



LITTLE SHEPHERDS, TEACH US TO PRAY, SACRIFICE, AND ADORE JESUS

February 20th is the Feast Day of the Little Shepherds - Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto.



Most know their story. They were two of the three Portuguese children to whom Our Lady of Fatima appeared several times in 1917.

Many may not know that a year before an angel appeared to them three times to teach them the

importance of continuous prayer, begging for mercy for sinners, sacrificing for God, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

It was 1916, the second year of World War I. Anti-Christian forces and politicians were determined to abolish even the thought of God, which agonized Catholics and Christians in Portugal and eastern Europe. For the Marto family prayer became increasingly important. Praying the rosary for peace became a beautiful ritual especially for the children.

Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, who were eight, six and nine-years-old respectively at the time; were out on their families' land shepherding their sheep. The children loved this chore, which took them outside to play and explore.

According to memoirs written by Lucia, it was in early Spring of 1916, when an angel first appeared to them. This angel would visit them in the fields three times over the next few months. On the day of the first appearance the children were out in an open area of land, when it began to rain. Lucia said they climbed a hill with the sheep following to seek shelter beneath a rock formation. The property belonged to Lucia's godfather. When the rain stopped, they chose to stay on the hilltop to have lunch and enjoy the view which overlooked Fatima, their houses, and surrounding villages. After they ate, they knelt down to say the rosary. When they finished and were playing a gust of wind shook the trees, Lucia wrote.

"We looked up to see what was happening, since it was such a calm day. And then we began to see, in the distance, above the trees that stretched to the east, a light whiter than snow in the form of a young man, quite transparent, and as brilliant as crystal in the rays of the sun. As he came near, we were able to see his features. We were astonished and absorbed, and we said nothing to one another. And then he said, 'Do not be afraid.

I am the angel of peace. Pray with me."

The children knelt with the angel and repeated the prayer he said:

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You."

They all repeated the prayer three times. The angel said to pray that way and *"the hearts of Jesus and Mary are ready to listen to you."*

Then the Angel of Peace disappeared.

"The presence of God was so powerful and intimate that even among ourselves, we could not speak. On the next day, too, this same atmosphere held us bound, and it lessened and disappeared only gradually. None of us thought of talking about this apparition or any pledge of secrecy. We were locked in silence without having willed it," Lucia wrote.

The angel reappeared to them in the summer, when they were playing outside their homes, near a well. The angel identified himself this time as the Angel of Portugal and instructed the children that it was their duty to *"Pray! The hearts of Jesus and Mary have merciful designs for you. You must offer your prayers and sacrifices to God, the Most High."*

The angel explained to sacrifice was to give up something they loved and offer that act up for peace and for sinners to turn good and return to God.

The third vision of the Angel of Peace came in the Fall of that year. The children were in the fields with the sheep. While praying and repeating the original prayer the angel taught them *"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You."*

Lucia wrote, "We saw the shining over us, a strange light. We lifted our heads to see what was happening. the Angel was holding in his left hand a chalice and over it, in the air, was a host from which drops of blood fell into the chalice. The Angel leaves the chalice in the air, kneels near us, and tells us to repeat three times:



continue...

'Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. And by the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.'

“After that he rose, took again in his hand the chalice and the host. The host he gave to me and the contents of the chalice he gave to Jacinta and Francisco, saying at the same time,

'Eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ terribly outraged by the ingratitude of men. Offer reparation for their sakes and console God.'”

They all bowed in adoration and thanksgiving, repeating prayers the angel taught them. They were filled with peace

and the angel left them.

The children remained reverent in prayer and faithful to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. They were unaware that in just eight months they would be the ones who were chosen to be the instruments of heaven and to be the messengers for Our Blessed Mother, when her apparitions in Fatima began (May 13, 1917).

Saints Francisco and Jacinta died within four years of the last apparition of Our Lady, just as she said they would. Lucia dos Santos became a Carmelite nun in Portugal. Sister Lucia died February 13, 2005, at age 97. Pope Francis canonized Francisco and Jacinta during a May 13, 2017, Mass in Fatima. Saints Francisco and Jacinta, pray for us.

ST. JOSEPH BUILDS MORE THAN FAITH FOR US



In one month, the Year of St. Joseph will conclude in the diocese on the Feast Day of the Guardian of the Redeemer, March 19. As we continue to call upon our patron saint to help us build a strong faith and trust in God, we share a significant story that occurred about 150 years ago in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In 1850, Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy of New Mexico, had the Sisters of Loretto open a school for girls in Santa Fe. The religious order had been serving the Church educating girls since 1812. The area was predominately Spanish speaking, so six sisters eagerly agreed to learn Spanish and within three years the doors to Loretto Academy opened. The school was so successful and had become a great asset to the community the nuns became determined an onsite chapel was needed. With Bishop Lamy's involvement a gothic-style chapel resembling the attributes of the bishop's favorite chapel, the Chapel of Our Lady of Light (Sainte Chapelle) in Paris, was built in 1873.

The greatest concern was the only access the sisters and girls attending the academy had to the choir loft was a ladder. While a conventional staircase would significantly reduce the seating capacity in the chapel the sisters agreed the ladder was neither practical nor safe. So, the Sisters of Loretto began a novena to St. Joseph. For nine days they prayed to the Patron Saint of Carpenters to solve the dilemma. Legend has it that on the ninth day a humble man appeared with a hammer, carpenter's square, and other simple tools.

According to Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, author of Consecration to St. Joseph, the gentleman had a specific request, “He wanted to work alone and behind closed doors.” With that the work began. For three months the carpenter kept to himself and worked in the chapel. Without a

goodbye or being seen the man vanished. The sisters looked everywhere to thank and pay him. No one in the community knew where he went. The local lumberyard workers told the sisters they not only didn't know the man, but also had not sold any lumber to anyone building a staircase.

“Perplexed, the sisters remembered how odd it was that the man had only had a T-square, a saw, a hammer, and a few other basic tools. Intrigued, the sisters and others from the town inspected the staircase and realized the mysterious man had constructed something quite unique. It was a spiral staircase that didn't interfere with the pews on the main floor in any way.”

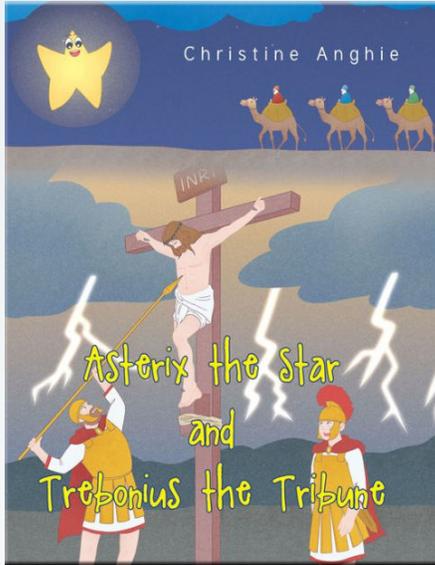
The staircase of 30 steps was constructed without any nails. It only had wooden pegs. “A carpenter's masterpiece,” Calloway wrote.

In 1996, a study was completed by a forester and wood technologist for the US Forest Service and the US Naval Research Laboratory. The study found the wood used to build the staircase is spruce, but a specific spruce only found in Israel. Many believe this confirms the carpenter was St. Joseph or an angel sent by the Head of the Holy Family. What is for certain is that the Sisters of Loretto prayed to St. Joseph, and their prayers were answered with this most impressive staircase.



For more information visit: WWW.LORETTOCHAPEL.COM.

NEW BOOK WRITTEN TO ENRICH CATHOLIC YOUTH



CHRISTINE ANGHIE'S newly released *Asterix the Star and Trebonius the Tribune* is a charming pair of faith-based stories for young faithful. It is a dual narrative that encourages juvenile readers to nurture a relationship with God through knowledge of scripture.

Anghie has penned books used in religion classes within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's 24 schools. Events and characters from the bible come to life in Anghie's latest book, which has the overarching theme encouraging young people to continually reconnect with the works and messages of Jesus Christ, and the birth of Christianity.

Her latest book is two stories in one paperback. Anghie shares, "The purpose for which the first story was written is to give younger readers a connection to a story written as a fable, while at the same time interwoven with biblical characters, events, and Christian tradition; young adults could read it as an allegory.

"The second story takes a lesser-known biblical character and depicts his unlikely journey of Christian conversion culminating in his witnessing the historical crucifixion of St. Peter. It too has events and characters from the New Testament making it therefore a work of biblical fiction.

"The overarching theme of these stories is to have young people reconnect with the works and message of Jesus Christ, and the birth of Christianity."

Published by Christian Faith Publishing, Christine Anghie's new book will delight and inspire young believers in their faith.

Anghie continues to seek ways to embolden the youth of the world to embrace God's promise through encouraging and biblical themes.

Consumers can purchase "Asterix the Star and Trebonius the Tribune" at traditional brick & mortar bookstores, or online at Amazon.com, Apple iTunes store, or Barnes and Noble.

For additional information or inquiries about *Asterix the Star and Trebonius the Tribune* contact the Christian Faith Publishing media department at 866-554-0919.

Pope Francis has asked us all to participate in a "synodal process" in our parishes and Church organizations. Synod listening sessions are in full swing across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the faithful to engage in sharing about Church life. Bishop Mark Brennan and our parish priests encourage everyone to be alert to their parish's routine means of communication, such as bulletins, websites, social media pages, and emails, which will announce specific details about their local synod process.

In a recent letter to the faithful Bishop Mark wrote, "I am grateful to you for your interest in this synodal process. It speaks of your love for the Lord and for your Church. Let us keep the intention of a fruitful synodal process in our daily prayers. May the Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and St. Joseph, patron of our Diocese, guide us through his Holy Spirit to the fullness of truth and life."

Find a listening session near you at: dwc.org/synod-sessions/

Synod Listening Sessions Continue Across WV





CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

WITH A PILGRIMAGE TO THE BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

An Evening of Music and Prayer ~ **7 p.m.**
to Honor Saint Joseph at Saint John XXIII
Pastoral Center (*light reception will follow*)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Celebration to Close the
Diocesan Observance of the Year of Saint Joseph

Arrive and Check-In ~ **9:30 a.m.**

Prayer/Adoration/Confessions ~ **10 a.m.**

Reflections and Presentations on Saint Joseph/Tours of the Basilica ~ **11 a.m.**

Boxed Lunch ~ **12:30 p.m.**

Reflections and Presentations on Saint Joseph ~ **1:15 p.m.**

Music Program/Concert ~ **2 p.m.**

Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan ~ **3 p.m.**

Please register at www.dwc.org/pilgrimage or by scanning the QR code.

Overnight accommodations available at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center
located at 100 Hodges Road, Charleston. Please call 304-342-0507.

The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is located at 1114 Virginia Street East, Charleston



CATHOLIC CHARITIES VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

By Trina Bartlett, CCWVa Eastern Regional Director

The Catholic Charities West Virginia Martinsburg office is once again offering the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for low- and moderate- income taxpayers. Certified Catholic Charities volunteers must pass several tests before they can prepare and file taxes.

While taking tests and doing taxes might not be what some people think about when they consider volunteering, our VITA volunteers keep coming back to help year after year. When asked why, here is how some responded:

“Most people find taxes a daunting challenge. In addition, if they are in the lower income brackets, they do not have the funds to afford a professional tax preparer. In the Gospels, Jesus tells us to help those in need. Since I understand the tax return process, this is a small way in which I can comply with the Gospel and help fellow citizens with this process.”

- Mike Conk, 6-year VITA Volunteer

“I volunteer because it’s my turn to help. I used VITA many years ago while in the military and was so grateful for the assistance I received; now it’s time for me to return the favor.” - Jill Creigh, 7-year VITA Volunteer

“As a retired economist, one thing I know is that tax policy is also social policy. By helping the low and moderate income community navigate a complex system to access their rightful tax benefits, we are doing good work.” - Jeff Hornbeck, 2- Year VITA Volunteer

“As an IRS employee, I’ve always been interested in becoming a volunteer. I have wanted to use my tax knowledge and learn more about my own tax benefits, to make a difference in the community at the same time.” - Tim Beachley, 2-year VITA Volunteer

“Being a VITA Volunteer is very satisfying because it provides me a technical challenge to apply the Federal and State tax codes in a constructive manner to get working families the maximum benefits that they are allowed under the laws.” - Jim Dyer, 6-year VITA Volunteer

These volunteers help with taxes from February through the first week of April. For more information about the VITA program at the Martinsburg office, contact Eastern Regional Director Trina Bartlett at 304-267-8837 ext. 8 or TBARTLETT@CCWVA.ORG.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes, and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.



Volunteer Jim Dyer meets with a client to help prepare her taxes

Catholic Charities West Virginia
Shining a Light on Hope

Save the Date
April 21, 2022

VIRTUAL GALA



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading 1 SAMUEL 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

In those days, Saul went down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David in the desert of Ziph. So David and Abishai went among Saul's soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him. Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!" But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD's anointed and remain unpunished?" So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul's head, and they got away without anyone's seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the LORD had put them into a deep slumber. Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops. He said: "Here is the king's spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. The LORD will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD's anointed."

Responsorial PSALMS 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

R. (8a) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading 1 CORINTHIANS 15:45-49

Brothers and sisters: It is written, *The first man, Adam, became a living being*, the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

Alleluia JOHN 13:34

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be a font of mercy to all people, approaching sinners with love and forgiveness rather than judgment and condemnation, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those in public office may work for justice for the vulnerable, pursue equity for the disadvantaged, and advance policies that support the common good, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For an increase of compassion in our lives and our world, that we may put into practice the values of our creator, in whose image we were created, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may choose not to take advantage of our enemies but find a way to forgive them and treat them kindly, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

#FaithInWV



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- Resources

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FaithInWV.org

Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



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MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: [HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: [HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS](http://catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass)
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basilica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: [HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSSES/](https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/special-masses/)