

SAINT ANTONINEWS

Volume 15 Issue 12

February 2022



JESUS IS LORD TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

BRRRRRR!

The temperatures went down, the gas & food prices went up & the middle class was caught right there...in the middle...with tax season in full swing to boot. Not eligible for all the much needed aid for the poor, the people who fund all these good programs are being squeezed on all fronts & one has to wonder where all the money will come from to keep them afloat & their being able to continue with their generous giving to support the poor. The shelters are full & the food kitchens are operating at as full a capacity as they can.

The parishes, too are hurting, especially those in the inner city where the need is greatest. They have been hurt most by all the lock-downs & virus cases. Parishes with great financial bases have been able to expand their ministry with outreach to anywhere in the world with good equipment & personnel to provide some excellent spiritual resources for people who are hungering for the Lord in these troubled times. Many have acquired even greater financial benefit than their normal parish income. Would that all parishes could so benefit especially in places where the need is greatest. We need some Macedonia moments where church resources are more evenly distributed. The church in Macedonia came to the aid of the church in Jerusalem.

Surely we can do better in this regard as we are all one body & when parts of the body are hurting, the other members of the body come to their aid.

Visiting other parishes with much greater resources makes one drool...if only this parish could count on a little more help from the greater resources that are out there. However as one pastor in a very big parish with many serving people & good financial means commented:

Yes, but your parish has heart....which no amount of money can buy. We are poor in the ways of the world but blessed beyond measure by the Creator of the Universe Who sent His Spirit to dwell here.

KEEP THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IN YOUR HEART.

It is a spirit of child-like wonder, awe & expectation. For in the Father's eyes, we are all children & He wants all of us to get home to Him. That is why His only begotten Son took on our human flesh & entered the world as a baby, an event we all celebrate with great delight. He came to defeat death brought on by the evil one submitting Himself to death in order to conquer it. Thus the gates of heaven were re-opened & we can have access to the Father if we but obey His commands & do His will rather than ours which is often self interested. We often pour ourselves out to protect ourselves, advance ourselves & satisfy our selves. He poured Himself out to make salvation available to us. He emptied Himself to save & empower others...us & we are called to do the same. That is why marriage is such an excellent path to God for we die to ourselves to serve first the other. What an amazing vocation He has provided us with! Take time this month to ponder it, appreciate it & live it more fully..dying to yourself to serve your spouse & children. That is the Spirit of Christmas which really traditionally ends on Feb. 2, candlemas day...to complete the 40 days of Christmas.

YES WE REMEMBERED.

We remembered the gift God used to give us this place to praise & worship Him in Spirit & in Truth. Fr. Jim Ferry seemed to be in close proximity this year to those who had the privilege of knowing him & experiencing the tremendous anointing that poured through him.

For many it was a touching moment of nostalgia & for those who weren't here in those halcyon days, videos of those early days are now available on you tube. There are 2 videos where you can see what the Holy Spirit can do through a seeking soul backed up by the prayer power of his family & friends who gathered here to catch what he had caught. He car-



ried on the palpable Presence of the Holy Spirit here from the earliest days of this parish & we are called to stand on those shoulders & move forward, carrying the standard of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Lent is almost here & it is basic training time for all of us foot soldiers in the army of the Lord. We all know the drill. Let the insignia on the uniforms of our souls be....the Holy Spirit.

WOW! SOMEONE CAUGHT THE FIRE!

If you didn't attend, which you should have, the Divine Adoration Session on Sat. Jan. 15th, go to you tube & watch the talk about an hour into the session & catch the fire Blessing gave in a very anointed talk that beautifully blended in scripture & testimony delivered with the power of the Holy Spirit. It was down to earth, heavenly focused & divinely inspired through a local parishioner with her feet on the earth & her heart in heaven. We need more of this kind of exhortation to wake us up to the truth of the this morbid reality we live in & not the lies we are fed everyday in the news & the joy of the world we will inherit if we but stay focused & faithful to Him. Praise, worship & reverence are the keys & there is plenty of that every Saturday afternoon in preparation for the highlight of the next day: Sunday Sacrifice of the Mass, the greatest drama on the face of the earth if done undistractedly & reverently with full participation as the sacrifice of Jesus' death is represented & offered to the Father for the redemption of us all.

Too cold to get here? How cold was He, stripped while on the Cross? Too busy to come? What could be more important than getting ready for the real reality...heaven? If you can't come Saturday, how about Wednesday live in person or Tuesday live in person to prepare & ponder the readings for the upcoming Sunday so we go to Mass focused. If too far to come, there are opportunities for such Bible study near you. Seek them out & get there & let's unite the clans of the seekers to stay in the joy even in the middle of the muddle. Let us get our focus off the personalities & on to the King & thank Him when He sends someone like Blessing to spread His fire humbly with grace....& power.

The house was full with prayer warriors & worshippers last Sat. People below & people on the upper level with the youth being called up to be prayed over!!! Get yourselves & them here!



Come & bring your youth. Help them to learn reverence. Come put them in the presence of the King of Kings. He is moving & He wants the souls of your children but you need to get them here in His presence to receive His blessing & to set them on fire.

The children will lead them. Allow them to lead you. They have fewer obstacles to get out of the way of the Lord's anointing. Learn from them. Catch it from them. Get out of the depressing doldrums of the world through praise & worship & focus on the Divine Physician of body, mind & soul. Use your ear buds to channel holy hymns into your head & sing along. Turn off, or better yet throw out the TV & take up the Word with your family & with small groups of Bible Study adherents. Feed spiritual food into your heart & soul & march to the beat of the real & only worth following Commander-in-Chief, Jesus..

And come. It is time to get up & get out of your houses as you are able & put yourselves in His Presence here in the Father's House. The Father wants to behold you live, face to face & He wants to feed you with the Body & Blood of His Son, here face to face. There is no comparison of His real Presence with a vicarious presence on a screen. We are not images on a screen. We are His children & the Father is calling us to come before Him...in person. The enemy will use any tactic to keep you from getting here. Blow him off with resolve & continuous praise & worship. Sing in tongues!

**THERE NEEDS TO BE ROOM FOR THE OLD & THE NEW.**

Have you noticed that everything prior to Vatican II has seemingly been relegated to the dust bin? This should not be...the richness of 2000 years of accumulated wisdom has a place in our hearts & in our liturgy...the way we pray, the way we believe.

The then Cardinal Ratzinger had some pertinent observations to make in this regard. He denounced the seeming contempt for those who wish to worship in the ancient rite that richly graced the Church for over 2000 years thus causing strife & division & confusion & we all know whose strategy that is.

Whoever today supports the continuation of this liturgy is put in the Index; all tolerance in this regard is vanquished. Nothing of this kind has ever happened in history; the Church's entire past comes to be despised. How can one trust in her present if things stand this way? I don't understand in the least, to be frank, why there is such subjection to this intolerance on the part of many of my fellow bishops, which seems to be an obligatory tribute to the spirit of the times & which to appears to counteract without any comprehensible reason, the necessary process of internal reconciliation in the Church. (Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, God in the Word. San Paolo, 2001)

There needs to be accommodation of the best aspects of both, the old & the new. So many young people are seeking the awe & reverence of the old which transports them into the transcendent & when coupled with the joy of the new can take us to an even greater celebration of the greatest drama in the face of the earth. And St. A's is a perfect place to do that. We have the joy, we need more of the awe & reverence of the timeless. Thank God for all the young adults & boys serving on the altar. They probably don't even realize the effect they have on those attending. May God enliven in them the awesome privilege of serving Him at the Holy Sacrifice...may we all become aware of the Holy Sacrifice as it was always known & still is.

HOW ARE WE DOING...KEEPING HOLY THE SABBATH?

This was & is of utmost importance to the Father & was certainly prevalent at the time of Jesus. How are we spending that day? Are we reading His Word? Are we sleeping & getting some much needed rest? Are spending quality time with our family? Are we playing & enjoying our children, coming to know & appreciate their uniqueness even more? Are we rediscovering our own childhood in the Family of God? The chores will be there on Monday...let Sunday be the source of the strength for the Monday & the rest of the week....fill up on Jesus on Sunday & He will carry you through...with high test power...stay attached.