

Pathways

to Our Lady of Consolation

Your Journey to Faith, Hope and Healing

GIFTS

by Fr. John Raphael Hadnagy, O.F.M. Conv.



One year, for my birthday, my sister gave me a sweater. When I opened the box, I thought, “Mama mia! I’ll never wear this!” (I never told her this.) It

had funny designs of different colors, and it just wasn’t “me.” I usually wore very boring clothes, as my friends later told me.

One day I wore that sweater because it was handy, and I received about 20 compliments on it just that day. In fact, every time I wore that sweater, I received compliments. My sister’s love (and good taste) won the day.

Many times it is like that with the gifts God gives to us. At first we don’t want or appreciate them. We may not want the gifts because we don’t really believe that we can do what God asks of us, or that we are particularly suited for them. Perhaps we don’t want the particular gifts God has given, but we want others that are flashier, so to speak.

It is important to realize that God never gives a gift for which we are not perfectly suited, or will be when it comes time to use it. We need to remember that all of God’s gifts are given for the building up of the Body of Christ and are to be used for that building up,

and not for our own pride or glory. When we come to this kind of realization, we begin to appreciate the gifts God has given to us (much like the gifts we received from friends or loved ones and came to like later) as given for the building up of the Christian community. We also begin to see that the gifts are completely suited to us and our abilities.

As to the gifts being more or less “flashy,” it is understandable that people would want gifts which would bring them recognition—but we tend to forget that all of God’s gifts to us are important. The more public types of gifts—like healing, powerful preaching or public speaking, or leadership—catch people’s eye. But without the equally important gifts of organization, dedication, and willingness to do hard work, to name just a few, those other gifts would lose much of their punch. Usually, people who have the more public gifts do not have many of the others.

In other words, someone can be a very powerful preacher or speaker, but without all of the organization and preparation that goes with an event like a Mass or a talk, the event would fall flat on its face. Each one of us is given particular gifts by God, and together the gifts meet the needs of all of God’s people. I pray that each of us will put our gifts at the service of our brothers and sisters.

FROM OUR PILGRIMS

Father,

I am requesting a Mass for the repose of the soul of my wife, Alice. She passed away on July 20, 2009. On June 24 we celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary. Enclosed please find the offering for the Mass.

I would like to share with you: Back in 1938 I was working at Hartville Swamp for summer work, realizing when the growing season was soon over, I would be out of work. My friend and I drove to Carey, Ohio as a pilgrimage, asking Blessed Mother Mary to find indoor work for me. After that trip, 3 weeks later, I got a job at Monarch Rubber in Hartville. I was never out of work until retiring in 1982.

So that is why the Shrine in Carey has a special meaning to me. My wife and I, over the years, traveled to Carey many times. At 93 years of age I have not been to the Shrine recently, except in thoughtful memory.

May the Lord bless you in your work at the Shrine.

C.C.S.

Fort Wayne, Indiana



Dear Father,

I want to express sincere thanks to you for the generous hospitality you showed the small group of us from Saint Dominic's. I was delightfully amazed at the attention shown us, as we were such a small group.

I also pass on to you, that one of the women with us was facing shoulder replacement surgery this September! She was delighted that she was so pain free for the two days we were at the Shrine. Now I have just received a letter from her stating that she has been pain free since our visit, so the surgery has been canceled. She states, "I believe I had a healing while I was at the Shrine!"

S.V.M.

Cincinnati, Ohio

MY FAITH JOURNEY

By Ann Yost

I really enjoy wrapping gifts and decorating them with elaborate bows and embellishments. So a few years ago, when I was asked to provide a game for our staff Christmas party, I thought I'd have a little fun with my co-workers. I wrapped gifts of all sizes. Some were rather plain, while others were lavishly adorned.

On the day of our gathering, each person was given a gift but was not allowed to open it. Throughout the following hour, I randomly rang a bell that indicated it was time to trade gifts. I couldn't help but notice that the most sought-after gifts were the more colorfully papered or curiously shaped ones. After switching a final time, the gifts were opened and their contents revealed. Everyone was pleased to find that no matter how their package had been wrapped, it held something of value.

I ended the game by reading a poem I had written for the occasion, and hoped that in some small way, this simple experience would have an impact on the way we judge (or better yet... DON'T judge) our neighbors.

The Gift Within

*People and presents are so much alike.
You can never be sure what's inside.
If you merely look at the wrappings,
You may not see the gift that they hide.*

*Fancy or plain, loud or quiet,
Even the big and the small,
No matter the color, the size or the shape,
There's a gift found in one and in all.*

*Parcels bedecked in tinsel and glitter
Are pleasing to the eye.
But don't be deceived, 'cause the very best things
In simplicity often will lie.*

*So open your heart like you open a package.
With wrappings don't be too enticed.
By accepting the gift each one holds within,
You just may be welcoming Christ!*



Chaplet of Our Lady of Consolation

This unique Chaplet, created especially for friends of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, offers a fulfilling and convenient way to pray for the Blessed Mother's intercession at any time, any place.

The Chaplet is available in gratitude for your offering of \$12 or more in support of our ministries. The Chaplet comes with an instruction card, and is blessed by the Conventual Franciscan Friars.

- I am making a gift of \$_____ in support of the Conventual Franciscan Friars.
- My gift is \$12 or more. Please send me _____ **Our Lady of Consolation Chaplet(s)**. (*The suggested offering is \$12 for each Chaplet requested.*)



Reverse of medal.

- My check is enclosed. Please charge my gift of \$_____ to my:

Account Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

Signature _____

Name _____ (please print) Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation
 Conventual Franciscan Friars
 315 Clay Street
 Carey, OH 43316-1498

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent of the law.

PW1C-10



VIGIL LIGHT REQUEST

A Vigil Light Remembrance is a very popular and effective way to share your prayer needs with the Conventual Franciscan Friars. Request your Vigil Light today and we will place it on one of the Altars at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation.

Please Remember My Special Intentions with a Vigil Light Remembrance

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ in support of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. Please use my offering for:

- General donation. (*Please use my gift wherever the need is greatest.*)
- Vigil Light Remembrance. (*I understand the suggested offering is \$3 for each Vigil Light requested.*)

- My check is enclosed. Please charge my gift of \$_____ to my: Exp. Date ____ / ____

Account Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Signature _____

Name _____ (please print) Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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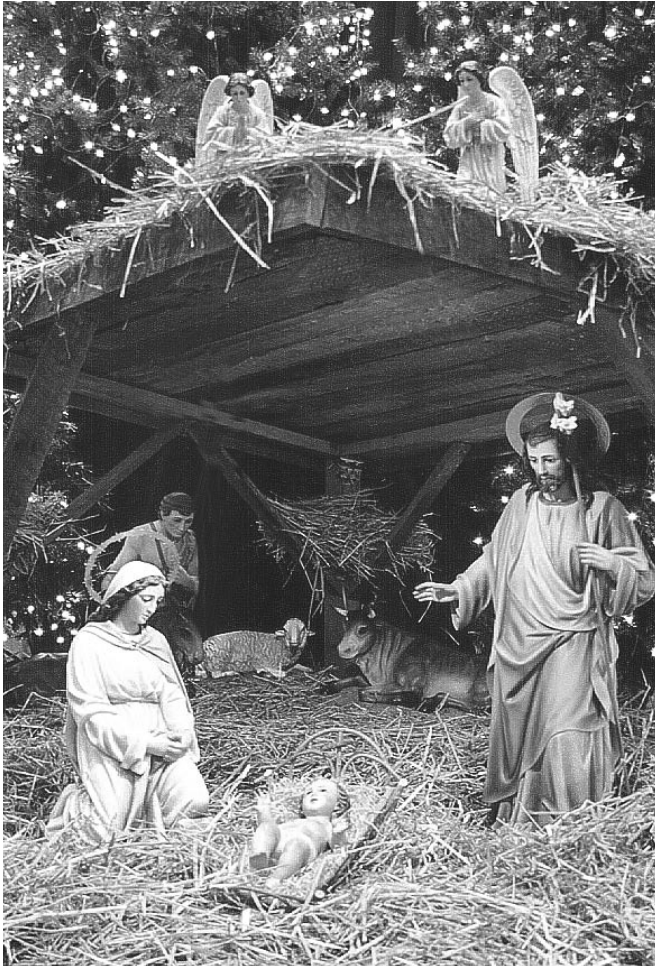
Your gift is tax deductible to the extent of the law.

PW1VL-10

FROM THE PILGRIMAGE DIRECTOR

Our Own Holiday Gifts

by Brother Jeffrey Hines, O.F.M. Conv.



During these months of winter our cold, gray, often snow-filled days are made so much brighter by the celebration of several important holidays. Several of these holidays are times for giving gifts to one another. The great inspiration for giving gifts is the solemnity of Christmas. We remember and celebrate the greatest gift of all, the endless gift from our loving Father when He gave us His only begotten Son, Jesus our Lord.

Truly, during our holiday season we are reminded of the love of God for us, and we extend that love here on earth by giving gifts to one another. The spirit of this lovely time of the year fills each one of us with warmth, love, and great generosity to all.

Many of us experience that part of the holidays that focuses on other things—the things we make, the things we buy. This part of the holiday can be met with mixed feelings, as often we do not have the resources we wish we had in order to purchase the gifts we wish to give to others. I too have experienced that certain sadness when I realize I am not able to buy and give the things I would like to give.

However, as I reflect on this wonderful time of giving, I am reminded again of that gift from God, the gift of His Son to all of us. I am reminded even further that the greatest gift I have to give is not the gift I can buy or even make. It is the gift of myself!

In the 1950's, the Music Director of our parish of Saint Bonaventure in Bloomington, Minnesota, perfectly expressed the idea of gift-giving in one of the hymns he wrote at that time. The song is "We Are Many Parts," and that wonderful Music Director and composer is Marty Haugen. Allow me to share a portion of the lyrics of that song with you:

"We are many parts, we are all one body, and the gifts we have we are given to share. May the spirit of love make us one indeed; one, the love that we share, one our hope in despair, one, the cross that we bear.

"All you seekers, great and small, seek the greatest gift of all; if you love, then you will know the Lord!"

Let us observe these days of giving, first of all, with the gift of ourselves, our time, our presence, our attention paid to others. Let us speak freely and lovingly among one another of Christ, our greatest gift. Let us rejoice in the Holy Sacraments, those gifts of endless grace we have through the Church. How gifted we really are!

MASS AND RETREAT HOUSE SCHEDULE

JANUARY

- 1 Mary the Mother of God
- 8 Healing Mass
- 17-20 Tiffin Calvert Kairos
- 22 Healing Mass
- 26-29 Notre Dame Kairos
- 30-Feb. 1 Teens Encounter Christ (Guys)

FEBRUARY

- 5 Healing Mass
- 5-7 Retreat for Divorced/Separated Men & Women
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 19 Lenten Seafood Dinner (4:30-7 pm)
Stations of the Cross (7 pm)
Healing Mass/Lenten Service (7:30 pm)
- 20-22 Teens Encounter Christ (Girls)
- 25-26 Notre Dame Academy Jrs.
- 26 Lenten Seafood Dinner (4:30-7 pm)
Stations of the Cross (7 pm)
Lenten Service (7:30 pm)
- 27-Mar. 1 Teens Encounter Christ (Guys)

MARCH

- Fridays Lenten Seafood Dinner (4:30-7 pm)
Stations of the Cross (7 pm)
Lenten Service (7:30 pm)
- 2-10 Novena of Masses for Health & Healing
- 4-5 Notre Dame Academy Jrs.
- 5 Healing Mass
- 6-8 Teens Encounter Christ (Girls)
- 12-13 Marriage Enrichment Retreat
- 19 Healing Mass
- 20-22 Teens Encounter Christ (Guys)
- 29-Apr. 5 *Retreat House Closed*

APRIL

- 1 Holy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 2-11 Novena of Prayers to the Divine Mercy
- 3 Holy Saturday
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 9 Healing Mass
- 10-12 Teens Encounter Christ (Girls)
- 11 Divine Mercy Sunday
- 16-18 Men's Serenity Retreat
- 23 Healing Mass
- 30 Healing Mass
- 30-May 1 Lutheran Northwestern Synod

MAY

- 2 May Crowning at Devotions (2:30 pm)
- 4 Mass for Cancer Victims
- 5 Marian Day
- 7 Healing Mass
- 7-9 Men's Serenity Retreat
- 13-16 Opus Sanctorum Angelorum
- 14 Healing Mass
- 16 Italian Heritage Day
- 16-24 Novena of Masses for Our Lady of Consolation
- 23 Pentecost
- 25 Feast of Our Lady of Consolation
- 28 Healing Mass

JUNE

- 4 Healing Mass
- 6 Corpus Christi
- 12-13 Family Camp Out Retreat
- 13 Indian Heritage Day
- 18 Healing Mass

SUNDAY MASSES:

Winter Schedule (November 1 through Palm Sunday): 5:30 p.m. (Sat. Eve); 9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.

Summer Schedule (Easter Sunday through October 31): 5:30 (Sat. Eve); 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12:00 noon

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday through Saturday:
7:00 a.m. in the Original Shrine Church
11:00 a.m. in the Basilica Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

DEVOTIONS:

Rosary, Benediction & Individual Prayer:
Sunday, 2:30 p.m.

For a complete schedule of Masses and special events for the year, please visit us online at:
<http://www.olcshrine.com/Calendar-of-Events.html>

For information about Retreat House events, see our web site at:
<http://www.olcshrine.com/Retreat-House.html>
or call us at (419) 396-7970. You are always welcome!

Pathways to Our Lady of Consolation

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