

C. K. P. G.

Proclaiming the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit
and
A personal relationship with Jesus Christ

February 2023

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From the desk of our Spiritual Director

God is Good...



Fr. Patrick Okenyi, sma

I welcome you all to the month of February. February is one of the unique months of the year. It is the shortest month, yet that in which people really start doing things to kick-start the year.

Lest we forget, 2023 is “**Our Year of Come and See**”. Have you been able to invite anyone to church or to our Prayer meetings? How many have you invited so far to “Come and See”?

One of the men whom Jesus invited to come and see is called Andrew in scripture, and Andrew is known specifically for bringing people to Jesus. With a “Come-and-See” invitation, he brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus (John 1:42). Andrew it was who also brought to Jesus the little boy selling bread from whom the five loaves and two fish were obtained just before the miracle of the multiplication of bread and the feeding of five thousand men (John 6:1-14), although this is not directly connected to our theme... Finally, the Greeks who wanted to “come and see” Jesus were helped by Andrew (John 12:20-22).

Be the Andrew of 2023 and bring people to Jesus and to church.

Be the Andrew of this month of February and bring a Peter to Jesus.

Be the Andrew of this month of February and bring a boy with the five loaves (every individual has potentials that can be multiplied for God's Kingdom) to Jesus.

Be the Andrew of this month of February and bring a Greek (a stranger/foreigner) to Jesus.

2023, “Our Year of “Come and See!”

Do have a love-filled Month of February and stay blessed!

Priests of the Prayer community

Father Raymond Akor

Father Ken Gauthier

Father Joseph Ogah

Msgr. André Tremblay

Father Celestine Agwu, smmm

Father Gérald Lajeunesse

Father Patrick Okenyi, sma

Father Benjamin Ubi, sma

From Ashes To Morning Glory

Our yearly observance of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023.

"Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel." (Mark 1:15)

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

The imposition of ashes is a solemn ritual that signals the beginning of the holy season of Lent. The ceremony is distinctive; there is no liturgical action like it throughout the entire church year. The ashes come from a previous Palm Sunday. The palms are burned, the ashes collected and then crushed into a fine, sooty powder and placed into bowls. The ashes are blessed by the priest during the Ash Wednesday Mass after the homily. Then, in a Communion-like procession, people are invited to come forward, and the ashes are applied to each person's forehead in the shape of a cross as the priest says either, "Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15), the usual prayer, or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19), the older, more traditional invocation.

Ashes symbolize two main things in the Old Testament... **Death and Repentance.** Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human body decomposes, it returns to dust or ash. Ashes are an ominous sign, and we use them on Ash Wednesday to remind ourselves of our own impending deaths. Ashes are a plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness. Moreover, they are a public admission of guilt, an expression of sorrow for sins that have been committed, a promise to reform and a pledge to resist temptation in the future. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2023 FEBRUARY

For Parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity, and welcome towards those most in need.



Knights of Columbus Council 1387
Supporting your Church and the little servants of
Christ The King prayer group

kofc.org/joinus



Come And See

As Father Patrick mentioned in his reflection, the year 2023 shall be tagged:

“COME AND SEE.”

When we ask you to **“Come and See,”** it is our Lord who is speaking to each of us. It is His invitation. He is inviting you to a place of prayer, praise and worship. It is there, within the depths of our soul, that we will rest with our Lord. He invites us to simply be there in His divine presence. When we come to Him and rest with Him in His presence, another thing will happen: We will see Him, come to know Him, be enlightened by Him, and come to faith in Him. At first, this happens by His spoken Word. Ultimately, this takes place through an interior revelation that we can only receive in prayer.

Reflect, today, upon this gentle invitation that our Lord has given us. As you ponder the words, **“Come and See,”** hear them spoken also to you. At first, spend time reflecting only upon the word **“Come.”** Allow it to penetrate your soul. Allow it to become deeply personal. Know that it is a real and loving invitation from Jesus. After that, try to spend time pondering the words **“And See.”** What is it that God wants you to see? What personal revelation of faith does God want to bestow upon you? Allow these words to change your life.

“Come and See,” and as you do so, your eyes will be opened, and you will *really* see, perhaps for the first time, who *you* are, and who *He* is. You will come to see yourself as a child of God, of divine parentage, possessed of infinite capacities to grow spiritually and become more like Him.

I will finish where I began: Jesus’ statement **“Come and See,”** provides both an invitation and a promise to all people everywhere. Come to Him; see Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords; recognize in Him the great Messiah who will come again with healing in His wings, to set His people free. He will wrap you about in the cloak of His redeeming love, and your life will be changed forever. Bring a friend; bring a family member; bring a loved one... to church, to our Thursday evening prayer meetings, or to your home. Just bring someone to **“Come and See.”**

Lord, You continuously invite me to come to You, to be with You, and to sit with You in Your Divine presence. Please help me to hear this gentle invitation of Your love. As I do, please open the eyes of my soul to see You, know You and love You more fully. And as I see You, give me grace and strength to follow You wherever You lead.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen

COMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY 11th, 2023

HEALING MASS

Celebrant and Homilist Bishop Thomas Dowd
Schedule for the Morning

8:45 a.m. Confessions Begin
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
11:45 a.m. Coffee & Treats

9:30 a.m. Rosary
10:30 a.m. Celebration of Eucharist

The Sacrament of the sick will be administered by our Bishop and the many priests present.

FEBRUARY 25th, 2023

LENTEN MISSION

Schedule for the Morning

7:30 a.m. Confessions Begin
8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:15 a.m. Break
11:45 a.m. Conclusion

8:00 a.m. Rosary
9:15 a.m. Father Patrick - Talk
10:45 a.m. Celebration of Eucharist
Saturday Liturgy

March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th more dates for the FIVE WEEK MISSION

There are four reasons why we start so early.

1. Father Patrick's parish is in Elliot Lake – if he has a funeral on one of the days of the Lenten Mission he has to be back in Elliot Lake by 12:45 p.m.
2. If there is a funeral at Our Lady Of Hope Parish on any one of the five mornings Father Chad has agreed to have the funeral at 1:00 p.m.
3. When your routine is broken by something new, you will remember it better and receive more graces for your effort.
4. The state of our world, possible our area and could even be our family and friends who are in need of your prayers, then when you sacrifice – blessings abound!

Come and make the effort to begin on time. Thank You!

Why We Sing In Praise & Worship?

Think back to the last birthday party you attended. Did you sing “Happy Birthday?” My guess is that your answer is “yes.” Whether it’s singing with family at a celebration, or with friends at a concert, singing occurs naturally. So what about singing with the body of Christ?

God commands us to sing. There are hundreds of references of singing within the Bible. Jesus Himself sang songs of praise after the Last Supper. Christians have sung throughout history. Songs are recorded in scripture and other historical texts. The Book of Psalms in the Bible is a great resource for reading songs of believers that have gone before us. The act of singing uses both parts of the brain, therefore it can educate us and teach us about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Singing connects us emotionally. Songs of celebration have the power to lead us to dance. Songs of lament have the power to lead us to tears. **Music has a way of piercing into the deep parts of our soul, that assists in our expression and response to God, and to the church. Singing helps unite us to the church. The gospel alone unites believers to one another. However, music is a tool that allows us to do so, also.** As we gather on the Sabbath, we join together as one body, and praise God with one voice. We recognize that God gives each of us different gifts, but at the end of the day we all are called, wanted, and expected to sing. Note the proclamation found in Psalm 96:

*“Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord! Bless His name!
Proclaim His salvation day after day!”*

Musical worship takes the eyes of people off of the trials and struggles of life and places them on the goodness and faithfulness of God. More than simply expressing emotions, music can alter them. It is no wonder that God would lead His people to worship in order to refocus and alter their emotions.

The church's ministry of song is for the Glory of God.

The principal direction of congregational singing is to the Lord (Psalm. 96:1). Music is made first of all to the Lord, and only secondarily to each other. Music should communicate and express a sense of awe and wonder in the presence of God; it should lead our thoughts toward God rather than toward ourselves. God can be glorified by beautiful sounds, and spirits may be uplifted by a pleasing melody, but it is primarily the joining of the tune to a text that gives meaning to Christians’ songs. Not only should both text and tune glorify God, and be consistent with each other, but the tune must serve the text. Music is always the servant of the Word.

Finding a Reason to Live

At the age of 15, Kevin Thompson had the word 'hell' tattooed on his shoulder. "Basically, that was my definition of the world when I was 15," he said. "That's what I thought life was about. That's what I knew my life was specifically."

Kevin was born the third of six children. His father left when Kevin was just five and his oldest brother, Tony, tried to help their mother raise the younger kids. "My oldest brother, Tony, taught us to survive by fighting. It was nothing for us to physically hurt each other. He picked my brother, Dennis, up and threw him out the window and went out behind him," Kevin said. When Kevin was a teenager, Tony committed suicide. A few years later, Dennis was killed in a car accident. "My mom moved a lot," Kevin said. "We moved 30 or 40 times within my grade school years. We didn't really have a home."

After high school, Kevin joined the service, then returned to Iowa where he married Debbie. Three children followed in rapid succession. Jobs were hard to come by, though, and the couple struggled to make ends meet. Then came the day Kevin will never forget: February 11, 1986. He was frustrated that his car wouldn't start that morning, so he went back to bed. "I fell asleep, and then I woke up to screaming," he said. "I could hear Debbie screaming my name, and it was a sound that I had never heard before. There was terror in her voice that I'd never heard." A fire had broken out in the Thompsons' trailer while they slept. Within minutes their home was an inferno. "I yelled for Debbie to grab my youngest boy Russell out of the crib," he said. "When I turned to go into the hallway, the walls were consumed with flames. There was a wall of flames in front of me from floor to ceiling. I could hear my boys on the other side of the wall of flames, yelling for their daddy." Kevin knew the only way he could save his children was to try and rescue them from the other side of the house. "I opened the door to go around to the kitchen, so I could come in from behind my boys and get them. When I opened the door, the flames pushed through the hallway, exploded, and pushed me out the door and threw my wife Debbie and my son back into the bedroom," he said. Kevin made several more attempts to get back in the house, but he was blocked at every turn.

With the only people in the world that he loved now gone, Kevin lost the will to live. "I was so angry with God that I just wanted to die." After he buried his family, Kevin got on his motorcycle and began riding. "I tried drinking. I tried drugs. I tried sex. I tried riding my motorcycle all hours of the day. I tried making God so angry with me. Nothing worked. One day at work one of his customers caught his eye. "I went into Borders Bookstore and saw Kevin walking towards me. He had a name tag on, so I knew he worked there," Judi said. "And as he got near me, he looked at me and he just said, 'Hi there,' and just kept right on walking. But it was like something passed between me and him; and my heart said, 'Oh, my, that's the one.'" Kevin and Judi fell in love and were married. They moved to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. At the insistence of Judi's father, Kevin began attending church, but his heart wasn't in it. "The more God put His arms around me, the more I fought and the more I hated Him," Kevin said. One cold evening in February of 2006, Kevin was stoking a fire in his back yard. He realized the next day was the 20th anniversary of the fire, and memories of that day flooded in. Only this time, **instead of shaking his fist at God, he bowed his head and asked God to take the pain away, and to forgive him of his past. "God put His arms around me, and I felt that hug that He'd been giving me for so many years. I felt that love that He'd tried giving me,"** Kevin said. **"I felt Jesus, and I said to Him, 'I will give you my life. I will give you my life – everything I have, I will give to you.' I was looking out at my yard, and my wife, and my dogs, and the view that I had. I saw a beauty in everything. I saw a presence of God in everything around me. I felt a peace so deep inside of me that I never thought I would experience."** Praise God!!!

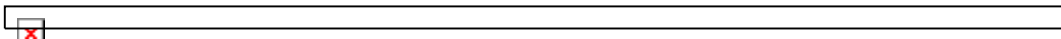
Today, Kevin spends time talking to people on the streets of Eureka Springs. He is also involved with the Jericho Riders motorcycle ministry; they travel the country sharing the gospel. Kevin remembers the years he spent angry at God. **"In my trying to cause Him pain, I didn't recognize that I had already caused Him pain. He had already felt every pain that I ever knew. He knew, before I knew, the pain that would be there from losing my family,"** Kevin said. **"God gave me that peace and the recognition that I needed to ask for forgiveness, and say I'm sorry. When God put his arms around me and I felt that peace, I knew that He would never take it away."**

God can change your life. You just have to let Him in...



Instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1997, World Day for Consecrated Life is a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. The celebration is attached to the feast of the Presentation Of The Lord on Feb. 2nd. This feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. Similarly, consecrated men and women are called to spread the light and love of Jesus Christ through their unique witness of selfless service, such as caring for the poor, the contemplative work of prayer, or through their professional careers.

Celebrated on February 2nd, World Day for Consecrated Life is an opportunity to celebrate the gift of consecrated life, and pray for men and women discerning a consecrated vocation with the global Catholic Church. In addition, Pope Francis invites worldwide prayer during February for consecrated women and men. This special day draws attention to the contributions that consecrated men and women make to the Church and society at-large.



“Most Holy Trinity, blessed and the source of all blessedness, bless your sons and daughters whom you have called to praise the greatness of your love.

Father Most Holy, sanctify the sons and daughters who have consecrated themselves to You, for the Glory of Your name, and accompany them with your Power.

Jesus our Saviour, continue to draw to Yourself men and women who will be, for the people of our time, dispensers of mercy, heralds of Your return, living signs of the Resurrection.

Holy Spirit, perennial Source of life, we pray to You for all consecrated persons. Fill their hearts with the deep certainty of having been chosen to love, to praise and to serve. Enable them to savour Your friendship, fill them with Your joy and consolation, help them to overcome moments of difficulty, and to rise up again with trust after they have fallen; make them mirrors of the Divine beauty. Give them the courage to face the challenges of our time, and the grace to bring to all mankind the goodness and loving kindness of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.” Amen!

Vita consecrata is an apostolic exhortation written by Pope John Paul II.

In Memory Of



Brianna Aili Monaghan

We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Mike and Kim Monaghan, both members of our prayer group, on the passing of their daughter **Brianna Monaghan**, on December 9th, 2022.

Beatrice Gaba (nee Marynuk)

We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Jerry Gaba (Jean), both members of our prayer group, on the passing of his mother **Beatrice Gaba**, on December 24th, 2022.



the little servants of Christ The King prayer community
Follow us on one or more of the following:



We still provide Mail Outs to those who prefer this method only.
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