

When church is too serious, it loses its loving, tender side, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Catholic Church needs to revive its loving and tender side, which gets lost when the church becomes too serious, Pope Francis said.

The maternal, tender side of the church is a value "that the mother church cannot lose," he said.

The pope made his comments during a 45-minute informal meeting with Caritas Internationalis' executive committee, its secretary-general, Michel Roy; and its president, Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa.

"A church without charity doesn't exist," the pope said, thanking Caritas for its "dual dimensions" of social action and mystical, spiritual dimension.

"Caritas is the church's caress to her people," showing tenderness and understanding toward their needs, he said, according to partial translations supplied by Vatican Radio and the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

"The search for truth and the study of the Catholic truth are other important dimensions of the church which are carried out by theologians" and transmitted through catechesis and exegesis.

"Caritas is the love in the mother church that approaches, embraces, and loves" people, he said.

The pope called the crises in the world "very serious." They include not just economic and cultural crises and a crisis of faith "but a crisis in which man is suffering the consequences of this instability."

"Humanity is in danger, the human person, the flesh of Christ," he said, and "Caritas' job above all is to realize this."

The world today is confused about what it's supposed to do with creation, he said.

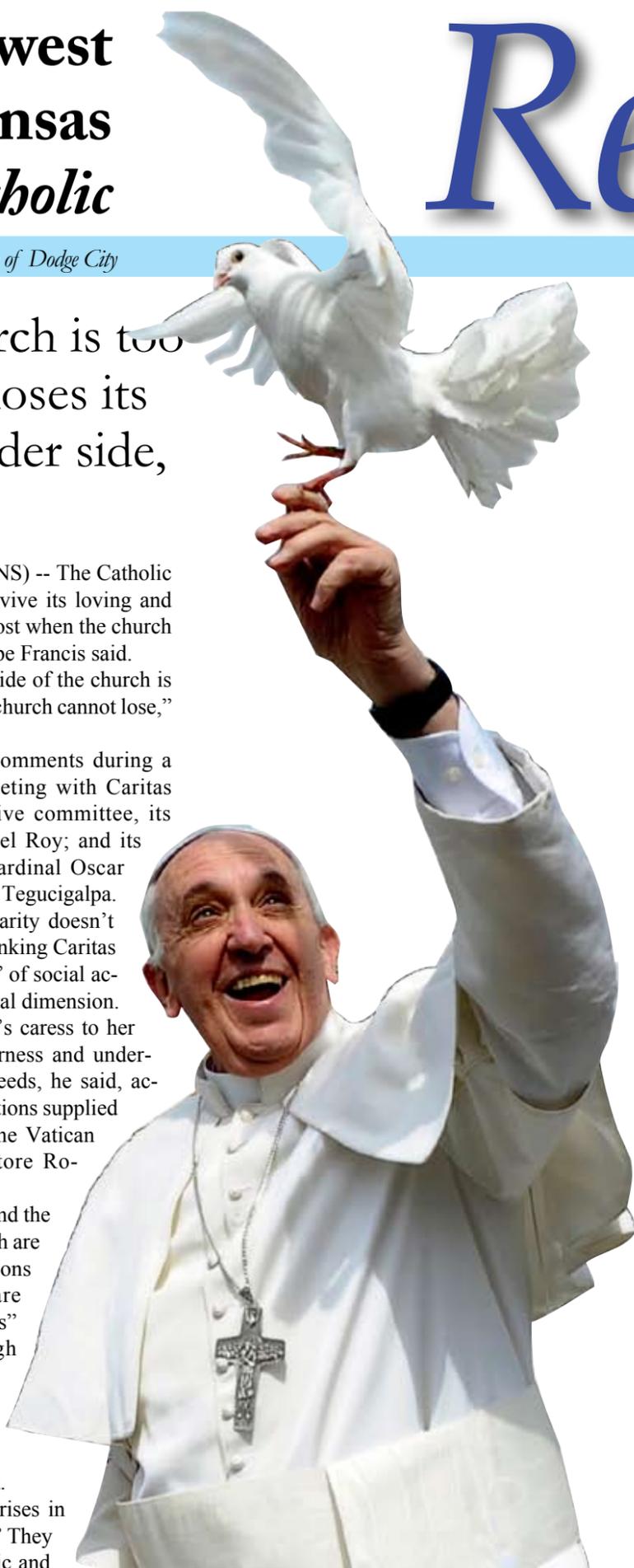
Instead of safeguarding and promoting creation in a way that improves and brings happiness to humanity, the world has established "a culture of disposal" where whatever isn't useful "gets tossed out in the trash."

Those designated as useless include the most marginalized, children and the elderly, who are tossed aside "with this hidden euthanasia."

"The spirituality of Caritas is the spirituality of tenderness, and we have excluded the idea of tenderness from the church," he said.

"At times our 'seriousness' over the pastoral causes us to lose this idea, which is the maternity of the church."

"The church is fundamentally mother and, for me, recovering this tenderness for the church is the core to which the spirituality of Caritas must refer itself," he said.



CNS photo/L'Osservatore/Romano via Reuters

Pope Francis holds a friendly dove before his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 15.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Bishop John B. Brungardt announces the following appointments effective June 3, 2013:

Father Trong Tran, having completed a licentiate in canon law, is appointed pastor of St. Stanislaus, Ingalls, and assigned to Tribunal ministry.

Father John Forkuoh, a priest of the Diocese of Goaso, Ghana, will be taking part in orientation experiences throughout the diocese in the coming months. His residence initially will be at St. Mary, Garden City.

By order of the
Most Rev. Bishop John B. Brungardt,
Sister Janice Grochowsky, CSJ, JCL,
Chancellor

Pope joins people across globe in praying for victims of Oklahoma tornado

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- As the death toll continued to rise from the massive tornado that struck near Oklahoma City May 20, Pope Francis offered a special prayer for the victims during his early morning Mass May 21 and later offered his condolences through his Twitter account.

"Let us pray for the victims ... and the missing, especially the children, struck by the violent tornado that hit Oklahoma City yesterday. Hear us, O Lord," the pope said during the prayers of the faithful.

The tornado touched down at about 3 p.m. local time in Oklahoma and reportedly stayed on the ground for more than 40 minutes, leaving a 20-mile path of death and destruction. At deadline, dozens of people were reported killed, and the death toll was expected to rise. Two elementary schools were struck by the tornado.

A few hours after the Mass, Pope Francis also used his @Pontifex Twitter account to express his concern for the Oklahoma victims and survivors.

"I am close to the families of all who died in the Oklahoma tornado, especially those who lost young children. Join me in praying for them," he told the 2.5 million people who follow his English-language Twitter account and the 2.4 million who follow his Spanish-language account.

England's Queen Elizabeth and Russia's Vladimir Putin were among other world leaders who offered their condolences in light of the tragic event.

Bishop John B. Brungardt joins people across the Diocese of Dodge City in asking the Gentle Jesus to bring comfort to all those affected by the tornado. May they "trust in the Lord amid the suffering of this earthly life."

The Diocese of Dodge City offered the prayer below on its website, dcdiocese.org, which links to a site where individuals can go to offer financial donations to disaster relief.

To provide financial help to disaster relief efforts, go to dcdiocese.org, or send checks directly to Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, 1501 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73106.

Eternal God,
May the people of Moore,
and all victims of recent tornados
and other disasters,
receive the solace, comfort and consolation
you alone can give.

May people come swiftly to their aid.
And with their help
may they know your gifts
of endurance to survive,
of strength to rebuild,
of faith to mourn,
and of courage to heal.

Save the date!

Natural Family Planning: Science & Faith

Catholic Social Service will host this Natural Family Planning event focusing on "Science and Faith" on:

Date: July 13th 2013;

Time: 8:45a.m.-3p.m.

Where: Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Child Care is available

More details to come in future issues of the *Register*.

"Marriage is an act of will that signifies and involves a mutual gift, which unites the spouses and binds them to their eventual souls, with whom they make up a sole family - a domestic church."

— *Blessed Pope John Paul II*

'Another Way'

A final thought on the Resurrection - The New Testament makes it plain. The Risen-Jesus was the "same" Jesus he was before. And the Risen-Jesus was a "different" Jesus from what he was before. He filled space, but in a spaceless way. He moved in time, but in a timeless way.

The "Same," and yet "Different." In "Time," and yet "timeless." In "Space," and yet "spaceless." We don't know how these pairs can be true at the same time. We don't understand how they fit together. This is *Mystery*.

It tempts us to throw up our hands. If the reality of the Resurrection is so beyond us, why not leave it alone, and make do with the darkness? Why

bother our heads about it?

We do so because a *Mystery* is not something that we can know nothing about. It is only something that the mind cannot wholly know. It is not a high wall that we cannot see over, or that we cannot get around. It is a house of many rooms into which we can move deeper and deeper. We can never reach the end of it, but each small step is immeasurably satisfying.

A *Mystery* is an "invitation" to the mind. It is an inexhaustible well of Truth from which the mind may drink and drink again, understanding full well that it will never run dry. Without the Resurrection, our Faith is in vain. Drink from it in every season.



+ **Most Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore**
Bishop Emeritus of Dodge City

Sister Clara Pfeifer, former Religious Education Director, dies in Wichita

Sister Clara (Hilarion) Pfeifer, a former Director of Religious Education for the diocese, entered eternal life May 12, 2013. Msgr. Robert Hemberger celebrated the Mass of Christian burial in Resurrection Chapel as the Wichita Center of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Burial was in the motherhouse cemetery.

Clara was born to Frank and Margaret Younger Pfeifer on Aug. 20, 1919 in Hays. After completing eight grades through home schooling and a rural school she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph as a postulant. In 1935 Clara received the habit and the name of Sister Hilarion which she retained until 1966 when she returned to her baptismal name.

Her first ministry was to serve as a domestic in small and large convents and in small and large hospitals. She was then asked to prepare herself for teaching. She taught elementary students and was principal for a number of years in both the Dioceses of Wichita and Dodge City. After receiving

a degree in Home Economics Education from Marymount College she was assigned to teach in high schools and pursued a Masters degree in the same field from St. Louis University.

Sister Clara's first love however, was teaching adult religious education and theology in parishes. After completing a Masters degree in Religious Studies, she worked in the Diocese of Dodge City for a year as a Director of Religious Education, then went to the position of Adult Education Coordinator for the Diocese of Salina. Within three years she returned to the Diocese of Dodge City where she worked from 1978-1994. At that time she became pastoral minister for St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Andover where she remained until 2009. Upon retiring to Marian Hall at Mt. St. Mary Convent she spent her remaining years of service to the "dear neighbor" in prayer and enjoying the visits of many friends she made throughout the years.



Diocese seeks to connect new college students with Catholic campus organizations

Did you know ...

In the first few weeks on campus, most college freshmen join the groups that they will belong to for the rest of their college careers?

The Vocations Office wants to help high school seniors and transfer students from the Diocese of Dodge City get connected with their new college home this Fall.

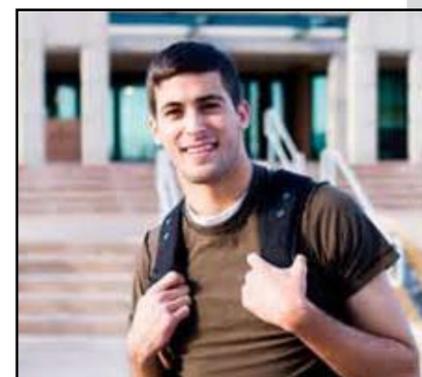
No matter where they're going (community college, Catholic college, state university), the diocese wants to give their new parish or Catholic Center a "heads up" so they can be invited to continue and enrich their Catholic life. Some of

the greatest activity in the Catholic Church today is centered on college campuses.

"But we can't do it without help," says Father Wesley Schawe, Director of Priestly Vocations. "We need to know where your graduating high school seniors (plus transfer students and community college graduates) plan to be next year.

Students, parents and grandparents can help:

- Sign up online at www.dcdiocese.org/vocations, or print the online card and send it to the address given.
- If your parish has a "graduation Mass" in May, have each graduate fill out the sign-up card as they gather for Mass.
- Send in the form at left to: Vocations Office, P.O. Box 137, Dodge City, KS, 67801, or go to www.dcdiocese.org/vocations.



☰ College Connection for Catholics

This form is also available electronically at www.dcdiocese.org/vocations. Deadline is June 1.

LAST NAME _____

FIRST NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL _____

CELL _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____

CAMPUS CITY _____

CAMPUS STATE _____

More abortion mills like Gosnells, says Archbishop Chaput

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- Dr. Kermit Gosnell may have been convicted May 13 of murder at his Philadelphia abortion clinic, but "nothing can bring back the innocent children he killed, or make up for the vulnerable women he exploited," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput.

And, he added, "the repugnance of his clinic conditions" must be remembered.

In a May 14 statement, the Philadelphia archbishop said, "Gosnell is not an exception. Others just like him run abortion mills throughout our country."

A Philadelphia jury May 13 found Gosnell guilty of murder in the deaths of three babies born alive during abortions and acquitted him of a fourth similar charge. He also was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death by a drug overdose of a patient who had an abortion.

Gosnell, 72, was charged with snipping the spines of babies born alive during illegal late-term abortions. Pennsylvania law prohibits abortions after 24 weeks of gestation.

"We need to stop cloaking the ugliness of abortion with misnomers like 'proper medical coverage' or 'choice,'" Archbishop Chaput said in his statement. "It's violence of the most intimate sort, and it needs to end."

Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, said the "self-interested indifference of an unrepentant, unregulated and unmonitored abortion industry stood front and center among the tragic events that led to the conviction of Kermit Gosnell."

"Kermit Gosnell is not the aberration that abortion advocates claim," Yoest said. "Over the last three years at least 15 states have initiated investigations into the conditions and practices of abortion clinics. These investigations were triggered by women's deaths, reports of dangerous and unsanitary practices that exposed women to injuries and infections, and infants born alive following attempted abortions."

Gosnell was arrested in 2011 and charged with seven counts of infanticide and one count of murder in the case of a woman from Virginia who died during an abortion.

Several patients and former employees testified about squalid conditions at the clinic, described by some as "a house of horrors."

Several former workers in the clinic, including Gosnell's wife, Pearl, a cosmetologist by training, earlier pleaded guilty to charges including third-degree murder, racketeering and performing illegal, late-term abortions.

Prosecutors said one of the babies Gosnell killed was at nearly 30 weeks of gestation and was so big that Gosnell joked it could "walk to the bus," reported The Associated Press.

Archbishop Chaput said the detailed description of Gosnell's clinic discussed at trial must remain "sharp in our memories," and "we should remember the media's inadequacy in covering his case."

'I just want to be a minister of God's grace'

Former Kinsley, Garden City residents ordained

Father Victor Schinstock

On May 16 Brother Victor Schinstock, O.S.B., who was reared in Kinsley, was ordained a priest by the Most Reverend Jerome Hanus, O.S.B., Archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa, at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

Father Victor (John) Schinstock, 31, is the son of Gene and Jeanne Schinstock of Hutchinson. As a seminarian for the Diocese of Wichita, Father Victor entered Conception Seminary College in 2002 and quickly felt at home in the peaceful rural setting. In his years at Conception he came to love the communal prayer with the monks and began to feel an attraction towards the monastic life.

In 2005, he professed temporary vows and three years later, in 2008, he professed solemn vows as a monk of Conception Abbey. During those years Father Victor worked as the Director of Admissions and Vocation Promotion

for Conception Seminary College as well as the Assistant Vocation Director for the Monastery.

Last summer, after being ordained a deacon, he worked in Clinical Pastoral Education at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. He then went on to finish his last year of theological studies at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Indiana and graduated this May with a Master of Divinity degree. Father Victor is happy to be back home with his brothers at Conception Abbey and is eager to begin his new assignments which include assisting Father Martin DeMeulenaere, O.S.B. with pastoral duties at St. Gregory Barbarigo Parish in Maryville, MO.

"I just want to be a minister of God's grace to those I encounter," Father Victor said. "I don't know what He's going to put before me, but I trust that he is doing so for my benefit and the benefit of those I encounter."



Father Victor Schinstock



Deacon Macario Arjona

'Associates': Offering lay people a commitment to a Religious order



(LtoR): Sister Josephine O'Gorman, new associate Gina Adams, and Ann Hughes, Director of Associates.

On May 5, the Congregation of St. Joseph welcomed a new associate during the annual Pinning Mass at the Wichita Center. After a preparation period of several months, Gina Adams received a pin that designates her as an associate, as well as a copy of the Generous Promises, a commitment made by all Sisters and Associates.

Ann Hughes, Director of Associates, welcomed Gina as she committed herself to "living the mission of Christ Jesus through the charisma of unity and reconciliation."

The Wichita Center has 175 associates, scattered throughout the country. At the Pinning Mass, anniversaries of 36 associates were also celebrated.

Brother Macario Martinez Arjona

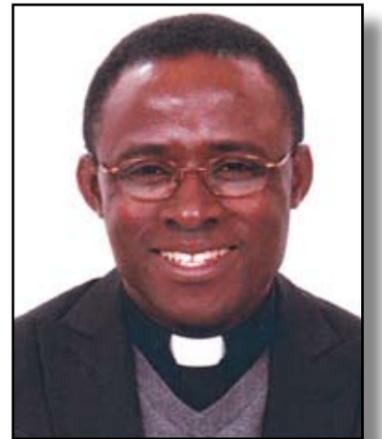
Brother Macario Martinez Arjona, OSB, of Garden City, was ordained a transitional deacon by the Most Reverend Jerome Hanus, O.S.B., Archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa, at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception May 15.

Brother Macario (Juan) Martinez Arjona, 35, is the son of Juan Martinez and the late Rachel Martinez of Garden City. He entered Conception Seminary College in the fall of 2002 as a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Dodge City. In May of 2003, he graduated from the seminary, entered the monastery that July, and was received as a novice of Conception Abbey in August.

In 2004, he professed temporary vows and received his religious name, "Macario", and three years later, in 2007, he professed solemn vows as a monk of Conception Abbey. He has served the community during these years in various assignments including the Assistant to the Business Office Manager and Conception Abbey Treasurer.

This summer Brother Macario is assigned to St. Peter's Parish in Stanberry, MO, where he will serve as deacon. In August, he will return to St. Meinrad in St. Meinrad, Indiana for his fourth and final year of theological studies.

Diocese welcomes Father John Kwaku Forkuoh



The Diocese of Dodge City welcomes to southwest Kansas Father John Kwaku Forkuoh, a native of Ghana, Africa.

Father Forkuoh was born in 1969 and attended St. James Minor Seminary High School. He continued his studies in Ghana, including philosophy at St. Paul's Regional Seminary and theology at St. Peter's Minor Seminary.

He has earned a B.A. in Theology and Social Sciences, a post graduate diploma in Education, and an M.A. in Pastoral Counseling.

In 2013, he completed his studies in pastoral counseling at Athenaeum of Ohio.

He was pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Ghana from 2000 to 2006, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor Parish from 2006-2010. He also served as a moral and religious teacher at St. Joseph High School from 2002-2006, and as a high school English teacher from 2006-2010.

Father Forkuoh will be taking part in orientation experiences throughout the diocese in the coming months. His residence initially will be at St. Mary, Garden City.

Of dandelions and Ovaltine

The other day I was sitting on our back patio enjoying the blue sky and the cool breeze while listening to the birds say whatever it is birds say. A beautiful songbird was tweeting its symphony as another flew by: "Hey, Larry! How's the wife?" All I could hear in response was something about "worm-tetrazzini". Gross.

I had just mowed the lawn and was reveling in my accomplishment. Ahhhh. If I drank beer, this would be the time for it. I really do find Ovaltine a nice alternative. In fact, guys, next time you have your buddies over for the game, serve Ovaltine instead of beer. It's very refreshing! And wives like it because it limits your buddies to that one weird guy with the grey beard who edits the *Southwest Kansas Register*.

Have you noticed that when your lawn is freshly mowed, it actually looks like grass? Prior to mowing my lawn, there are sprouts of weeds here, tall mutant grass there, weird alien flowers ready to shoot spores at me like on that episode of Star Trek, and a few sprigs of normal, green grass covering off in the corner like scared villagers. The most troublesome are the dandelions, which sprout back up and to attention just hours after mowing. I ran over one the other day; I took a couple steps, turned around, and he was giving me the leaf. As noted in Dr. Sabien Toll's text, *Indigenous Weeds of North America*, "Dandelions are among the rudest of all plant life." (Chapter 5, Page 3)

Rude dandelions aside, Mother Nature is very conducive to prayer. As I sat on the back porch reveling in the beauty of freshly mowed grass/weeds, I thought about a prayer I had wanted to write. I talk to God a lot, and there are times when I don't know how to express myself. They say that God hears our prayers even when we don't know what to say, but I figure with his busy schedule, the more convenient the prayer, the better. So, I decided to try to put together an easy-to-remember, heartfelt prayer for those times when I don't know what to pray.

I gave it a try: "Thanks God for ... um ... you know, pretty much everything. I mean, everything that's good and, well, nice. Thanks for bugs too, even the gross ones, although I can't say that I'm super-thankful for those. That one that scampered across my floor the other day was, like, from a different planet or something. Sorry I squished it. I know we're not supposed to kill, although I'm not sure that applies to bugs. Does it bug you when I kill a bug? Ha, ha. Just kidding, Lord. Is it okay to kid while praying, Lord? Well, please help Uncle Joe with his gout. Oh, and sorry about the spatula. I never should have put it back in the drawer after the bug thing." And so on, and so on.

As much as I tried, I just couldn't latch on to words that would say thank you, please help so-and-so, and sorry for all my misdeeds, in a few concise sentences. I closed my eyes and quieted my mind,

By David Myers
Editor



concentrating on Christ's awesome love. I folded my hands. Then, suddenly, the words I'd been looking for appeared as if through an open door: "Our Father, who art in Heaven...."

As I considered prayer while looking out over my freshly mowed lawn -- a few young dandelions already towering over the mowed grass -- I thought about suffering. See, we've got all sorts of reasons to celebrate God: his love for us, his wondrous gifts, all sorts of things that we take for granted (Like oxygen! Thank you, God for knowing the periodic table!). But when watching someone we love suffer? Man; that's when it just isn't easy for me to buddy up to God. I look to the cross and see that Christ knows suffering; he knows the pain our loved ones are in.

But what about the one who's not in physical pain him or herself, but who's in terrible anguish over the physical pain a loved one is suffering?

I know I'm just a keyboard tapping desk jockey, but would it be too arrogant to suggest that it would have been nice if God had seen fit to give us some sort of example or lesson -- or something!! -- that we could cling to when watching a loved one suffer? Something! Anything to help us through those most impossible of times!

If not for us, how about for Mary, Jesus's own mother? I mean, think of what she went through watching her son brutalized, humiliated and then hung on the cross to suffer unbelievable pain! I mean, at least she didn't have to suffer indefinitely. After Jesus's death on the cross, when he appears before Mary -- "Hi, Mom!" -- you can guess her spirits lifted considerably.

As I sat on the back porch that day, I honestly made a rediscovery of God's great gift to us, almost hidden amongst the great sacrifice of his son: the gift of Mary's example to all those who watch a loved one suffer -- the gift of knowing that amid the horrible trauma, that miracles of miracles are peeking around the corner.

The wonder of rediscovering these truths about our faith, is also the joyous discovery of another on my list of why it's so cool to be Catholic. You aren't going to see too many statues of Mary in other churches. Our Church knows just how awesome Our Lady truly is.

* No bugs were harmed in the writing of this column.

Vocation means belonging to Jesus

By Mary Sharon Moore
Awakening Vocations



In my one-to-one conversations with people who seek to discern God's calling for their lives, I always feel a rush of surprise when I hear true vocational insight. One man shared with me his recent discovery: "Vocation is not work. Vocation is belonging to Jesus."

Vocation is belonging to Jesus—indeed. "We are branded," St. Teresa of Avila once wrote, "branded with His sign. It is the sign of the Cross, in token that we have given Him our freedom."

Vocation—first and ultimately—is about relationship, not between equals, but a relationship of mutuality nonetheless. A relationship of mutual servanthood. If you remove this extraordinary and completely self-involving relationship with Jesus from your life's equation, there's no reason, really, to get out of bed in the morning, no reason to embrace the new day. And ultimately, when you don't "belong to Jesus," you have no way to recognize, much less fully live, your anointing in the Holy Spirit.

But what does this mean, "belonging to Jesus"? Does it mean being baptized, confirmed, and essentially identifying with life in the church? My membership at the gym could look the same and demand even more of my effort. But such "belonging" hardly meets the vocational threshold of real, generous, wholehearted engagement in a relationship of eternal worth.

Belonging to Jesus requires—demands, really—an unimaginable generosity. This was Jesus' message to the rich young man. This young man, well situated no doubt in a culture of entitlement which generational wealth often brings, understood the language of "inheritance." So he approached this fascinating and charismatic Teacher and asked him, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" His question reveals an expectation of easy acquisition that may come close to some of our own deepest yearnings.

But the young man's "inheritance" question evokes from Jesus a "relationship" answer that is all about vocation: "Go sell your possessions, give your wealth to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then, come, follow me" (see Mark 10:17-31 and parallels in Matthew and Luke). Get out of relationship with your stuff, Jesus could have said; get into relationship with the world of the poor. Then you'll be following me.

Let your wealth be your bridge to the poor? We think of wealth as being a bridge

to opportunity, to climbing higher and acquiring even more. Downward mobility today does not sound like a smart choice. Yet these words come from One who did not deem equality with God as something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself, and took the form of a slave (see Philippians 2:6-7). Jesus' words to the young man were so daunting that even Peter and the other disciples were shaken (see Mark 10:24ff). So let's return to that insight—that vocation is not work but belonging to Jesus. How silly of us to wonder what our "vocation" might be, what work we should do, what job we should take, or how we should live our lives when our job ends or when our work, or our ability to work, vanishes. Jesus addresses such anxieties head-on. "Seek first the kingdom of God," he says. Participate, in other words, in that revelation of God's great good through the life you live and the work you do. "And all these things shall be yours as well" (see Matthew 6:25-34). Belonging to Jesus can never be a half-hearted thing. Nor can we expect such belonging to be convenient. Jesus challenges one of his adversaries: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart" (Mark 12:28-30). Wholeheartedness and only wholeheartedness in service to the Gospel, in service to Jesus, can open the door of vocation.

God's invitation is everywhere; God's calling is unstoppable. But you have to belong to Jesus, with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength, to make sense of the invitation.

Mary Sharon Moore, founder of Awakening Vocations, works with individuals nationwide in spiritual and vocational direction. Her recent book, *Anointed for a Purpose*, offers insight into the anointed life of response to God's calling. Visit www.awakeningvocations.com to order this and other vocational and parish resources, or call 1.888.687.2046 (Pacific).



"That's the way the teacher looks by the last day of school."

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