



Pathways

to Our Lady of Consolation

Your Journey to Faith, Hope and Healing

GIFT: AN ACT OF LOVE

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

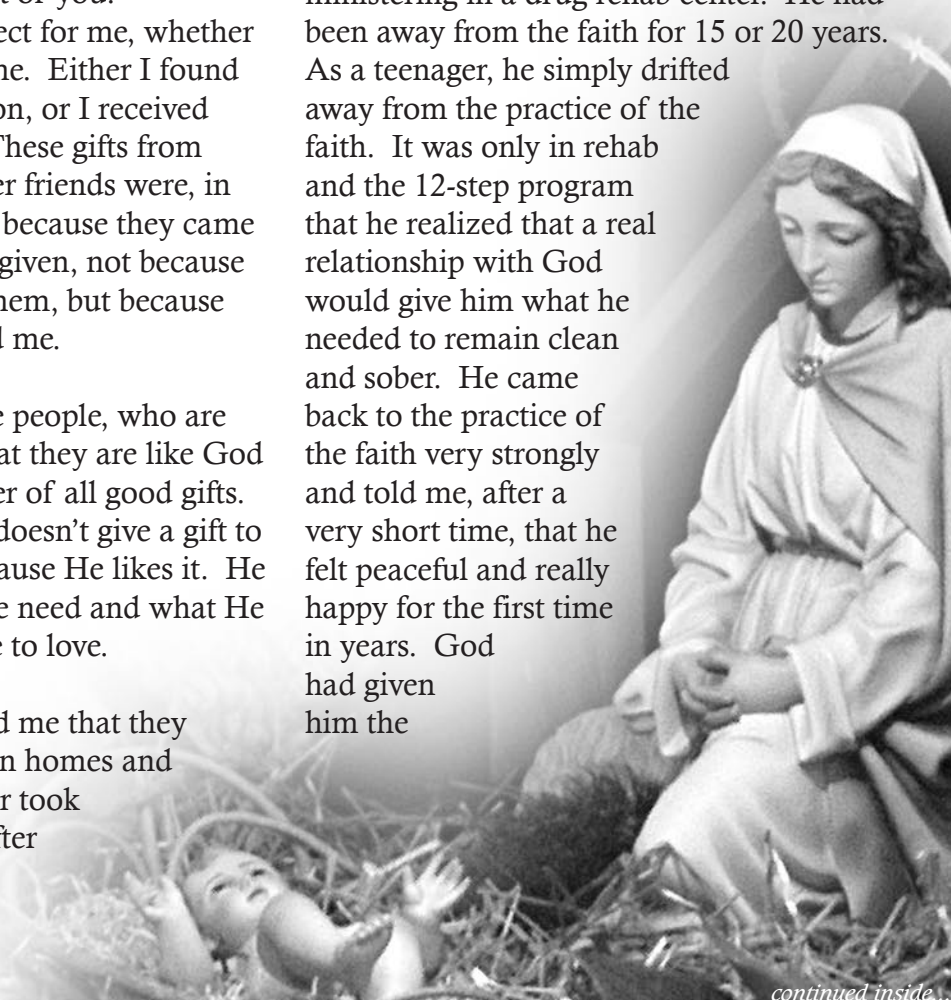
Ever since I can remember, I have been blessed to have certain special people in my life who would give or send me gifts. Some were surprises and some were for certain occasions, but what made the gifts from these special people so wonderful is that they were chosen for me. My mother was famous for showing up with an unexpected gift and saying something like, "I saw this and thought of you." Invariably, the gift was perfect for me, whether or not I realized it at the time. Either I found it very useful as time went on, or I received many compliments on it. These gifts from my mother and certain other friends were, in retrospect, true acts of love because they came from the heart. They were given, not because the giver necessarily liked them, but because they thought the gifts suited me.

As I reflect upon these people, who are blessings in my life, I see that they are like God in that He is the perfect giver of all good gifts. God, when He gives to us, doesn't give a gift to a certain person simply because He likes it. He gives gifts based on what we need and what He knows we love or will come to love.

Many people have told me that they were raised in very Christian homes and went away from the faith, or took it for granted for a time. After a while, they were brought to see that that gift of faith and life in Christ Jesus was

something which suited them perfectly. What brought them back to the practice of the faith might have been something dramatic like a serious illness, a death, the loss of a job, or something less definable like an underlying feeling of incompleteness or restlessness.

I remember a man who I met while ministering in a drug rehab center. He had been away from the faith for 15 or 20 years. As a teenager, he simply drifted away from the practice of the faith. It was only in rehab and the 12-step program that he realized that a real relationship with God would give him what he needed to remain clean and sober. He came back to the practice of the faith very strongly and told me, after a very short time, that he felt peaceful and really happy for the first time in years. God had given him the



continued inside...

gift of his Catholic faith as a child, but he didn't see the "perfect fit" of his faith until many years later.

God, as the perfect giver of gifts, gives to each of us based on His knowledge of what we need now or will need at a later time in our lives. I remember a wall plaque I saw in one of our Franciscan friaries, which said, "Every experience God allows us leads us to a future which only He can see." Even the difficult times and experiences in our lives can be gifts. These tough times can shape us in such a way that we will become the people God has created us to be, and we might not become those very people without these particular experiences.

One Sunday recently, I asked in the homily, "How many of us have gone through a very difficult time, and only realized ten years or so down the road that God had guided the whole thing and that we had learned a great many important lessons from the whole thing?" Over half the hands in the congregation went up. However, I was particularly touched by the expressions of understanding on the faces of those whose hands were up and the nodding of their heads, which told me that they really understood that God does have a plan for each of us. God's gifts are tailor-made parts of His plan for us. His ultimate gift is eternal life in Jesus, and every other gift to us leads us or prepares us for that life.

As we move through Advent and preparations for Christmas, my prayer for all of us is that we will keep in our minds and hearts Jesus, the most perfect gift of the Father. I pray that we will choose our preparations and gifts with His love in mind.

FROM OUR PILGRIMS

Dear Friars,

My mother wants me to tell you that she has been visiting the Basilica and Shrine for the last 60 years. She witnessed the cure of my youngest brother 60 years ago.

The Sister was changing the gown worn on the statue of the Blessed Mother. She took this gown and laid it upon my brother. He was cured. Mom then promised to come to the Shrine every year. She is now 88 years old.

Please remember my mother and myself in your prayers and light candles at the Shrine. Mother has contributed to the Shrine every year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. D. C. M.
Ohio

DIVERSITY AND HARMONY

By Keith Cossey (Carey, Ohio)



Marriage has been described as a book in which the first chapter is poetry and the remaining chapters are prose. It makes it sound as though the sacrament has an “either/or” clause that dooms us to either the rhyme of puppy love or the reason of who-takes-out-the-garbage-this-week.

My wife, Jean, and I don’t claim to have a perfect marriage. You might say that ours is a mixed marriage. She was baptized as a “cradle Catholic” and attended a two-room, two-nun Catholic school for her first eight years of education. And I, Keith, became a convert to Catholicism... as a former U.S. Marine whose near-death experience in Vietnam had turned my world upside down.

Now we are both aging Baby Boomers, and Jean and I are still creating a kind of poetry together.

Poetry requires either internal or external rhythm. And rhythm requires contrasts present in the same context. Non-rhyming

line, rhyming line. Soft accent, strong accent. Seriousness, play. Heaven, earth. Laughter, tears.

A “cradle Catholic” and a convert are harmonized contrasts.

Jean hungers for scripture. I hunger for the sacramentals—the candles, incense, genuflection, and colorful vestments. Jean finds fulfillment in the Pax Christi group that meets to practice and promote peace. As a Secular Franciscan, I feel as though I am as one with peace within the Franciscan charism.

Jean’s and my common, poetic context is our Catholic faith. We learn from each other and from those clergy and lay friends with whom we are in communion. We define ourselves by our diversity as well as by our commonalities.

Our marriage is blessed by both its poetic and its prose aspects. Christian love embodies both rhyme and reason.

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION HEALING ROSARY...

with Shrine Centerpiece!

This unique and beautiful Rosary is available only through the Basilica and National Shrine. Request yours today! Available with your gift of \$18 or more in support of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation.



Detail: Reverse of centerpiece.

OL Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation

Conventual Franciscan Friars
315 Clay Street
Carey, OH 43316-1498

YES! Please send me _____ Our Lady of Consolation Healing Rosary(ies). I have enclosed a gift of \$ _____ in support of the Basilica and National Shrine. (The suggested offering is \$18 for each Rosary requested.)

My check is enclosed. Please charge my gift of \$ _____ to my: VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

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

Signature _____

Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

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

PW1R-09



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: VISA MasterCard DISCOVER Exp. Date ____ / ____

Account Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Signature _____

Name _____
(please print) Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

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

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FROM THE PILGRIMAGE DIRECTOR

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



The great Basilica is quiet now. The large pilgrimage groups have come and gone. The throngs of pilgrims, now returned to their homes, are but a memory, a blessed memory. The beautiful face of the statue of Our Lady of Consolation looks serenely down on the silence all around. This lovely representation of the Mother of God, Our Lady of Consolation, quietly welcomes all who may come before her. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, becomes one of the greatest gifts we have all received from our Loving Jesus.

As I sat and prayed, I reflected on this magnificent gift of Mary in our lives. I called to mind the joy reflected in the faces of the pilgrims I had the privilege of being with only a few weeks before. Here in this holy place, Mary, the Mother of God, had blessed these pilgrims with the great grace of her prayers and consolation.

How can you continue the great act of “giving” granted by Our Lady of Consolation to those who come to the Shrine? Did you ever consider helping others come to the Shrine?

Ever since the Shrine began in 1875, a special group of people who love Our Lady have helped countless others to come to the Shrine. Many pilgrims would have no other way to come to Carey if it were not for their help. These devoted children of Mary are our Pilgrimage Group Leaders. They take it upon themselves to contact the Shrine, arrange for a date and a program for the day, then hire a bus and bring pilgrims to Our Lady of Consolation.

The role of a Pilgrimage Group Leader is a very special grace, and a gift to Our Blessed Mother. The precious role of Mary is to ever help those who love her come closer to her beloved Son, Jesus our Lord. One of the greatest gifts you could give to Our Blessed Mother, and many others as well, is to help others to make a pilgrimage to Our Lady. If you are interested, please give me a call. It would be a great joy for me to work with you in this holy work. Call me (Brother Jeffrey) at 419-396-7107, or write me at 315 Clay Street, Carey, Ohio 43316. Consider what a lovely gift you would present to Our Lady!

SPECIAL EVENTS & LITURGIES 2009

January

- 1 Mary the Mother of God
- 9 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 23 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica

February

- 6 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 20 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 25 Ash Wednesday
- 27 Lenten Seafood Buffet—4:30 - 7 pm
Stations of the Cross—7 pm
Lenten Service—7:30 pm

March

- Fridays:** Lenten Seafood Buffet—4:30 - 7 pm
Stations of the Cross—7 pm
Lenten Service—7:30 pm
- 2 - 10 Novena of Masses for Health & Healing
- 6 Healing Mass—7:30 pm in the Basilica
- 20 Healing Mass—7:30 pm in the Basilica

April

- 3 Healing Mass—7:30 pm in the Basilica
- 9 Holy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 10 - 18 Novena of Prayers to the Divine Mercy
- 11 Holy Saturday
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 17 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 19 Divine Mercy Sunday

May

- 1 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 3 May Crowning at Devotions—2:30 pm
- 4 Feast of St. Peregrine—Mass for Cancer Victims
- 14 Corpus Christi
- 15 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 16 - 24 Novena of the Feast of Our Lady of Consolation
- 17 Italian Heritage Day
- 25 Feast of Our Lady of Consolation
- 29 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 31 Pentecost

June

- 5 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 19 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica

July

- 3 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 10 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 31 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica

August

- 6 - 14 Novena of the Assumption
- 14 Candlelight Procession with Vigil Mass
- 15 Solemnity of the Assumption
- 21 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 28 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica

September

- 4 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 8 Birth of Mary
- 11 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica

October

- 3 Evening Transitus of St. Francis
- 4 Feast of St. Francis
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
- 9 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 16 Feast of St. Gerard Majella (expectant parents)
- 23 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 30 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica

November

- 1 All Saints Day
- 2 All Souls Day
- 20 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 26 Thanksgiving Day Mass
- 27 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica

December

- 4 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 8 Immaculate Conception
- 18 Healing Mass—7 pm in the Basilica
- 24 Christmas Vigil (7 pm) & Midnight Mass
- 25 Christmas Day

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday—Saturday: 7:00 am in the Basilica Church
11:00 am in the Basilica Church

SUNDAY MASSES: Winter Schedule

November 1—Palm Sunday: 5:30 pm (Sat. Eve); 9:00 am; 11:00 am

SUNDAY MASSES: Summer Schedule

Easter Sunday—October 31: 5:30 pm (Sat. Eve); 8:00 am; 10:00 am;
12:00 noon

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Thanksgiving Day Mass: 9:00 am

Christmas Vigil: 5:30 pm & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: 10:00 am only

DEVOTIONS (Rosary, Benediction & Individual Prayer)

Sunday: 2:30 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4—5 pm

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

At Our Lady of Consolation Retreat House:

See our schedule on our web site at:

<http://www.olcshrine.com/franciscan.html>

Or call 419-396-7970

Or e-mail: retreats@olcshrine.com

Pathways to Our Lady of Consolation

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Please direct suggestions and comments to the
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