

C. K. P. G.

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

May 2023

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From the desk of our Spiritual Director



God is Good...

Fr. Patrick Okenyi, sma

Beloved, in the spirit of Easter I welcome you all to the month of May. And as we normally say, ***“let the April showers bring the May flowers...”***

May, as you all know, is the fifth month of the Gregorian calendar; and if you want to dig a little deeper into the origin or the meaning of May, you will discover that May is from the Greek and Roman “Maia”.

The Greek name Maia comes from a root meaning “mother, nurse, midwife.” The Roman Maia appears to be related to magnus, meaning “great” and the source of such words as magnify.

From both origin and meaning, we are invited to embrace fertility, to experience “a spring”, and to attain greatness.

In this month of May, I pray that our joy, happiness, faith, gifts, blessing and resources may be transformed into a “spring”. I pray that we may all experience “greatness” in all we do, Amen!

The month of May is also dedicated to our Mother Mary. Not only because this month is the time when spring is at the height of its beauty, but also because spring relates to nature renewing itself.

May Mary who was the primary instrument of the plan of God for the “renewal” of humanity intercede for us all in the presence of her son Jesus Christ, Amen!

Lest we forget, this is already our fifth month of the year 2023, and our theme for this year remains: ***“Our Year of Come and See...”***

Let us keep inviting friends, family members and even strangers to come and see, especially in this season of Easter. Invite them to come and experience the risen Jesus; invite them to come and listen to all the beautiful stories of the resurrection.

You know, the story of the resurrection of Jesus can not be told without the story of Thomas in John 20:19-31. When Jesus first appeared to the disciples, Thomas was not there. And when he was told that the Lord had risen and that he had appeared first, to the women and then to the apostles in the upper room, although in doubt, he longed for a “Come and see...”

By saying, “Unless I see... I will not believe”, Thomas was saying, “I want to Come and See...”

Beloved, no matter how hard it is, let us continue to invite people to the presence of God with a simple, ***Come and See...***

In this month of May, do not forget to seek the intercession of our mother Mary; do not forget to celebrate our mothers, and do not forget to start the Novena to the Holy Spirit in preparation for the Feast of Pentecost.

Remain Blessed!

Priests of the Prayer community

Father Raymond Akor

Father Celestine Agwu, smmm

Father Ken Gauthier

Father Gérald Lajeunesse

Father Joseph Ogah

Father Patrick Okenyi, sma

Msgr. André Tremblay

Father Benjamin Ubi, sma

Mass Intentions for Africa 2022

Stipends Collected: October 6th - December 8th, 2022

Total Masses & Stipends: 361 Masses = \$3,610

Total Number Of Priests Celebrating Those Masses: 27

The prayer community received many letters from the SMA priests acknowledging our mass intentions. They were all so very grateful to offer the masses requested through Father Patrick, and through Rev. Fr. Charles Acheneje, SMA. The 361 masses were celebrated by SMA Priests working in Nigeria, Benin, Kenya, Zambia, South Africa and Liberia.

We would like to thank all those who participated, as the stipends were used to meet their daily needs in their ministries.

We look forward in continuing to collect mass intentions and stipends for priests working in rural parishes in Africa, in the fall of 2023.

Remain blessed,
Father Patrick Okenyi, sma
Spiritual Director of the Prayer Group





*Celebrating Msgr. André Tremblay's
90th Birthday!!!
Congratulations!!!*



*The Lord Bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you:
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26*

MAY IS TRADITIONALLY DEDICATED IN A SPECIAL WAY TO:

Honouring And Seeking The Intercession of The Blessed Virgin Mary

*...as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. “She is that woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the saint among the saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen, and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us.” —Pope Francis,
Gaudete et Exsultate, no. 176*

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us. Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son, and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam, she is one with all those, who are to be saved. (Lumen Gentium, no. 53)

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honoured, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed. " The Church honours her as the Mother of God; looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

Mary, more than anyone, can show us Jesus, lead us to him and teach us to know and love him, "so that we too can become capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world."

**Mother Mary, please visit me with your beloved son, Jesus.
Amen**

Polar Plunging Priests

February 25, 2023

With light snow in the air and a temperature of about -12 C (or -19 C with the windchill), Bishop Thomas Dowd, Father Raymond Akor and parishioner Chris Narozanski warmed up in a sauna, before climbing down a ladder into the frigid waters of Lake Ramsey .

\$80,000 Raised with Community Support, as part of a fundraising effort to replace the front stairs of Christ The King church.



Bishop Dowd, Father Raymond & Chris Narozanski of Christ The King church prepare and plunge....



*God is good All the time!
And
All the time God is good!*

Trusting the Divine Physician

Mother Attributes Baby's Miraculous Healing to Divine Mercy

Our sweet little Mary Elizabeth had endured more pokes, needles, tubes, surgeries, and procedures than most people will in their life. I couldn't help but look at her sweet bruised and broken body and see the nail marks of Our Lord ...



Kevin and Jennifer Bauer comfort their seventh child in the hospital during Holy Week 2022. Born with several heart defects, baby Mary Elizabeth's situation was dire. As Catholics celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, one family in Indiana can't help but think of Holy Week one year ago, when they were all praying fervently for their tiny daughter, Mary Elizabeth, who they say is only here now because of the gift of Jesus' Divine Mercy.

Born with several heart defects and Down syndrome, doctors had told Jennifer Bauer that her seventh child didn't have much chance to survive. The news came when the baby was still in her womb. "We took that straight to St. Monica's Church and prayed very fervently and deeply that we could care for Mary Elizabeth the way that God intended for us to care for her," Bauer recalled. "We cried a lot, but we offered

everything at the foot of the cross."

Just before Palm Sunday last year, when Mary Elizabeth was celebrating her six-month birthday, she had to undergo surgery for her heart defects. Operating on an infant is riddled with risks, but the doctor was hopeful ahead of surgery. Things changed drastically when the surgeon came out with an update. "She was very unstable, in critical condition, and he said it would be a rough night." "We didn't know if he had a faith background, so we prayed for him — and, of course, for Mary Elizabeth. We called on all of our prayer warriors, all around the globe, to just fervently pray for this little girl."

Trained as a nurse, Bauer knew when she laid eyes on her little girl that it would only be through the gift of Divine Mercy that her baby would make it through such a dark night. "When I saw her post-op, she was so sick. I knew that without God's grace, this baby was not going to make it ..." The night was extremely rough: Mary Elizabeth was in dire need of CPR, and "she was by far the sickest baby at Riley Hospital. "Again, I had a conversation with God, and I said, 'You know I love this little girl with all my heart, but this is up to you Lord, whatever you want to do. If you have to take her from us ... please don't let her suffer.'" The perpetual praying was packaged with episodes of "smothering her in holy water, whispering in her ear to hang on." It was in these desperate moments that Bauer seemed to sense a wave of alarm even among the hospital staff on duty that evening.

The night nurse remembers taking care of Mary Elizabeth. When she was briefed about her patient, she was told she "had the sickest baby in the unit to care for, and would need to be extra vigilant to any subtle changes," she recalled. Just when it seemed like nothing could be done for her baby, a mother's love met a glimpse of the Divine Physician. "Out of nowhere came this pediatric surgeon who no one had ever seen before. He was tall, well spoken and eloquent. He had this glow about him, and he walked right into our room and said, 'I need to

put your baby on life support. Are you willing?' And we said, 'yes, please.' And before we knew it she was on life support,' and the baby was stable. Then he was gone. It was like he vanished.

Several other nurses who had been there forever, said they hadn't seen him before." Learning more from hospital staff, nurses say the doctor was new to the unit and perhaps visiting. But in the heart of this mother of seven, who had been storming heaven for a miracle, she believes her prayer was answered. Having Mary Elizabeth stable was the first glimmer of hope Bauer and her husband, Kevin, had felt during that hospital stay, as Mary Elizabeth's six siblings all took turns praying for their littlest sister, with some bringing saint dolls to comfort the tiny, suffering child.

As Mary Elizabeth's Mom recounted: "She continued to come and go with her condition. She had infections with high fevers; her peripheral arterial lines kept blowing; her whole body was just bruised — she looked crucified; her wrists, her groin, down by her little feet, wherever they could find a place (to put an IV)." And it was in these vulnerable moments as a mother that Bauer turned to Our Lady of Sorrows, recognizing the grief and insurmountable pain the Blessed Mother felt for her only Son dying on a cross, "and said, 'I can only imagine what you've been through, so please carry me, because I can't stand to watch her like this anymore.'"

Entering Holy Week, just days before Mary saw Jesus suffering and could only weep, it was during a private Mass at the hospital chapel that Kevin said that Jesus' Divine Mercy was shining through the Eucharist. "He said, 'I noticed as the priest elevated the Eucharist, a golden cross reflected onto the priestly vestment, and it shone as bright as the sun,' searing through the Eucharist." Kevin was on his knees, and just brought to extreme gratitude and humility in recognizing who Christ is and what he can do. He felt a warm embrace from that moment forward, as the family spent days and nights in the hospital. It was Holy Thursday when the doctors decided to take Mary Elizabeth off of life support. "I would say her biggest endeavor was coming off that life support around that time," Bauer said, and it was just so beautiful to see how God was working. "And he wasn't just working on Mary," she said. "He was working on me and my husband, our marriage. He was working on our family. We were praying the Rosary together, and on Zoom with extra people. We needed this more than Mary Elizabeth needed this: We needed Christ to intervene. She was just the vessel for moving us closer to him, and he knew what he was doing all along."

As the doctors readied to take Mary Elizabeth off life support, dire risks and outcomes were discussed, and the cardiac surgeon who had witnessed such prayer from the Bauer family told them to go to a side room so they could pray, and he promised to do the very best he could for their little girl. So we went over to the room, and were in deep prayer with Christ, just asking him to hold us and Mary. During this time, I had a vision of our Mary in this tiny crib that she was to be operated in. The cardiac surgeon was at the foot of her bed, and then I saw Jesus come down. Yes, Jesus came down, and He laid a Hand over the surgeon's hand that was over Mary's heart. It was when this vision ended that the doctor came back into the room with the most amazing news. He said, "She's doing beautifully. Surviving, this baby is going to do just fine." Crying happy tears, Bauer added, "I just knew, I knew no matter how many ups and downs we had in the hospital, that she was coming home with us."

A year later, Mary Elizabeth is now 18 months old, bubbly and brimming with a grace and happiness that the entire family of nine feels. The Bauers are convinced that the Divine Physician was at work, protecting their baby and healing her, along with the whole family. In those moments, they knew that His will was greater than theirs.

Every year, we recall the brutal crucifixion of our Lord and Saviour; Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, crucified for us and our sins to offer us eternal salvation. Now, after the dark nights and dreary days, the Divine Mercy of Jesus remains emblazoned on the heart of this mother and father who pleaded with God for the life of Mary Elizabeth. "Our prayers have been answered. God heard our cries and took pity on us."

Although Mary Elizabeth has more surgeries ahead, the Bauer family keeps prayer very close at heart, imparting such wisdom even to the youngest in the clan. "Mary Elizabeth tries to pray the Rosary when we pray the Rosary," Bauer said about her daughter. "She is amazing. She's amazing. I wish I could share her with the world. She just makes everyone smile."

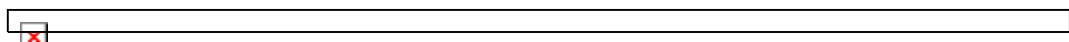
The Bauers' inspiring story, of taking their sorrows, faith and hope to the foot of the cross, and ultimately basking in the piercing light of Divine Mercy, echoes the words of St. John Paul II, who, in his homeland in 1997, said:

"There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy. That love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God."

Jesus, I trust in you.



National Catholic Register



Do You Want To Serve Our Lord?

Every Thursday evening before our prayer meeting begins, and at the end of our prayer meeting, your help is needed. We are looking for volunteers who will assist Guy, our keyboard player and vocalist. All that is required is a few minutes of your time, for an evening of Praise and Worship. Guy is looking for individuals to help him carry his musical equipment in and out of the church, when our regular team members are serving elsewhere. God is calling for your help! If you want to answer His call, please speak with Guy. Our Lord thanks you!

Your Help Is Needed

A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord, today I turn to You to give You thanks for my mother.
 With Your own gift of life, she bore me in her womb and gave me life.
 She tenderly and patiently cared for me, and taught me to walk and talk.
 She read to me and made me laugh.
 No one delighted in my successes more;
 No one could comfort me better in my failures.
 I am so grateful for how she mothered me and mentored me;
 And even disciplined me.

Please bless her, Lord, and comfort her.
 Help her loving heart to continue to love and give of herself to others.
 Strengthen her when she is down, and give her hope when she is discouraged.

Most of all, Lord, on this Mother's Day,
 Give my mother the graces she most needs and desires.
 I ask you this, in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, forever and ever.
 Amen



Kindergarten Boots

Did you hear about the teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his boots? He asked for help and she could see why.

With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on. When the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and sure enough, they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off, than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool, as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots."

She bit her tongue, rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off. He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them today."

She didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. She said, "Now, where are your mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my boots..."

Her trial starts next week . . .

In Memory of

***Michael (Mike) Gerard McLaughlin** - February 27, 2023
A member of our prayer group.*

***Anita Grace Martel (nee Dureau)** - March 19th, 2023
Mother to Diane Martel-Titoc (Alex) of our prayer group.*

May Holy Mary, the angels and all the saints welcome you, now that you have gone forth from this life. May Christ who was crucified for you, bring you freedom and peace. May Christ who died for you, admit you into His garden of paradise. May Christ, the true Shepherd embrace you as one of His flock. May He forgive all your sins, and set you among those He has chosen. Amen.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2023

MAY

For Church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.



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

kofc.org/joinus



the little servants of Christ The King prayer community

Follow us on one or more of the following:



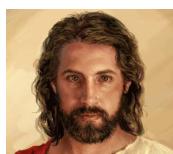
We still provide Mail Outs to those who prefer this method only.
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Official E-Mail Address Is:
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Please visit our website at www.lsckpg.wordpress.com to find information about our prayer group, our meeting times and our upcoming events.

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