." "Faith can move mountains..."
 "What is needed is trust..." "Behold I come to make all things new." (jn 20;29; Mk 11:23; Mk 5:36; Rev. 21:5)

EACH HOUR I SPEND WITH JESUS WILL DEEPEN HIS DIVINE PEACE WITHIN MY HEART

"Come to Me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you..."
 "Cast all of your anxieties upon the Lord, who cares for you." (Mt 11:28; 1 PT 5:7)

Editor's Note: We have available in the A.H.S. office material to help your parish get started with adoration - material for your committee, bulletin, etc...all you need to know about Eucharistic adoration. It's yours for the asking. Just send our office a card or letter today!

SCHEDULE RELEASED FOR U.S. PAPAL VISIT

Pope Francis' September visit to the U.S. will include stops at the White House, a school in Harlem and a Philadelphia prison, according to an itinerary released Tuesday by the Vatican.

The Argentine pontiff, who became pope in 2013 and as a Jesuit has forged a mission of helping those in poverty, flies into Washington, D.C., on Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. He plans to visit several important Catholic sites in Washington, New York City and Philadelphia. He'll say prayers and Mass while in town. He heads to Rome on Sept. 27.

In Washington, President Obama will welcome Pope Francis at a White House ceremony. Later, the pope will give a speech before a joint session of Congress.

The pope will continue his U.S. visit in New York with a stop at the United Nations General Assembly, then a multi-religious service at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. He'll also visit Our Lady Queen of Angels School in Harlem and say Mass at Madison Square Garden.

The pontiff is scheduled to arrive in Philadelphia on Sept. 26 for the triennial World Meeting of Families, a five-day international conference focusing on Catholic family life. There, he will say Mass at Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter and visit Independence Mall.

About 1 million people are likely to attend an outdoor Mass said by the pope along Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway. He'll also visit Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, a 24-hour in-take center that processes about 30,000 male inmates each year.

Pope Francis will spend five and a half days visiting Washington, D.C., New York City and Philadelphia.



TUESDAY, SEPT. 22

- 4 p.m.: Pope Francis arrives in Washington, D.C., at Joint Base Andrews

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

- 9:15 a.m.: White House welcoming ceremony with President Obama
- 11:30 a.m.: Midday prayer with U.S. bishops at Saint Matthew's Cathedral
- 4:15 p.m.: Junipero Serra Canonization Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

- 9:20 a.m.: Speech before a joint session of Congress
- 11:15 a.m.: Visit to St. Patrick's Catholic Church and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington
- 4 p.m.: Departure for New York from Joint Base Andrews
- 5 p.m.: Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York
- 6:45 p.m.: Evening prayer at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

- 8:30 a.m.: United Nations General-Assembly
- 11:30 a.m.: Multi-religious service at 9/11 Memorial

and Museum, World Trade Center

- 4 p.m.: Visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem
- 6 p.m.: Madison Square Garden Mass

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

- 8:40 a.m.: Departure to Philadelphia from John F. Kennedy International Airport
- 9:30 a.m.: Arrival at Atlantic Aviation in Philadelphia
- 10:30 a.m.: Mass at Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
- 4:45 p.m.: Visit to Independence Mall
- 7:30 p.m.: Visit to Festival of Families at Benjamin Franklin Parkway and Prayer Vigil with World Meeting of Families

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27 PHILADELPHIA

- 9:15 a.m.: Papal meeting with bishops at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- 11 a.m.: Visit to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility
- 4 p.m.: Mass for the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway
- 7 p.m.: Visit with organizers, volunteers and benefactors of the World Meeting of Families at Atlantic Aviation
- 8 p.m.: Departure for Rome



NOVICES

Cardinal John Joseph O'Connor, wrote a column for Catholic New York titled "Help Wanted: Sisters of Life." After receiving hundreds of letters in response, in 1991 eight women entered what became the Sisters of Life. Inspired by Cardinal O'Connor's prayer - "Lord, show us how you want us to love these women" - they heard the call and answered it. They strive to love each person as Christ does and receive each person as his mother, Mary, would. From that small, initial "yes," the order has grown and now includes four homes in New York; a retreat house in Connecticut; a home in Toronto, Canada; and a house of studies and convent just outside of Washington DC.

Sister Catherine lives at the Holy Respite Mission of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent in New York City. Here, in the heart of Manhattan, the Sisters provide pregnant women with the opportunity to live with them—both during their pregnancy and up to six months after they give birth to a child. Two of the Sisters work for the Family Life Office of New York, while the other six serve the pregnant women who either live with them or walk through their doors. Their days and nights are devoted to both prayer and the practical work of their ongoing mission. Morning prayer includes the Divine Office, silent meditation, and Mass before the women eat breakfast together and then go about the "Martha" part of their work.

A typical day might include visits to the ER, follow-up checkups, advocating for the women as they fill out housing applications or address issues of back pay, and helping them continue or return to school or work. They also hold babies, change diapers, and listen to these women when they are feeling overwhelmed or exhausted. Adoration takes place before lunch, and there is evening prayer as well.

The Sisters work with women who, in many

cases, feel cut off from society. The Sisters Of Life become family; they become sisters to these women. They make "room in the inn" for the mother and child, and they minister to the father as well through the Knights of Columbus whenever possible. Fifteen years have passed for some of those first mothers who came to live with the sisters, and they still drop by to celebrate birthdays and graduations. They invite the Sisters to weddings, and ask them to visit with the community that remains part of those women's families. The mission receives upwards of 900 calls a year. Eleven sisters alone at the mission cannot handle that volume of need, so they partner with laity, the Co-Workers of Life, and the Knights of Columbus.

The work the sisters do first involves meeting with those seeking help.

Often someone is pressuring the pregnant woman to abort and she feels cut off, alone. The sisters work to create a family of support for the entire pregnancy and beyond. Nine of the sisters serve the women who come to the mission, while two sisters serve as liaisons and trainers for the co-workers, providing days of reflection and instruction for those who will become the hands and feet of Christ for the women who seek out the sisters.

CONTACT SISTERS OF LIFE

hopeandhealing@sistersforlife.org

866-575-0075 (United States)

877-543-3380 (Canada)

Visit SistersForLife.org to contact them about retreats, donations, volunteering, or if you have need of any of their ministries.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, You told us that "The harvest indeed is great but the laborers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His fields." We ask You to strengthen us as we follow the vocation to which You have called us. We pray particularly for those called to serve as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons:

Those whom You have called,
Those You are calling now,
Those You will call in the future.

May they be open and responsive to the call of serving Your people. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

The Penny Cup

Lord, I fumed, Caleb is making a terrible mistake. You've got to do something! The girl my son was dating was all wrong for him. I just knew it. I'd pleaded, argued, reasoned, even written notes, but nothing could change his mind. One afternoon, at my wit's end, I was sitting in the kitchen fretting, when I looked down at my cup of tea - and was reminded of the penny cup.

Years ago I had read about the penny cup in a magazine. A woman, impatient for an answer to her prayer, declared that every penny she found she'd put into a mug and they would all be reminders that, yes, God was still listening to her and that, yes he'd answer her in his good time. Soon enough the cup was full and her prayer was answered.

"That's what I'll do," I said. Rummaging in the back of a cabinet I took out a mug that Caleb had bought for me when he was in the third grade.

God, please change Caleb's mind, I prayed, and started looking for pennies. I found one in the laundry room, another in a grocery parking lot, a couple more outside on the sidewalk. Once, I found eight pennies in one spot. I deposited every one into the cup. Soon Caleb would see things my way.

But something strange happened instead. I got to know the girl. I discovered that she was good to my son and truly loved him. In fact, she brought out some good qualities in him. I was dropping one more penny into the cup when it dawned on me: Kathy, God has already answered your prayer.

He didn't change Caleb's mind. He changed mine. And you know what? When I looked down at the penny cup, it was full!

By: K.G.

THE GIFTS OF THE FRUITS

By the power of the Holy Spirit. God's children can bear much fruit. He who has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear "The fruit of the Holy Spirit: ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Gal. 5:22-23

Eucharistic Miracle

In Valparasio, Chile, at the beginning of the 20th century, Fr. Mateo Crawley-Boevey SS, CC., well known as the great Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was a young priest. Fr. Mateo told this story wherever he preached and he found that where people were prepared to earn "three golden coins" with love, many graces were obtained and many conversions followed.

He relates that one day an 8 year old girl told him that Jesus spoke to her every time she received Holy Communion. Father was somewhat skeptical and requested her to ask Jesus to give him proof. The proof Father requested was the sudden conversion of a certain man who was a big sinner, a fallen away Catholic, an enemy of the Church...and also that this man should come to him for Confession.

About a week later when Fr. Mateo was hearing confessions, the young girl told him that this sinner was coming up to the church. As the priest was leaving the confessional, the fallen away Catholic came into the church and walked over to Fr. Mateo and asked him to help him with his confession. He said that it was the first one since he was baptized. He did not know what came over him that morning but he suddenly understood the necessity of going to confession. Father realized that he had received the proof he requested.

The young girl told the priest that Our Lord revealed to her that He would give the graces to repent and mend his ways to this fallen away Catholic, and also to many other souls. He said, "*Always ask Me for souls and I will give them to him, too, but first you must become My missionary.*"

She thought she was too young to be a missionary. Our Lord assured her that He would make her His missionary and that she would have to pay a certain price for souls. "*I want you,*" said Jesus, "*to earn three golden coins a day.*" Our Lord then explained what He meant by golden coins.

1) The first golden coin was her prayers to Him for souls.

2) The second golden coin was her little sacrifices, especially acts of obedience.

3) The third golden coin was a promise "*never to miss Mass or Holy Communion through your own fault and to visit Me often in the Blessed sacraments.*"

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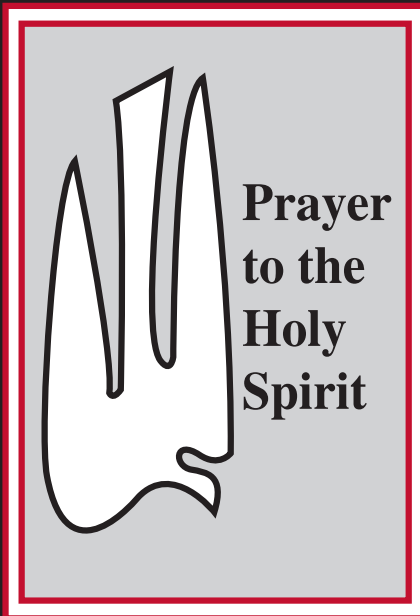
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Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with your holy gifts.

Let my weakness be penetrated with your strength this very day that I may fulfill the duties of my state in life conscientiously, that I may do what is right and just.

Let my charity be such as to offend no one and hurt no one's feelings; so generous as to pardon sincerely any wrong done to me.

Assist me in all the trials of life, enlighten me in my ignorance, advise me in my doubts, strengthen my weakness, help me in all needs and embarrassment, protect me in temptations and console me in all afflictions.

Graciously hear me, O Holy Spirit, and pour your light into my heart, my soul and my mind. Assist me to live a holy life and to grow in goodness and grace.

AMEN

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