A KINGDOM FOCUS TO HONORARY SPONSORS Harvest 2023

This year in addition to the traditional Thanksgiving Harvest Honorary Sponsor titles that we enjoy celebrating each year, we chose to add some new Honorary Sponsor titles, which we hope will help us orient our lives toward a heavenly perspective on everything we do, including fundraising. Each of the additional titles will highlight one of the virtues of Our Lady or of one of the saints. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us to emulate them in our lives.

Father of the Day / Friend of St Joseph:

Kenwyn Julien

We can too easily forget how profoundly difficult was the road that Joseph had to travel – your wife being pregnant with the Divine Messiah, the insecurities of finding a safe place for your wife to give birth in a place away from home, the night time flight into Egypt, a place foreign to Joseph and to the Hebrew faith and customs, the numerous challenging journeys, raising a child that he knew did not belong to him but was entrusted to him for a time, then "losing" Jesus in the temple for 3 days, only to discover that this was part of the Father's plan. A friend of St Joseph is a man of solid faith in the One who has called him and in God's provision for the mission entrusted to him.

Mother of the Day / Friend of Our Lady:

Bola Akinboade

Our Lady is the perfect example of discipleship. She trusted and obeyed the Father's will even when it was difficult and she did not yet understand. She is the perfect model of Christian womanhood – always in prayer, yet quick to serve others "she proceeded in haste to Elizabeth." She was the perfect model of motherhood – the heart of the family and of their home, always selflessly serving her family and providing a loving welcome to those in need, especially needing to be in the company of Jesus. Because she bore Him not only in her womb, but also in her heart, she loved with his love. A friend of Our Blessed Mother is one whose love for Jesus helps others, beginning with her family, to encounter Jesus and His love for them. In her very person, when others meet her, they encounter Jesus.

Grandmother of the Day / Friend of St Anne:

Dianne Pascall

Tradition tells us that Anne (& Joachim) conceived Our Blessed Mother when she was certainly beyond the time of child bearing. In Sacred Scripture when God is about "something big", the limitations of nature are clearly evident, and the reality of there being a sovereign intervention of God is unmistakable. God wanted it to be clear that He had very special plans for this child, who would come into being in God's perfect time – the time of salvation. Tradition also tells us that these saintly parents surrendered Our Blessed Mother into the hands of the holy women of the temple at a very young age, to be raised within the temple. Who is a friend of St Anne? She is one who recognizes that all is grace and that God's timing is perfect, and that there should be a freedom in surrendering to God,

even our most intimate and cherished "possessions", including our children and all of dearest loved ones, and in truth our own lives.

Grandfather of the Day/ Friend of St Joachim:

Brendan Igwe

This strong holy "soft spoken" father of Our Blessed Mother recognized the sovereign mystery that was entrusted to him along with St Anne. All that is spoken of with St Anne applied to St Joachim. In Joachim Mary saw a glimpse of who God would give her in St Joseph. She knew what to look for – quiet strength and peaceful spirit through profound trust in God, and a docility to the will of God, and in all things faithfulness to God, not to mention faithful to his beloved spouse St Anne. All of these are the qualities to be desired in a friend of St Joachim.

Couple of the Day / Friends of Zechariah & Elizabeth:

Eric & MayJen Apiado

This biblical couple was surely busy with their duties before the Lord when the Lord surprised them with the news of the conception of John the Baptist. Zechariah doubted at first and was made mute, but when, in humble obedience, he wrote "His name is John," his lips were opened and he immediately proclaimed God's praise. Friends of Joachim and Anne are two people who have become one and are becoming one. They are those who compliment each other in the best sense, as they participate in and even help complete the work of grace in the other. The mission of God for one has become joined to the mission of God for the other and vice versa.

Newlyweds of the day and of Cana:

Victor & Mary Olokpa

Who is this newly married couple of the Bible and how are they to be emulated?
First, it must be stated, that they were very wise to invite Jesus and Mother Mary to their wedding. Every young family will always be provided for if they invite Jesus and Mary into every aspect of their lives. A special way to do this is by meditating with Mary on the mysteries of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. They do this through praying the Rosary together and by coming under our Blessed Mother's mantle, entrusting every aspect of their marriage and family totally to her and through her to Jesus. By God's providence, this biblical couple at Cana experienced the inadequacy of their resources, only to discover the super-abundance of the Lord's provision. All this came through Our Lady's intercession before her Divine Son. May our Harvest couple of the day experience this same adventure of faith with Jesus and Mother Mary.

Mary's Matron of Honor:

Claudine Tahouri

Who is Mary's Matron of Honor? The whole focus of a matron (or maid) of honor is to serve the bride and to accentuate the bride's beauty and honor. In this case she is the most magnificent Blessed Virgin Mary - "The Bride of the Holy Spirit." The Matron of Honor is in fact to seek only the honor of Our Lady. Her joy is in serving the will of Our Lady and reflecting her holy and chaste beauty. At the same time, Our Blessed Mother is not about pleasing herself, but rather she is all about pleasing and doing the will of her Son and seeking the salvation and sanctification of all of her children. This in turn is to be the most fundamental intention of the matron of honor – serving and glorifying Jesus - the Divine Son of Our Lady. For in truth, He is the King and the Bridegroom, the Bridegroom of the Church.

Mary's Maid of Honor:

Temilola Akinwuntan

Who is Mary's Maid of Honor?

Our Lady's maid of honor is to be about everything that her elder sister is about: to serve the Bride - Mother Mary - "The Bride of the Holy Spirit," and to be a mirror of the bride's chaste beauty and holiness. The Maid of Honor is to seek only the honor of Our Lady. Her joy is in serving the will of Our Lady and reflecting her holy and chaste beauty. She is to model her life on Our Lady, whose greatest joy is pleasing and doing the will of her Son which is the salvation and sanctification of all of her children. This in turn is to be the most fundamental intention of the maid of honor – serving and glorifying the Divine Son of Our Lady. For in truth, He is the King and the Bridegroom, the Bridegroom of the Church.

The one distinction of the maid from the matron is that while the matron is to bring the wisdom and strength of her years, the maid of honor is to offer the energy and the playfulness of her youth to be at the service of the Queen Mother and of her Divine Son.

Prince of the Day and Mary's Knight :

Sogidechi Anyanwu

What is a Mary's Knight?

The prince is royalty. He is both a subject of the King and a son of the King. The prince is trained in the art of warfare, but as Mary's Knight he is to be trained in spiritual warfare. He is to defend the honor of the King and guard the safety and natural and supernatural wellbeing of the King's subjects. The prince is an heir, but not an heir who ascends at the death of the king. No, the prince is "to reign with the King, if only he will suffer with him" (Romans 8:17).

Mary's Flower Girls:

Sara & Esther Yamboesse

Who is Mary's Flower Girl?

Who is the Flower girl of Our Lady? She is that little child whose only concern is to joyfully dance and spread flowers before the King and before his Queen Mother.

Princess of the Day/ Friend of St. Therese:

Kachilo Madubuko

Who is a princess? A princess is a member of the royal family, daughter of the King and Queen. Who is the Little Flower? St Therese! St Therese was so keenly aware of her royal identity in Christ. She knew to whom she belonged! Therefore, she did not have to be noticed by anyone except her Father, the King. She wanted to do great things for her Father, but He showed her that He preferred that she do little things with great love, and He would make them great. This became her great joy.

Friend of Carlo Acutis:

Samual Milevoix

Who was Carlo Acutis?

Blessed Carlo lived just 16 years ago. He was an avid gamer and loved playing sports. But his greatest love was Our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist. In fact, he spent the last few years of his young life (he died at the age of 15 on October 12, 2006) creating a website where he gathered the stories of the many Eucharistic Miracles around the world.

Such a friend will seek to make known the same Eucharistic Lord, using every form of modern technology to tell others about the great news of God's miraculous Presence among us in the Eucharist.

Friends of Mother Teresa:

Pearl Friday & Jane Cebedo

Well, everyone knows of Mother Teresa!

She spent her life caring for those whom society forgot about. She tended to the needs of the destitute and she spoke up for the voiceless people who were dying in the streets of Calcutta India. She also spoke up for the thousands of voiceless unborn babies who were being killed in their mother's womb. She saw Jesus in every sick or poor person she took care of. She cared not only for their natural happiness, but even more fundamentally, she wanted everyone to know the supernatural happiness of loving Jesus and spending eternity with Him. She especially wanted to quench "the Thirst" of Jesus on the cross – His thirst for love and for souls. Her religious sisters continue this mission to this day.

A friend of Mother Teresa is a friend of the poor, and of anyone who is voiceless in society, and needs someone to love them and speak up for them and help them in their needs. That friend of Mother Teresa, does all this first and foremost out of love for Jesus.