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faith

Pray Gratefully - Serve Responsibly - Give Generously



St. Joseph's Catholic Church
a Stewardship Parish

Volume 6, Issue 2 April, May, & June 2018

Every Young Man

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A few months ago there was an interesting article in the Wall Street Journal (August 11, 2017) about the scarcity of vocations to the priesthood in the Catholic Church. It was a letter to the editor which said that the only way to inspire young men to become priests is to help them to see that being a priest means being a HERO! Many young people watch superhero movies. They love to watch Superman, Iron Man and Spiderman repeatedly save the world. They can identify with superheroes.

The article describes a teenager named Andrew Vill, who was inspired to become a priest because he saw a vocations advertisement that said “The World Needs Heroes.” The Archdiocese of New York was encouraging young men to become priests by appealing to their superhero instinct. Father Vill later explained why this inspired him:

“Every young man wants to be a hero. We dream about saving the day.”

I can identify with Fr. Vill. I remember when I was in college and I couldn't decide what I wanted to do with my life. I knew that whatever it was needed to be something that would really help the world. I was idealistic and I knew that I didn't want to live my life just doing a 9-5 job that would only support myself and my immediate family. It wanted to help EVERYONE in a BIG WAY. Eventually I decided that I would be a priest and spend my life calling divine power down from heaven onto the altar and distributing it to the people. I would be like Heimdall, the blind all-seeing and all-hearing guardian sentry of Asgard who stands at the rainbow bridge. I would control the flow of traffic between heaven and earth!

When I visit my parents in Stockton, I see that they always have library books checked out from the Public Library in Stockton (they are VERY old school!) The books they read are almost always biographies of famous persons. They say that there is nothing more fascinating than real stories about really heroic people. I tell them



Wants To Be A Hero



that I prefer biographies as well, but that I never read biographies about people who have superpowers. I read the biographies of saints, which are real stories of people who also had miraculous powers to heal, levitate, bilocate, read minds and know the future. There is nothing more interesting than that!

I would like to describe three superheroes who were priests. The first two were superheroes of the twentieth century. Of all of the 482 saints who were canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II, there were only two saints who were elevated to the rank of “obligatory memorial.” (This should be everyone’s goal: that your Feast Day must be celebrated annually in every Mass throughout the world!) Both of them were saintly priests of the twentieth century: St. Pio of Pietrelcina and St. Maximilian Kolbe.

The aforementioned article in the Wall Street Journal article did a wonderful job of describing the heroic life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, who was so saintly that he inspired over six hundred men to join his monastery, which published the most popular newspaper in Poland. He was heroic because when he was arrested by the Nazis and cruelly treated in the Auschwitz Concentration camp, he continually showed great love toward everyone around him, including the Nazi guards who tortured him. The most famous example of this was the way he died. He offered his life in exchange for a Jewish man who had been condemned to die in a starvation bunker. The Jewish man survived the war and was reunited with his wife and family. St. Maximilian died in the starvation bunker with a smile on his face.

Another personal hero of mine is St. Pio, the humble

Franciscan priest who died in 1968 and was canonized as a saint in 2002. When I was a teenager, I read books about “Padre Pio” and was fascinated by the fact that on every page there was a miracle. Inexplicable wonders crowded the pages. As a boy he began to have visions of Our Lord, Our Lady, saints, angels and demons. Even as a child he was able to cure the sick by his prayers. He would appear in other places despite the fact that he never left his friary (bilocation). He could read the minds of people and give them exactly the right advice in the confessional. His doctors had no explanation for things that suffered his strange illnesses and fevers of up to 127 degrees Fahrenheit. For fifty years he worked tirelessly, despite the fact that he ate and slept very little. He is especially famous because God made him a “sharer” in the sufferings of Christ. For fifty years he bore the “stigmata” on his hands, feet and side: the mysterious wounds of Jesus which never healed. (cf. Colossians 1:24; Galatians 6:17)

I also want to mention my favorite superhero: St. John Vianney (1786 – 1859). He was the “Cure of Ars”, who took care of the souls of his parish in the tiny village of Ars, France. Like Padre Pio, he could read hearts, so people from all over Europe would come and wait for weeks to go to confession to him. A railroad track was built to the tiny village, and at the end of his life 90,000 pilgrims per year would arrive to go to confession to the saint. He started an orphanage and several times provided food for the orphans by miracles of multiplying grain or flour. He, too, had heavenly visions and frightening attacks from demons. One particular miracle impresses me most. In Europe it was common for farmers to lose their crops every few years because of hail. But in all the years of that he served, there was never one instance of crop damage in the village of Ars due to hailstorms. The prayers of this holy man had power even over the forces of nature!

Let us pray that all of us, and especially our young people will be inspired to rise out of our mediocrity and become the superheroes that God calls us to be!

Fr. Mark

Visit Fr. Mark's blog...

www.stjmod.com/fr-marks-blog.html



A Rebel Who Found His Cause

Fr. Ronnie Urot Manango

I was born in Masbate, Philippines, and was the 6th child in my family, which included my father, a successful and hardworking farmer, my mother, a loving housewife, five other sons and five girls. By the fruits of their labor and hard work, they raised us well, ensuring we were all educated. My family now lives in Cebu, Philippines.

Like many teenagers growing up, I was rebellious and at times, very rebellious. I did things I was not supposed to do, like smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages when I was only 13 years old and even running away from home. I do not know how many times my mother cried because of me. I had to spend five years in high school, instead of only four, because I did not take classes seriously. My life completely changed after I met Fr. Gary Bacolod, a newly ordained priest assigned to our parish. He was instrumental in my vocation journey to the priesthood. He rode a motorcycle and played basketball, two things that are very close to my heart.

“I never thought about priests being like me, men who like to ride motorcycles and play basketball.”

I didn't feel worthy at the time to have a vocation to the priesthood, so I took a “short” detour.

After high school, I wanted a more challenging life and decided to join a religious congregation, Missionaries of the Poor. I was sent to Jamaica for studies and formation. In December 2006 I left the congregation in Jamaica and came to the United States to pursue my vocation to the priesthood. I applied to be a seminarian in the Diocese of Stockton, but due to my visa status, the Diocese could not receive me right away. This delay gave me the opportunity to go back to the Philippines and visit my family, who I had not seen for ten years.



In 2008, the Diocese of Stockton was able to accept me as a seminarian. In 2010, I completed my Philosophical studies at Saint Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophical Studies. On April 18, 2015, I was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate. Finally, I graduated from Saint Patrick's Seminary on May 13, 2016, with a Master's Degree in Divinity. A week later, on May 21, the “vagabond kid” from Masbate, Philippines was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of the Annunciation by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire. I spent nearly two years at my first assignment, St. Bernard's in Tracy.

On February 13 of this year, I was assigned to Our Lady of Fatima Church in Modesto. With my assignment at Our Lady of Fatima, one day of my week is spent at St. Joseph's, serving our Spanish community. Many prayers brought me to where I am today. I ask that your prayers increase during St. Joseph's Year of Religious Vocations, so that all of the “vagabond kids” like me respond to their call for a religious vocation.

Have you ever thought about being a Priest or Sister?

Call the parish office at 209-551-4973 for a priority appointment with Fr. Mark

God could be calling you.

Supporting our parish



"100 for Youth"

In July, our youth will be traveling to Orange County for a State Youth Conference, which is conducted by the Steubenville Conference, considered the best youth formation program offered. Will you be one of the 100 who can donate \$50 to support and underwrite half of the cost for this conference?



Congratulations to
Ed and Sue Gamboa

for receiving the 2018
St. Joseph's Award.

Thank you for supporting the
mission of the parish and
Living the Faith as stewards of
the Catholic Church.

Over 400 St. Joseph's parishioners are now using E-giving for their offertory and other gifts! Make 2016 the year you and your family begin giving with E-giving; just use the laminated E-giving cards in the pews during the offertory.

For more information, please call 551-4973, ext. 202

www.stjmod.com/e-giving

ANNUAL "RESPONDING TO GOD'S BLESSINGS" CELEBRATION

STJMOD Development Committee Event

*Saturday, May 5
8am - 11am*



*Free Breakfast
Pancakes, Eggs, Sausages!*



Each May we reflect on the many ways God has blessed us, our families and how we individually and as a parish have blessed others.

**Thank you for supporting God's work by Praying Gratefully,
Serving Responsibly and Giving Generously.**

St. Joseph's Events Calendar

April Events

**"Exiting Earth"
End of Life Conference**
April 28

May Events

Blessings Breakfast
May 5 (See page 5)

Parish Scholarship Awards
May 6, 5:30pm Mass

**Spanish First Holy
Communion Masses**
May 12: 10am, 1pm
May 19: 12noon

**New/Newer Parishoner
Welcome Lunch Tour**
May 19

Confirmation Masses
May 26: 1pm, 4pm

**Monday May 30th
Memorial Day office closed**

June Events

Corpus Christi Procession
June 2(See back page)

Free Parish Movie Night
Saturday July 16

Bring cookies to share

6



June Events

**Parish School of Religion
Enrollment Days!**

Friday, June 1, 8:30-11am

Saturday, June 2, 8:30-11am

Monday, June 4, 5-7pm

Thursday, June 7, 5-7pm

Enrollment is done in person,
no appointment required.
Tuition must be paid in full at
time of enrollment (see form for
fees). Enrollment forms can be
downloaded and filled out
ahead of time at:

www.stjmod.com/enroll

Vacation Bible Retreat
June 25-29

Bring your children to this
special retreat where they
will have fun and learn
about their faith.

Save the Date

**"We Love St. Joseph's
Parish Clean Up Day"**
August 11



EXITING EARTH

CATHOLIC END OF LIFE DECISIONS

APRIL 28

9:30-11:30AM

FR. O'HARE HALL



Keynote Speaker
Dr. Robert Forester,
MD, FAFP

Dr. Forester is a founder of St. Luke's Family Practice in Modesto and a Fellow, American Academy of Family Physicians, Board Certified, American Academy of Family Physicians, a graduate of both UCLA and UC Davis School of Medicine. Dr. Forester has been in private practice in Modesto since 1989



How do I make funeral plans?
When is it okay to remove life support?
Can I be cremated?
What is an Advanced Medical Directive?



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UNITY AND DISUNITY

HOW TO ENGAGE
NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS

APRIL 10 - MAY 29
6:30PM IN JP2 ROOM 11

PRESENTED BY DOUGLAS BEAUMONT, PH.D.
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



WWW.STJMOD.COM



St. Joseph's Catholic Church
1813 Oakdale Road
Modesto, CA 95355



June 2



"Following the Lamb of God"

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Procession begins
immediately following
the 5:30pm Saturday Mass.

We will process through our
neighborhood with our
Eucharistic Lord
accompanied by hymns,
scripture readings, prayers
and benediction upon return
to the church.

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
1813 Oakdale Road Modesto
209-551-4973 www.stjmod.com

Water, sunscreen and hats/umbrellas recommended



WELCOME TO OUR
FAMILY OF FAMILIES

Scan this image with your smart phone and
go directly to St. Joseph's web page to view
upcoming events and the latest blogs.

Visit: www.getscanlife.com for a free QR Scanner



www.facebook.com/stjmod

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Sundays: 7:30am, 9am
(Latin), 10:30am, 12noon, 1:30pm (Español),
5:30pm & 7:30pm

*Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30am Sunday Mass
1:30 (Spanish) Sunday Mass*

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday 8am & 5:45pm; Saturdays 8am

CONFESSION

Monday through Thursday 5-5:30pm

Fridays 6:30-7:30pm during Holy Hour

Saturdays 8:30-9:30am & 4-5pm

*Homebound please call 551-4973 for a priest to visit
you by appointment.*

Our Parish Mission:
To Evangelize God's People Beginning
with the Gift of the Holy Eucharist.

www.stjmod.com
(209)551-4973