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Catholic Schools Week



NICHOLAS BLACK ELK:
CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION

SPIRITUAL FITNESS
EASTER GRACE

SAINT OF THE MONTH
ST. JOSEPH

Sentinel

News of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions

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*To further the interests of the
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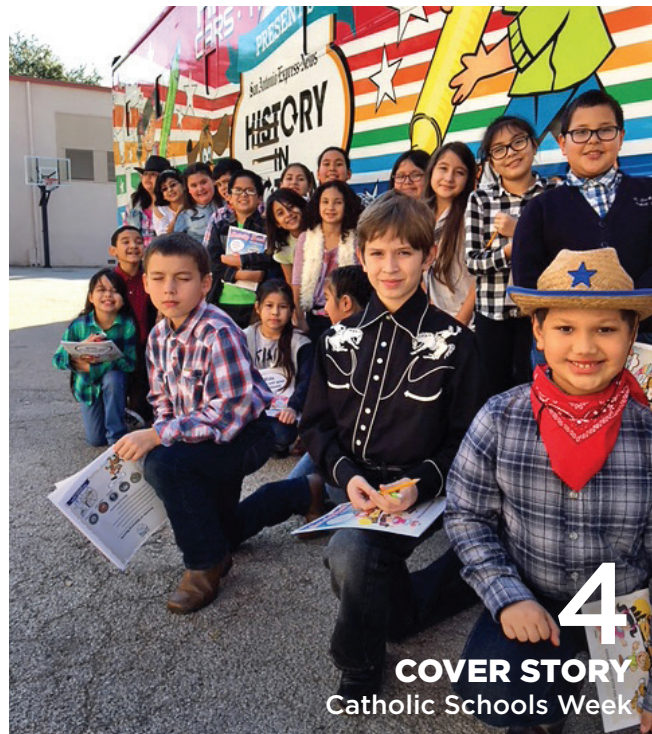
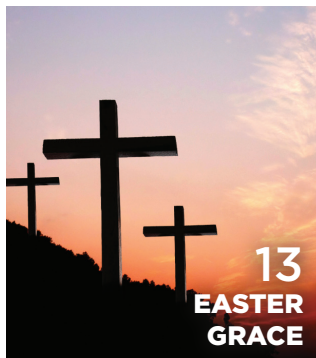
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to what is now our established tradition, we dedicate this issue of the *Sentinel* to the many Catholic schools that are educating Native American and Native Alaskan elementary and high school students throughout the United States. From shortly after its inception in 1874, the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions has been awarding grants to Catholic schools that serve Native Alaskan and Native American students who live in Native communities and in urban settings, as well.

The Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions has always placed a high priority on doing our part to open the doors for young Native Americans and Native Alaskans who wish to receive a Catholic education. Many young Native people live in communities where the quality of education available to them in their local public schools is very low. Having the opportunity to receive a Catholic education can be a real game-changer for them because Catholic schools provide a higher quality of education that often leads to improved prospects for future success in college and in their chosen careers.

The Bureau has long been a strong supporter of Catholic education for Native American and Native Alaskan youth, and I want to strengthen this important role of the Bureau by establishing collaborative relationships with other organizations that support Catholic education for Native youth. So, I am pleased to let you know that I have been able to establish one such relationship with the American Indian Catholic School Network. They are a consortium of five Indian Mission Schools who are organized under the auspices of the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE). I will attend a summit meeting that they will convene at the University of Notre Dame this summer. More information about the American Indian Catholic School Network and about their summer summit meeting will be posted on the Black and Indian Mission Office website.

As we celebrate and observe the holy seasons of Lent and Easter, I hope and pray that your Lenten practices of increased prayer, abstinence, fasting and almsgiving will lead you to a closer and stronger personal relationship with Christ. And as you celebrate and reflect upon the mysteries of his Passion, death and Resurrection, I pray that your hearts will be filled with much joy and gratitude and a greater sharing in the divine life.


Yours in Christ our Redeemer,

Father Henry Sands



Catholic Schools Week

Introduction

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States that begins on the last Sunday of January. Schools typically observe the week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to the Church, local communities and the nation. 

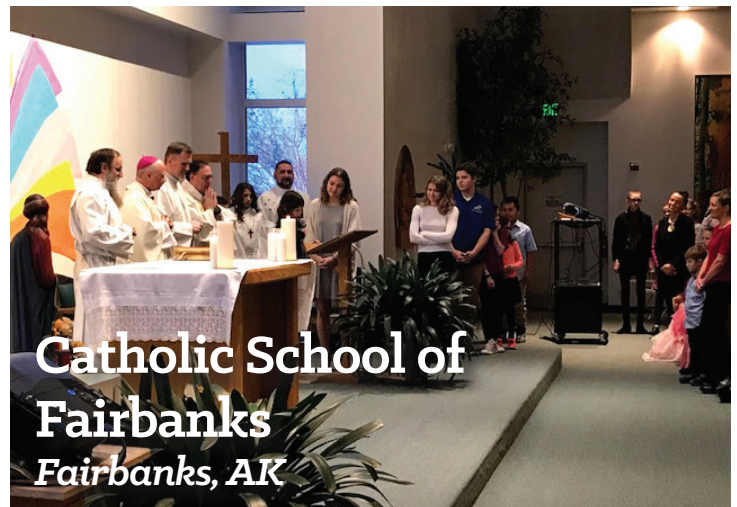
This year's theme was Catholic Schools:

Learn. Serve.
Lead. Succeed.

It was celebrated by nearly 6,500 schools nationwide.

Red Cloud Indian School *Pine Ridge, SD*

At the Red Cloud Indian School, Catholic Schools Week activities included an All-School Prayer and Praise celebration, decoration of the school with posters and banners, dress up as a saint, pajama day, field day and an ice cream social. The activities reflected the mission of the Catholic school to educate the mind and spirit and promote Lakota and Catholic values.



Catholic Schools Week at the Catholic School of Fairbanks kicked off with a party on Jan. 28, 2018. The school community gathered and prepared for the week by making banners, decorating donation boxes and writing prayers.

Activities throughout the week focused on what a gift it is to attend and teach at a Catholic school, especially at the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks, where the chapel is the center of the school. Students and staff alike celebrated having God as the center of the school's mission and focus. As a Catholic school community, we are blessed to be able to pray together, talk about God and teach the Catholic faith.

The school congregated in the Holy Family Chapel to celebrate Mass with Bishop Chad Zielinski. After Mass, the students enjoyed lunch with Bishop Zielinski and the concelebrating priests. At a special school assembly in the gym, everyone formed a prayer chain and this was a revitalizing experience.



Students wrote thank you cards, thought about what it means to be a loving person in their families and learned the importance of giving back through community service.

Throughout the week, students and their families collected a variety of donations, ranging from books to canned food and hygiene products. The donations were distributed to the Literacy Council, Fairbanks Community Food Bank, The Door, S.O.A.P., Rescue Mission and ICC Soup Kitchen. The week wrapped up with a dance performance by students in grades preK-6 and a game of dodgeball. Catholic Schools Week will be remembered as a week where we celebrated God as the center of our school, our lives and our hearts. 🇺🇸



Sacred Heart Catholic School *Shawano, WI*

Sacred Heart Catholic School celebrated National Catholic Schools Week with the theme of “Jesus Christ, Our Superhero.” As the only Catholic school in Shawano County for more than 135 years, the school was thrilled to represent Catholic education! The school kicked off the celebratory week with a superhero-inspired open house. More than 200 guests learned more about the school and also enjoyed themed obstacle courses, activities, crafts and food.

At the beginning of the week, students and staff received sponsored themed T-shirts. The whole school enjoyed a “Move to the Grove” dance session with program creator Rhex Arboleda. Throughout the week, students were encouraged to reflect on how they could be Christ-like by being brave, kind, faithful, powerful, hopeful and wise. Students put these traits to the test during a special “Spirit and Field Day” in which they were placed into groups for team-building and problem-solving activities in the gymnasium. Students participated in tug-a-war, relay races, dodgeball and blind man’s volleyball. Students demonstrated great teamwork, sportsmanship and wonderful school spirit!

Preschoolers and first-graders enjoyed field day activities, while students in grades 2-8 took off to Navarino Sledding Hill. Students dressed up as



their favorite biblical hero, with some dressing up as Mother Mary and Esther, while others chose Paul and David. The school concluded the week on Friday with a Special Persons Day that included an All-School Mass, a ham luncheon, a live radio broadcast with WTCH and a geography bee.

The school was truly honored to have the following community heroes join the celebrations: Chief of Police Dan Mael, Shawano County Sheriff Deputy Sandra Finger, Ambulance Director of Operations Pat Trinko, Shawano School Liaison Officer Jody Johnson and Shawano Police Officer Heidi Cartwright.

It was an amazing week of honoring our faith, our school and Jesus Christ as our superhero! 🇺🇸



Catholic Schools Week at St. Michael Indian School, was overflowing with activities for families, students and alumni. The week-long event kicked off with a food drive to benefit the local parish food pantry.

On Monday, the entire school spent time making cards and posters to thank our local police officers, hospital staff and firefighters for their service in the community. A few members of the National Honor Society (NHS) and Junior Society delivered the cards. NHS members said that their most memorable visit was to the hospital staff, who said that nobody ever comes to say thank you to them. NHS also delivered cards to the Senior Citizens Center.

Classes for grades 6-12 picked up trash along the school road, the mission road near the school and further out in the community of Window Rock. It was an unexpectedly warm day and the students had so much trash to pick that they got quite a workout. Local community members honked their horns in support of the cleanup groups when they passed by.

The school celebrated students by presenting student-of-the-month awards, along with other



**St. Michael
Indian School**
Saint Michaels, AZ

St. Anthony's Indian Mission School *Zuni, NM*

St. Anthony's Indian Mission School is part of a relatively small mission in its 95th year of a proud history of bringing the Gospel to the Zuni Tribe. With one of the richest cultural traditions among the Pueblos, our task lies in the "enculturation" of the Catholic faith within those traditions. Gospel values permeate every aspect of the school day and presented themselves wonderfully in the way that Catholic Schools Week was celebrated.

Along with enjoying crazy hair day, pajama day, bingo and movies, the students prepared posters to reflect what was meaningful to them. One poster described leadership by depicting the cross, the Zuni symbol and Marines planting the American flag on a mountain. Another depicted sympathy and yet another depicted encouragement.

The week centered on the celebration of the Mass where students presented their posters and the



special activities. Some classes received healthy snacks, got a free homework pass or enjoyed outdoor activities. The school athletic program hosted a pep rally complete with games and a dance by the cheerleading teams.

Students celebrated vocations and listened to alumni presenters speak on how faith guides them in their work. The elementary and high school both hosted open houses where the public was given tours to visit classrooms and learn more about the schools. Students were encouraged to dress in their future career attire.

At the end of the week, students wore traditional Native regalia and hosted a small bonfire where they spent time together and had hot chocolate and s'mores. The appreciation luncheon for faculty, staff and volunteers was hosted by Principal Tom Sorci, Vice Principal Tazbah Shortey and School President Dot Teso. ☩



eighth-grade lector read from Romans 12, “We are one body in union with Christ.” The week ended with a faculty vs. students’ basketball game. The intensity of the competition was very tangible, as was the sheer enjoyment of the event by the students of every grade.

In the midst of today’s ever-increasing pace and so many harsh realities, the students brought attention to the need for human sympathy and encouragement within our diversity, along with the need for leadership that allows the depth of Christ be seen in and amongst us. 🇨🇷



St. Leo the Great Catholic School celebrated Catholic Schools Week 2018 with faith, family, fine arts and fun! Teams of fifth-graders created colorful posters with the national Catholic Schools Week theme: “Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.” Classes reflected on the lives of people who have been leaders in service roles and discussed the qualities and actions needed to succeed in life.

Each day of the week was focused on a different family member. Monday was “Royal Moms’ Day,” with the mothers joining their children to make crowns and join in the royalty parade. Cheers of excitement filled the gym on Tuesday, as the students took to the stage to display their abilities in song,

dance and comedy. During Wednesday’s “Dunkin’ with Dads’ Day,” the coaches beat the dads in an energetic game of basketball before donuts were enjoyed by all.

Grandparents were invited on Thursday to accompany their grandchildren for Mass, breakfast tacos and *lotería*, a Mexican bingo game. The early childhood students did a very commendable job proclaiming the readings and the prayers of the faithful at Mass. The choir enthusiastically led the congregation in song, concluding with the lively “Alabaré” (Praise to God!).

Friday found the school turning into Cowboy and Cowgirl Country. Many little boots scooted to country music rhythms led by the



school's preK teacher and dance leader, Ms. Evangeline Carrera. Following the line dancing, the students experienced some hands-on learning in the "Texas History in Motion" mobile bus that visited the school. They will all remember the Alamo cannonball, the Six Flags of Texas and the Davy Crockett coonskin cap.

At the end of the week, teachers were treated to a marvelous luncheon, games and gifts that were provided by the Parent Council. All of these activities were made possible through the efforts of dedicated staff and parent volunteers who got up early and stayed late to ensure a true celebration for all. ✚



It was a week of CELEBRATION from beginning to end at St. Peter Indian Mission School! The school celebrated the nation, students, community, vocations, our faculty and volunteers.

The students prayed for vocations during the weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Each grade signed up for 20 minutes of adoration. The children asked God for guidance and inspiration to follow Jesus by choosing to live a priestly or consecrated life. The school participated in a two-mile "Run for the Troops," and then relaxed watching a movie with popcorn and drinks provided to them courtesy of the staff.

Catholic Schools Week concluded with the celebration of Mass on the feast of the Presentation. The Mass started with a traditional song by the junior high boys and ended with a traditional blessing. The second-graders led the prayers and all of the children were encouraged to wear traditional Native regalia to celebrate who they are as Native people. ✚





St. Mary's Mission School *Red Lake, MN*

St. Mary's Mission School is located on the Red Lake Nation in Northern Minnesota. The school seeks to nurture the growth of Red Lake Indian children through a God-centered, culture-enhancing, quality education. With 106 students enrolled in grades preK-6, the Catholic Schools Week activities were full of the spirit of this year's theme: "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." Older students "buddied up" with the younger students and many of the elders participated in a "Read-a-Thon" in which students read to each other or an elder, followed by the students writing a paragraph describing the story. Students visited the local nursing home, where they participated in the celebration of the Mass, read to the residents and enjoyed BINGO!

The week ended with a traditional powwow involving the students, parents, elders and the community. Students dressed in Native regalia, and danced to the music of the drummers and singers. As is the yearly custom, the school chose a "Princess" and a "Brave" to represent the St. Mary's Mission in the community. The events of the week highlighted both traditional Native and Catholic teaching to the entire Red Lake community. 🇺🇸



St. Mary's Catholic Parish and School in Kodiak *Kodiak, AK*

Like many schools, St. Mary's Catholic Parish and School in Kodiak kicked off the week with students organizing the liturgy, serving and presenting the gifts during the Sunday morning Mass.

Students explored various vocations while contemplating and expressing dreams for their own futures. Kindergarteners visited senior citizens at Island Cove Care Center and brought smiles and hope to many residents. While celebrating the



St. Paul's Indian Mission Grade School Hays, MT

At St. Paul's Indian Mission Grade School, Catholic Schools Week is one of those special times to "zero in" on its Catholic identity. The week began with a school-wide prayer gathering. A banner with the theme for the year was hung in front of the hall, and each student's name surrounded the banner, which made it very special.

To emphasize learning, there was an afternoon of rotating "stations" where the students experienced mini-lessons in math, science, music, Native culture and physical activity. Several service projects filled the days with everything from making cards for the elders to fundraising for various organizations, school-wide games and challenges in the gym — all of which were followed up with an ice cream treat. Despite the many challenges that Catholic education faces today, St. Paul's Indian Mission Grade School is committed to maintaining a focus on excellent academics, religious formation, Native culture and service. ☩



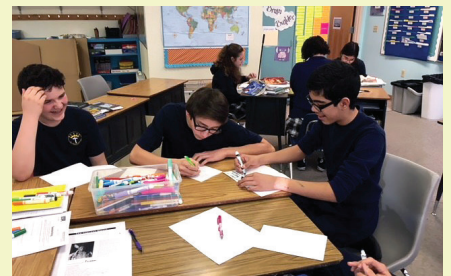
St. Ann's Indian Mission School Hays, MT

St. Ann's Catholic School has provided a quality Catholic education to the children of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians for the past 18 years. Catholic Schools Week at the school included the celebration of Mass, craft activities with the elders, a sports day, a family meal and a story about the life of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. ☩



hometown community of Kodiak, middle school students were assisted by the youngest students to create truffles and thank you cards for the firefighters and police officers. Students in grades 3-5 wrote personal letters of appreciation and presented them to members of the U.S. Coast Guard, firefighters and policemen and women. These brave men and women protect and serve the Alaskan island town of fewer than 10,000 residents.

As has been the tradition, the Brown Bag Lunch was the culminating activity of the week. The gym was filled with families, volunteers and community partners who enjoyed fellowship and a meal. Laughter, cheering and encouraging words demonstrated the strong Catholic School spirit of our school. ☩





NICHOLAS BLACK ELK

CATHOLIC
NEWS
AGENCY

The sainthood cause for Lakota medicine man and Catholic catechist Nicholas Black Elk took another step forward on November 14, 2017, as the U.S. bishops unanimously approved his canonical consultation. The voice vote of the bishops took place at the fall 2017 assembly in Baltimore, and is the latest in a series of steps on the path to sainthood. The motion to vote on the cause was brought forward by Bishop Robert D. Gruss of Rapid City, South Dakota, the home diocese of Black Elk, where his cause was officially opened earlier this year.

Even before his conversion to Catholicism, Black Elk was a prominent medicine man “widely known as a holy man and a mystic,” Bishop Gruss told the assembly of bishops.

After his conversion, Black Elk “fully embraced a Catholic life” and became an “ardent catechist” who would go on to convert more than 400 Native Americans to the faith, Gruss noted. Black Elk became “an icon who reveals what God calls all of us to be — people of faith and hope, and a source of hope for others,” he added.

Black Elk was born sometime between 1858 and 1866 and, like many of his ancestors, served as a medicine man, which combined the roles of medical doctor, spiritual adviser and counselor. He was present for the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. The following year, he joined Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, which toured Europe, including a performance before Queen Victoria.

In 1892, after touring with the show for several years, he married Katie War Bonnet. They had three children. After she converted to Catholicism, all three children were baptized. The year after she died, Black Elk converted to Catholicism and was baptized on Dec. 6, 1904, the feast of St. Nicholas. He took Nicholas as his baptismal name because he admired the saint’s generosity.

In 1905, he married again to Anna Brings White, a widow with two children.

They had three children together and she passed away in 1941. During Black Elk’s lifetime, the practice in the Diocese of Rapid City was for Jesuit priests to select Lakota Catholic men to teach the faith to other members of their tribe as catechists. They evangelized, prayed and prepared converts in the Lakota language, traveling by foot or by horseback until automobiles became available. Black Elk became a catechist in 1907, chosen for his enthusiasm and his excellent memory for learning Scripture and

Church teaching. He was also one of the signatories of the cause of canonization for St. Kateri Tekakwitha, another Native American saint. He passed away Aug. 19, 1950, at Pine Ridge.

In 2016, a petition with more than 1,600 signatures to open his cause for canonization was presented to Bishop Gruss by the Nicholas Black Elk family. An October Mass officially opened his cause in the diocese in 2017. Bishop Gruss said that Black Elk’s witness is an inspiration for both Native and non-native Americans, because he “lived the Gospel in everyday life.” The next step in Black Elk’s cause will be for a tribunal to investigate and document examples of heroic virtue in his life. ✚



“
**BLACK ELK’S
WITNESS IS AN
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NON-NATIVE AMER-
ICANS, BECAUSE HE
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IN EVERYDAY LIFE.**
”

Easter Grace

After the Easter eggs are found and the chocolate is gone, we need to ask ourselves some serious questions during this Easter season, which does not end until Pentecost on May 15.

Do I realize Jesus died for me so I might have eternal life with him? Do I realize he bore all that sin and horror and torture for me? He paid the debt for our sin — a debt we could never pay if there were not a merciful God; a merciful Father who received his Son's life on our behalf; a merciful Savior who took all our sins upon the cross. Ponder this throughout the Easter season; it may lead to thanksgiving as you slowly comprehend more and more what Jesus did for you — not for millions and billions of people, but one by one for you and for me. You were known when Jesus was falsely accused, then tortured and condemned — he did it for you so you might have eternal life.

In these 50 days of the Easter season between Easter Sunday and Pentecost, spend some time with Scripture:

1. Read carefully from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 24. Pay special attention to verses 13-35. This is the story of the discouraged friends of Jesus who thought he was dead. They were leaving the other followers, leaving the city — discouraged, downcast, frightened. Read carefully. Look what God did for them. We, too, may be going through circumstances that are very hard, even frightening. After we read what Jesus did for those early disciples, is it not clear he will care for us? Of course he will. Put your faith in Jesus, in his love for you. If Jesus opened the gates of heaven for you, so that you might have eternal life, do you not think he will care for you right now in whatever difficulties you are experiencing?

2. Read two or three of the psalms listed every day. Thank God with the living words of Scripture. As you do, God will fill your soul with hope in him and, over the coming weeks, the grace of Easter will begin to pour into your soul. The feast of Easter and all its graces continue to the feast of Pentecost each year. 🇺🇸

.....
REJOICE AND BE GLAD! HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!
.....

Reflect on These Words From Scripture

As they approached the village to which they were going, [Jesus] gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,

but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way

and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

In Matthew 25:35-36, we hear Jesus say, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Jesus goes on to say, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (25:40) 🇺🇸

The Gospel For Pentecost Sunday

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (Jn 20:19-23)

First, let's take a look at something we often overlook in our fast-paced society. The Sundays after Easter are labeled the Second Sunday of Easter, the Third Sunday of Easter, etc. Easter is not a one-day celebration; the Church sets aside the Sundays from Easter until Pentecost as a six-week Easter celebration!

We celebrate because the resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything. He conquered death for us by dying on the cross; he rose from the dead to show us that his death on the cross triumphed over death forever. We die an earthly death, but by believing in him, we will rise to eternal life. God's mercy, expressed in his dying for us, cancelled our eternal debt. Therefore, we celebrate for six weeks, and beyond!

With this thought in mind, let's examine this passage from the Apostle John. Jesus has died, but all kinds of stories are circulating; some disciples say they have seen Jesus; Mary Magdalene tells them that Jesus has appeared to her. But the disciples find it hard to believe the reports they are hearing; they saw his cruelly beaten body; some of them buried him. He is dead, but others say he is alive. On top of this confusion, they are terrified of what the

Jews may do to them. They have locked the doors in fear. Can you imagine the turmoil, the confusion — how might you have responded?

Then, right in the midst of all their emotions — fear, doubt, hope, cynicism — Jesus appears to them. He wishes them peace — the gift they most needed. Jesus then shows them the wounds he suffered. They rejoice — it is Jesus! Immediately, Jesus commissions them to preach the Gospel: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Jesus then breathes on them, imparting the Holy Spirit to dwell within them, to guide and lead them — and eventually us — safely home to him forever. Truly, Jesus gives us his Spirit so that we have all we need to live and preach the Gospel in our own lives.

At the end of this passage, God gives the apostles the power to forgive sins so that we may always have hope — no matter how we sin. If we repent, Jesus removes our sins through the ministry of a priest; it is unparalleled mercy which God imparts to us through his Holy Spirit. There is so much to rejoice in!

In baptism, we each became temples of the Holy Spirit. When confirmed, we each received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, that we might grow in holiness and be gifted in particular ways to help bring others to discover the lavishness of God's love. By his Spirit, we are given the unfathomable blessing to live and walk in an ever-deepening union with him. Mystery? Yes. But true. Again, God shared himself with us, through his Spirit, that we might enter into a deep and personal relationship with the Father and the Son. ✚



WHY IS ST. JOSEPH THE PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH?

ST. JOSEPH

SAINT OF
THE MONTH

When Joe sings the famous song “Old Man River” in the musical “Showboat,” a lot of people can relate to the line, “I’m tired of living and scared of dying.” But Catholics don’t need to fear death. In fact, in St. Joseph, whose feast day we celebrate March 19, we even have a patron saint who can help us obtain the grace of a happy death.

But why should Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, be the patron of the dying and a happy death? His other patronages make much more sense, considering how little we actually know about him. He’s patron of fathers and families, carpenters and other craftsmen, working people, the poor and the universal Church.

The Scriptures don’t tell us much about Joseph, and after the incident of losing — and then finding — Jesus in the Temple when he was 12 or 13, we read nothing more about Joseph. However, because Jesus entrusts Mary to one of his disciples at his crucifixion, we can make the assumption that Joseph died before Jesus fulfilled his mission on earth. For generations, Catholics have painted a picture of Joseph breathing his last with Mary and Jesus by his

side to comfort him. A fifth-century apocryphal book, entitled *The History of Joseph the Carpenter*, tells that Joseph was afraid of dying and saddened that he hadn’t accomplished more in his life. Mary and Jesus comforted him and promised protection and life to everyone who did good in the name of Joseph. With those assurances, Joseph was able to die in peace and contentment — a happy death. By the 17th century, many Catholic groups had developed a special devotion to St. Joseph for those desiring a happy death.

St. Joseph didn’t need to be “scared of dying.” By the little we know about him from the Gospels, he was a caring man who loved his family; a faithful man who did what God wanted him to even when he didn’t completely understand what was going on; and a just man who lived honestly and humbly, working to support his wife and foster-child, fulfilling the laws of his religion, and quietly doing his duty.

Taking Joseph for our model, and asking for his intercession, we, too, can look forward to a happy death with Mary and Jesus by our side. ✚

Prayer to St. Joseph (believed to be more than 1,900 years old):

O St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen.

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