

PASTOR BONUS

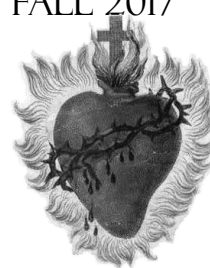
TRUE STORIES FROM REAL PRIESTS

DIOCESE OF NEW ULM
1421 6TH ST. N
NEW ULM, MN 56073

Reporter Beret Henningsgaard asked Fr. Craig Timmerman if he had any funny stories from his priesthood. He retells the following incident: "I was getting ready for a wedding one Saturday. I knew that I would have to rush to the Saturday evening parish Mass right after the wedding. So, thinking the wedding was at 3:00, I was very calmly practicing for the weekend homily so I would be well prepared. It was about 2:30. I probably should have noticed all the guests showing up, but I was oblivious. Of course it was a local wedding, so everyone from town was there, including my cousin who was the godmother of the bride. So my mistake would soon be known by everyone, including my family. Suddenly, I got a knock on the door, together with the doorbell - which is never a good combination. There was one of the groomsmen, who explained to me very calmly that they were looking for me in the sacristy. I replied nonchalantly, 'Oh, I'll be right over. I was just finishing up getting ready.' Turning to go, I saw how hard it was raining and offered to go get him an umbrella. He looked at me rather nervous and responded, 'I think I'd better just get back right away.' For the first time, I noticed he looked a little nervous. Suddenly my heart leapt, and I asked, 'The wedding is at 3:00, right?' To which he responded, 'No, it's at 2:30, Father.' 'Oh my gosh!', I said, 'Are they waiting for me to get started?' He replied, 'They're already walking down the aisle right now.' Breathless, I said, 'What?! They didn't wait for me? Holy smokes! I gotta get my shoes on!' I ran to get my shoes on, and sure enough, when I got over there all the groomsmen were already in front of Church. Thank God they had told the bride to wait in back until I got up there. I've never got vested so fast in my life. I started my homily saying, 'It is so good to be here with you to celebrate your wedding... at 2:30.' The congregation roared. The father of the bride promised to buy me a watch for Christmas."

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the PULSE



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE YOUTH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW ULM,

BY THE YOUTH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW ULM

Hi There!

You might be wondering what this little newsletter is all about. Perhaps you're reading it in religious education class, at your youth group, in adoration, or wherever else you may have come across it. Either way, it's good that you're reading it...don't stop! There's a lot of really good information inside that will help you grow your faith.

A cool thing about this newsletter is that it is written by members of the Diocesan Youth Council. They take the time to develop the articles and to think up topics that are relevant to other young Catholics like themselves. You'll find articles that focus on what we believe as Catholics, how to pray as a Catholic, and how to live as a Catholic. Hopefully all of this serves to help you in your walk with Christ and perhaps helps others as well (share it with your youth group, friends, parents, siblings, etc.).

Perhaps the coolest part of this newsletter, though, is that *it's not ours*. Nope, we've consecrated it to the Blessed Mother; it's hers (so...you should definitely read it :-)). The fate of this newsletter is in her hands, so I know that whatever God wills for it will be done. *Fiat voluntas tua* (Thy will be done).

From all of us on the Diocesan Youth Council: we're praying for you, and we hope to see you at a diocesan event! Be holy!

In Christ through Mary,

Kevin Losleben
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Diocese of New Ulm

why pray?

By: Joseph Goedtke

For countless Catholics, with our one hour Mass “limit” and 15 minute Rosary, prayer can feel very much like a burden. While those things are good and necessary in themselves, many start to question why we *have to* go through this spiritual “exercise” when life could be so much more free and enjoyable spending it in other ways.

I asked God this very question once during adoration. “Why do we have to pray? Why do we have to worship You?” I didn’t ask these questions out of doubt. I just failed to understand why God would require us to put ourselves through these exercises.

The answer then came to me: God requires prayer and worship not *only* for His glory, but *also* for our good. It is precisely because God loves us and wants us to spend eternity with Him that He requests that we honor and pray to Him. It is in worship that we are made humbly aware of God’s glory and power, and it is in prayer that we understand our own need for God’s goodness and mercy. The Catechism of the Catholic Church summarizes it eloquently:

“Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God. But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or out of the depths of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; humility is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that we do not know how to pray as we ought, are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. Man is a beggar before God”.

(CCC-2559)

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief:

Kevin Losleben (St. Mary, Sleepy Eye)

Writers:

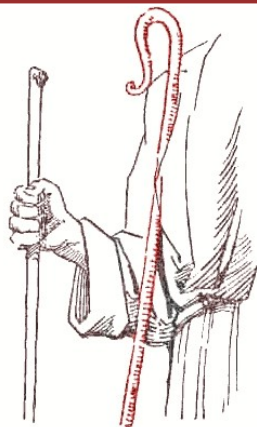
Cole Bot, ‘18 (St. Edward, Minneota)

Joseph Goedtke, ‘19 (St. Raphael, Springfield)

Beret Henningsgaard, ‘18 (St. Peter, Canby)

Megan Tollefson, ‘18 (Sacred Heart, Murdock)

Kendra Wentzel, ‘18 (Sacred Heart, Murdock)



The Marian Apostolate: St. Maximilian Kolbe

By: Cole Bot

When I started looking for my Confirmation Saint, I never expected to be acquainted with a man whose every moment and works were so committed to Mary, Our Mother. St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941) has long been known for his deep, heartfelt love of Our Lady, consecrating himself and everything he had to her as a spiritual “Knight” (his apostolate, the “Militia Immaculata” - or “Knights of the Immaculate” - can exemplify this consecration). His devotion to our Lady is seen in the latter part of the “Rule of Life” he wrote for himself:

“As much as you are, as much as you have and can have: all - thoughts, words, actions, and inclinations (good, indifferent) - are her absolute property . . . You are an instrument in her hands; you must do, therefore, only what she wills.”

Great love and devotion to Our Mother is sometimes challenged as though it is heresy- why should we give so much of our life, our praises, to a human person? Is Marian devotion worship of the human being, a thing that is idolatry (to put another before God)?

To answer this question, we should ask *why* St. Maximilian Kolbe was declared a Saint. One does not become a Saint through idolatry, but through *faith and absolute abandonment to Christ*. After all, it was the declared mission of the Militia Immaculata “to conquer for Christ all souls in the entire world to the end of time - through the Immaculate Mother”: all things for God through Mary, placing God first and pleading Mary’s intercession for the success of the mission. In Catholic Church teaching, Mary is not considered equal to God in divinity (although she *is* sinless), but rather is given a special role in our lives, revealed by Christ when he bade St. John the Apostle: “Behold, your Mother!” (Jn 19:27). Kolbe recognized this truly from the heart, and because of his love for Mary as well as Christ, he was and still is able to do so much through his heavenly intercession. As a man who endured sickness, imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp, persecution, and martyrdom, he truly is worthy of the title of “Saint.”

Finding St. Maximilian Kolbe helped me to find Mary in a way I never knew her before. Through the intercession of St. Maximilian and all the Saints, may you also find her more and more each day.

COR JESU

Latin: Heart of Jesus

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, ADORATION,
AND FELLOWSHIP!

September 22 | Cathedral, New Ulm

November 4 | St. Mary, Arlington

December 3 | St. Michael, Milroy

February 10 | St. Clotilde, Green Valley

March 17 | St. Andrew, Granite Falls

June 1 | Cathedral, New Ulm

7:15 PM

No registration necessary. Open to all ages.
Visit www.dnu.org/cor-jesu for more info.



Sponsored by the
Office of Youth &
Young Adult Ministry

"REMEMBER" TO PRAY! By: Megan Tollefson

Memorare (Latin)

Memorare, O piissima Virgo Maria,
non esse auditum a saeculo,
quemquam ad tua currentem
praesidia, tua implorantem
auxilia, tua petentem suffragia,
esse derelictum. Ego tali animatus
confidentia, ad te, Virgo Virginum,
Mater, curro, ad te venio, coram te
gemens peccator assisto. Noli,
Mater Verbi, verba mea despicere;
sed audi propitia et
exaudi. Amen.

Remember (English)

Remember, O most gracious Virgin
Mary, that never was it known that
anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought thy
intercession was left unaided. In-
spired with this confidence, I fly to
thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Moth-
er; to thee do I come; before thee I
stand, sinful and sorrowful. O
Mother of the Word Incarnate, des-
pise not my petitions, but in thy
mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Traditionally attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), the *Memorare* was part of a 15th century prayer that appears in many manuscripts and printed books. It was also prayed by Saint Frances de Sales and was made popular by Fr. Claude Bernard (1588-1641). Fr. Bernard was said to have prayed this prayer to the Holy Mother and was miraculously cured of his ailment. Even though he attributed his recovery to a natural phenomenon, he held the prayer in very high regards. His life work was caring for prisoners and criminals condemned to death and he carried pamphlets with the *Memorare* printed in multiple languages to distribute. One day, an Augustinian Brother Fiacre visited Fr. Bernard and told him that Mary had appeared to him in a vision saying that she did indeed cure Fr. Bernard from his ailment. She told Brother Fiacre to make this fact known to Fr. Bernard, who then realized how wrong he had been in assuming he was healed naturally and asked Mother Mary to forgive him.

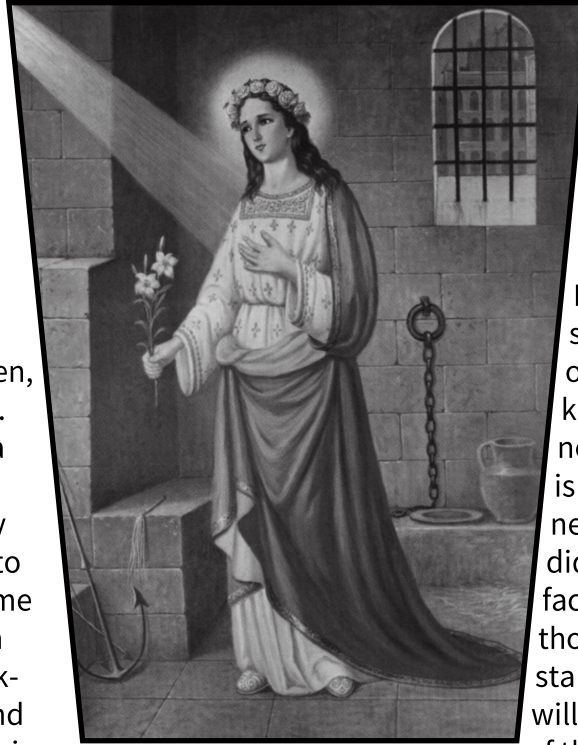
As for myself, the *Memorare* was the first prayer I learned in catechism. It was given to us in a little paper pamphlet and we were told to have the first line memorized by the following week. I asked for my mom's help with the memorization and I soon learned that this prayer was my mothers' favorite prayer. After talking about the meaning of the *Memorare* with my mom, I realized how beautiful the prayer is and I quickly committed it to memory. To me this prayer represents healing and a deep love for our Holy Mother. Still today, this prayer is one of my favorites.

➡ The unknown saint ⬅

By: Kendra Wentzel

In May of 1802, a time filled with war and persecution in Europe, the tomb of a young girl was found in the ancient catacombs of St. Priscilla in Rome. With her were three tiles reading, “Peace be to you, Philomena,” a name meaning “daughter of light.” Her life was a mystery until she appeared to three people from different countries, unknown to each other, to tell her story.

Philomena was a Greek princess, who at a young age promised her virginity to Jesus. When she was thirteen, the emperor of Rome asked for her hand in marriage. Her father felt honored and accepted, but Philomena refused, saying, “My virginity, which I have vowed to God, comes before everything, before you, before my country. My kingdom is Heaven.” The emperor tried to win her over but when she still rejected him he became angry and ordered her to be tied down with chains in prison. For thirty-seven days, Philomena lived in darkness and pain. One day a heavenly light appeared, and out of it Mary emerged, saying, “My daughter, your pain from this will end in three more days.” After warning her of worse suffering still to come, she told Philomena to have courage, even when the guards came for her on the fortieth day. The emperor ordered for her to be tied to a column and lashed repeatedly. They then dragged her back to the dungeon to die, but two angels appeared in Philomena’s cell, healing and strengthening her. The emperor then had an anchor chained around her neck and thrown deep into the Tiber. Two angels once again saved her. The emperor tried two more times to have her killed, but both times she was rescued by angels. The emperor then ordered Philomena to be beheaded, ending her earthly life on a Friday at 3:00 PM—the day and hour of Jesus’ death.



Philomena’s tomb was undiscovered for almost 1,600 years. With the name inscription, there were also drawings of two anchors, three arrows, and a palm on the tiles, indicating virginity and martyrdom. There have been countless miracles since her discovery and her story gives many strength, courage, and hope.

It’s easy to be wowed with Philomena’s courage, but shrug off any possibility of being courageous like that ourselves. Many think people don’t need to have that kind of strength anymore; that in our time, you don’t need to be that brave. I believe, now more than ever, it is imperative that we have courage. We most likely will never have to go through the physical sufferings she did, but there will be other struggles. Most of us will be faced with people who try to deter us from our faith. In those moments, we need to do as Philomena did, and stand our ground. There will be times when our morals will be tested, and we’ll have to choose between the way of the world or of God. Like Philomena, we should re-

member that eternal life lies with those who choose God. There will be times when we feel all alone, like no one in the world is there for us, that nobody really cares. Philomena was left alone in prison for forty days, faced with loneliness and abandonment as well. Remembering that God was and will always be there, is what got her through. Life isn’t easy. It wasn’t easy for Philomena. She struggled and hurt, but with God’s love and aid, she made it through. All of us will deal with hardships in our lives. If we ask Him, God will give us courage, strength, and hope to help us carry on. St. Philomena, pray for us!



*“Peace be to
you,
Philomena”*