

Parish Bulletin

The Official Publication of Santuario de San Antonio Parish
We Care Because We Pray

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(Green)

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THE ABCs OF CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

By Lianne Tiu

Making Halloween Holy

There's something exciting about Halloween. In some parts of our country, it is one of those days that we eagerly await. Perhaps it is payday as we get ready for the next two-day vacation. Perhaps it is the delight to see children dressed in their little trick-or-treat costumes. Perhaps it is that once-a-year opportunity to have fun and display our magical or creative outfits in Halloween events.

Some people, however, think that Halloween is a pagan celebration. And we should not even acknowledge it.



There is a Christian origin of Halloween. The root word of Halloween which is "hallow" means "holy." The suffix "een" is an abbreviation of "evening." Halloween refers to the eve of All Hallows, the vigil of All Saints' Day. It is like what December 24 is to Christmas Day. It begins the Feast Day celebration reminding us of the reality of Heaven and Hell, angels and devils, the saints, the souls in Purgatory and the damned.

Many Halloween practices are innocent fun without any thought of paganism. Although some people may put on costumes such as ghost, skeleton, corpse with coffin -- these can be healthy reminders of sin, death, and the devil. People who dressed as zombies, witches, or demons, need to be cautious that their intention

is not to glorify Satan or evil. A celebration which is about Christ's victory over Sin and Death should not become a festival of darkness and death. Recently, our church leaders encouraged children and young adults to dress up as saints, angels, nuns, and priests or to hold parades of saints. It would be exciting to see the look-alike of the stigmatized Padre Pio or the computer whiz Blessed Carlo Acutis in their social media posts!

Fr. Vincent Lampert -- a Vatican-trained exorcist -- said that the danger of Halloween is when God is somehow lost in all of this, the religious connotation is lost, and then people end up glorifying evil.

Let us sanctify Halloween. It is a good time to thank our Lord for the get-together with friends, the good weather, the loads of sweets, and most especially the communion of saints*. It is an opportunity to pray more for the Church Suffering and the Church Militant. It is a chance to offer to God our work in preparing for the beautiful celebration of Halloween and of the two great liturgical feasts of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

*Communion of saints - The unity and cooperation of the faithful on Earth (Church Militant), the souls in Purgatory (Church Suffering), and the saints in Heaven (Church Triumphant). They are united as being one mystical body under Christ as its Head.

(References: "It's Time for Catholics to Embrace Halloween" by Fr. Steve Grunow; "What's the difference between Halloween, All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day and Days of the Dead?" By Greg Garrison; "Family Celebration Ideas for Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day" by Jennifer Miller and Margaret Gregory; "What to do about Halloween? Catholic moms -- and an exorcist -- weigh in")



2020: Year of Ecumenism
Interreligious Dialogue
and Indigenous Peoples



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St. Jude and St. Simon: Apostles and Martyrs

Feast Day: October 28

Mary of Cleophas (cousin of the Blessed Mother) married Alphaeus (brother of St. Joseph). Together they had children whom they raised in Nazareth near the Holy Family. Among their children were Jude, Simon, and James who would later be called by Jesus to be Apostles -- pillars of His Church. Although the three were cousins of Jesus, they were called brethren of Jesus -- the Hebrew word for brethren indicates a close blood relationship.

Little has been handed down about Saints Jude and Simon. St. Jude was a disciple of Christ throughout His public ministry but he was referenced only twice in the Bible -- when he was chosen to be an apostle -- and at The Last Supper where he asked Jesus, "Lord, how is it that You will reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?"

St. Jude is traditionally depicted carrying the image of Jesus in his hand or close to his chest. This comes from a story in which King Abgar of Edessa, desiring to be cured of his leprosy, sent an artist to draw Jesus for him with the hope that the portrait can make him well. Impressed with Abgar's great faith, Jesus pressed His face into a cloth and gave it to St. Jude to take to Abgar. Upon seeing Jesus' image, The King was cured and he converted to Christianity along with most of the people under his rule. Much later, Jesus, Himself, inspired devotion to Saint Jude when He appeared in a vision to Saint Bridget of Sweden and said: "His surname, Thaddeus, means 'amiable' or 'loving.' He will show himself most willing to give help."

Meanwhile, St. Simon was a simple Galilean, engaged in the cultivation of vineyards and olive gardens. He belonged to a secret religious and political group known as the Zealots that deplored Roman occupation in Judea. In their desire for a free and independent Jewish state, Zealots refused to pay taxes. They also exerted violence against fellow Jews who collaborated with foreign rulers in the administration of government. But after Simon heard

Jesus preach in Galilee, his attitudes changed and he became Jesus' follower.

Both men were known by other names during their lives. Simon was often called "the Zealot" -- a person who is strongly committed to something. Simon firmly believed in the importance of people following Jewish law. His life was changed and became convinced in the importance of following Jesus and His teachings. While Jude's original name is Judas, it was changed to Jude Thaddeus to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot.



After Jesus' resurrection, Saints Jude and Simon were faithful to the command that they and the other apostles received, "Go out, making disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all the commandments which I have given you," (Matthew 28:19-20).

According to tradition, St. Jude preached in Judea, Samaria, Syria, Mesopotamia and Libya. St. Simon preached the Gospel in Egypt, Mauritania (Spain), and Libya. He later rejoined his brother, Saint Jude, in Persia. At first they were respected by the King for they had manifested power over two ferocious tigers that had terrorized the land. The King and sixty thousand Persians became Christians and churches rose over the ruins of the idolatrous temples. Both were initially honored by the Eastern Church and Western Christianity but were later martyred in Persia. Not even death separated them -- these remains are both in Saint Peter's Basilica under the main altar of Saint Joseph.

Saints Simon and Jude were ordinary men who were chosen by Jesus Himself to teach others about God's love and to convert disciples in all nations. They remind us to learn all we can about Jesus and to share our knowledge with others, as they did. Their lives help us to understand that even the most average people can become saints when they decide to follow Jesus.

Fascinating Facts About St. Francis of Assisi

Secular Franciscan Order

St. Francis of Assisi is one of the Church's best-known and most beloved saints. Our current Holy Father Pope Francis took the name Francis after him.

Here are 12 fascinating facts you probably didn't know about the great saint's life:

1. He was one of seven kids.

This could have been a reason for his wanting to have a big family (order).

2. He was named after the people of France.

Francesco means Frenchman -- a name given by his father -- a merchant who liked French culture.

3. He was POW for a year.

At around the age of 19, before his conversion, he joined the military and fought in a war against a nearby city. He was taken prisoner and held for a year and was released unharmed.

4. He was inspired by Matthew 10:9

In Matthew 10:9, Jesus tells his disciples, "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts," when they travel around to preach the Gospel. He felt inspired to do the same and travelled around preaching repentance in poverty.

5. Within a year, he gained eleven followers.

That meant there were 12 of them total -- just like the 12 Apostles.

6. Pope Innocent III decided to support the Franciscans after a supernatural dream.

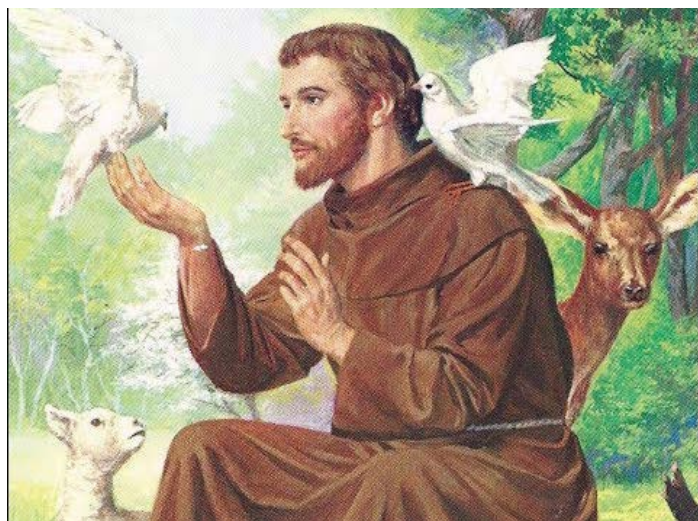
Pope Innocent III was initially cautious about supporting Francis and his new group of followers. Then he had a dream in which he saw Francis holding up the Basilica of St. John Lateran -- the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Rome, representative of the Church in general, but especially the papacy. He interpreted the dream as indicating that Francis and his group would help support the Church, and so gave official recognition to the group as a genuine Order in the Church.

7. He met St. Dominic when he attended the Fourth Lateran Council.

The Fourth Lateran Council was the 12th Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church and affirmed transubstantiation and papal primacy, among other things. St. Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers or Dominicans, was also present.

8. He traveled to visit a Muslim Sultan and preached the Gospel.

During the Fifth Crusade, Francis and a companion traveled into Muslim territory to visit Sultan Al-Kamil. He preached before the Sultan -- to demonstrate his great faith in the Christian religion -- he challenged those present to a "trial-by-fire" in which he and



a Muslim would step into a fire with the idea that the follower of the true religion would be spared by God. Francis offered to go first but the Sultan turned down the challenge. Nonetheless, the Sultan was so impressed by his faith that he gave Francis permission to preach in his land.

9. The miracles -- attributed to a dead Franciscan priest caused crowds and traffic problems around his gravesite -- and St. Francis' solution.

In 1220, Francis handed over governance of the Greater Order to the Franciscan, Peter Catani. However, Peter died just five months later. Visitors to his grave reported many miracles, which led to great crowds visiting his grave. The great crowds were causing problems in that area. So Francis prayed asking Peter to stop the miracles and they did.

10. He received the stigmata during a 40-day fast.

A Franciscan who was with him later recounted, "Suddenly he saw a vision of a seraph, a six-winged angel on a cross. This angel gave him the gift of the five wounds of Christ."

11. The foundation stone for the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi was laid by the Pope the day after he was canonized -- less than two years after his death.

Francis died on October 3, 1226. He was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX on July 16, 1228. The next day, the Pope personally laid the foundation stone for the new Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

12. His tomb was lost for centuries.

His body was moved to his basilica in 1230 but was soon hidden by the Franciscans to protect it from Saracen invaders. The location of the body was forgotten. It was rediscovered nearly six centuries later in 1818.

Source: ChurchPOP

St. Francis of Assisi - A Joyful Life of Love

By Elisa Bengson (Secular Franciscan Order)

The Gospel tells us the “Good News” that God is Love. He created us in His image and likeness. He loves us and wants us to live in His love so that our lives will be joyful. If we love each other as Jesus loves us, then it will be like heaven here on earth all the way to Heaven. “In all things God works for good with those who love Him, whom He has called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

St. Francis enjoyed a privileged life of self-indulgence and worldly pleasures as a young man. However, imprisonment and illness -- from the war between Assisi and Perugia -- led him to search for his true vocation and renounce the emptiness of his



former life. He became the “Little Poor Man of Assisi” who sought to love God’s creatures in humility, poverty and charity praying, “O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love”.

St. Francis sought to love God in all creation -- praising and thanking Him in the Canticle for “Brother Sun, Sister Moon and Stars, Brother Wind and Air, Sister Water, Brother Fire, Mother Earth, Sister Death.” He is the Patron Saint of Ecology to whom we pray for protection against devastation of climate change and environment and natural resources that are causing global warming, earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes, floods, drought, famine, calamities, viruses and epidemics.

In centuries-old St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church in General Trias City (formerly San Francisco de Malabon), Cavite an Acacia tree was planted near the church by Philippine Revolution Generals Mariano Trias and Artemio Ricarte. Through the years, the tree’s luxuriant foliage provided the parishioners with comfort, peace and God’s invigorating presence.

On September 28, 2006, Typhoon Milenyo hit General Trias City and caused much damage to the area. It killed residents and wiped out buildings, houses, trees and crops, including the Acacia tree which had stood strong for two and a half centuries. The Parish Priest, Fr. Virgilio Mendoza, preserved the toppled Acacia tree -- which had a 12 foot long main trunk and a circumference of eight meters -- by cementing its base, carving the image of St. Francis on its trunk and building a gazebo to protect the icon. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle blessed the Tree of St. Francis on September 30, 2008 on the 255th year anniversary of the Parish. The icon has since drawn visitors to thank God for countless favors received and say a prayer to St. Francis who said, “I, therefore, want to compose a canticle praising and thanking Him for all His creatures on Earth because we cannot live without them and we daily offend Him by our lack of gratitude for them”. (Francis of Assisi: A Revolutionary Life by Adrian House)

I seek to learn: “The Way, The Truth and The Life” albeit with frequent obstacles and failures, by living the Gospel, being an “Instrument of Peace” and a “Little Friend”, caring for the poor, trusting in Divine Providence and Mercy, taking up my cross, discerning God’s will, practicing stewardship, poverty of spirit, detachment, simplicity, humility, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, gentleness, selflessness, contemplation and perfect joy as I journey from moment to moment every day.

On the final day of my departure from earthly life, Jesus will ask, “How did you live and love each day?” I will answer, “Lord, every day I tried to fill the world with love my whole life through.” I pray the Lord will say, “Come Little One, enter into the joy of My Father’s Kingdom.”

LECOM CORNER

COVID-19 and I

By Lucille Raymond Villanueva

Like most seniors, COVID-19 has changed my life completely -- not for the worse but for the better -- specifically in the following areas:

SPIRITUALLY

From the start of the lockdown, I have been hearing Mass via livestream. What I miss most during this lockdown is not being able to go physically to Church to hear Mass and receive Holy Communion. I have been doing Retreats -- "33 Days to Morning Glory" -- a Do-It-Yourself Retreat, and "Perousia," a pilgrimage of the Rosary that focuses on its Mysteries, which made me understand and appreciate the Holy Rosary better.

WEIGHT LOSS

Two months into the pandemic, I started finding ways to lose weight with much determination because I was tired of being fat. I began intermittent fasting and followed "Fast Walk with Leslie" on YouTube. I started to lose weight and was so pleased with myself. When restrictions on walking around the village were lifted, I added another exercise -- walking for an hour and aiming for ten thousand steps -- as my daily goal. So far, I have lost 16 pounds!

With joy came sorrow -- especially as I experienced loss and felt devastation -- during the lockdown. I lost a dear childhood



friend to COVID-19 and some friends and relatives due to other causes.

In spite of my grief at the loss of dear family and friends, I have realized the many blessings I have received -- attending anticipated Mass on Saturdays at a friend's home and receiving Holy Communion sacramentally; seeing my housemates -- my son, daughter and granddaughter -- cooking in the kitchen and cleaning up the mess they create; being the recipient of a BFF's kindness who did my grocery shopping during the lockdown; attending Mass for the first time on September 29 at SSAP for five straight days -- have all given me unspeakable joy.

I am grateful for the lessons learned during COVID-19 -- to accept and tolerate attitudes of others toward me -- and to be generous to strangers.

I have grown in acceptance, tolerance, generosity and empathy.

I see COVID-19 not as a curse but a wake-up call to be humble in times of adversity, to reach out to the marginalized and to give and never give up. Above all, I learned to give and to serve with love. After all, love is what life is all about.

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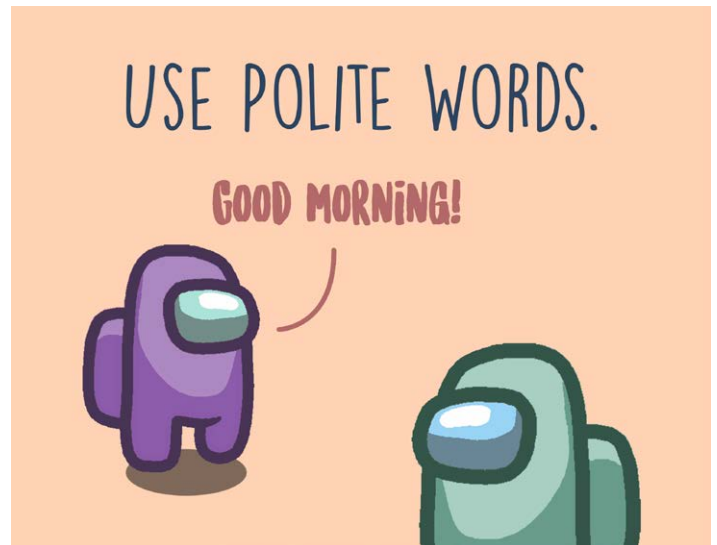
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CHILDREN'S CORNER

LET'S LEARN SOME GOOD MANNERS!

Illustrations by Hannah Fernandez



THIS WEEK'S ECO TIP!

Illustration by Alex Arcenas

Buy local!

Buying local helps your local economy because more jobs are created. It also helps support your neighbors like the farmer down the road or the woman who sells her homemade food. Plus, less packaging and fuel is needed to transport them.





SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH

SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND PRAYERS

(STARTING OCTOBER 5, 2020)

SUNDAY MASSES (Streamed)

8:00 AM Tagalog

10:00 AM

6:00 PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY (Streamed)

7:30 AM - Mass

12:00 NN - Angelus
Oratio Imperata

3:00 PM - Divine Mercy Prayer
For Healing and Chaplet

5:30 PM - Holy Rosary (M, W, Th, F)
St. Anthony Chaplet (T)

6:00 PM - Mass

SATURDAY MASSES (Streamed)

7:30 AM - Mass

6:00 PM - Anticipated Sunday Mass

CONFESSION

Monday to Sunday

(By appointment - contact: 8843-8830)

DRIVEWAY COMMUNION

Monday to Saturday

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Sunday

11:00 AM - 12:00 NN



QR Code for Parishioner
Registration Form



QR Code for Mass Reservation Form
(October 26 - November 1, 2020)



Santuario de San Antonio Parish

"We care because we pray."


SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH

FRIAR-SIDE CHATS
SEASON 2

**Journey to
St. Clare of
Assisi Parish**

Saturday, October 31
3:30 - 4:15 pm




  Santuario de San Antonio Parish

It is not fitting, when one is in
God's service, to have a gloomy
face or a chilling look.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI






COUNSELING


with Fr. Jesus Galindo, OFM

Monday to Friday
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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Asking for help is a sign of strength.
We are here for you!









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