

Mobile Rooster



Feb. 2021

"Something Worth Crowing About"

A Message from the Lay Drector

A Story: God's Grace

**God's Grace* Some of you may have heard or read this story, but it is a good reminder of the sacrifice our Lord, Jesus, made for us. As we enter into the Lenten Season, take a minute to think about that sacrifice. Take time to ask Him what He would like you to do. How are you planning to "live" this Lenten season?*

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town . One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak. . . "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply. "What are you going to do with them?" I asked. "Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?" "Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them." The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?" "Huh?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?" The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"



Published by
The
Cursillo Movement
of Mobile

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.(Contd. on page 3)



A Word From **Deacon** **Joe Mueller**

WHEN THE WORLD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

I read a short article about Fr. Mike Schmitz's new book, "A World Undone: Finding God When Life Doesn't Make Sense." In the book Fr. Mike looks at events that occurred in 2020 and how to put these into perspective for 2021. He asks the question, "What Spiritual lessons did we learn from 2020?" Some thoughts on Fr. Mike's 3 Spiritual Lessons from 2020.

1) Concentrate on Your Sphere of Influence. Our Church has an awesome task of taking care of its people. We cannot be a St. Mother Teresa or a Pope St. John Paul II with worldwide notoriety and influence. But these Saints give us hope that in our own small corner of the world we can be Christ, to our family, our friends, our neighbor and community. Let our charitable actions be our evangelization.

2) Be United with Christ as You Respond to the

World. How are we united with Christ? By our Baptism! Not only by Baptism, but by the Holy Eucharist. We also unite ourselves through prayer and worship. Let's not just think if we pray and receive the Sacraments that is the end-all of our union with Christ. We also unite with Christ by taking action. Going out into the world. As Jesus commissioned his disciples to go and preach the Good News, so we too are called to do the same.

3) God is Acting in the Midst of Hardship. Trust Him! From time-to-time. I hear people tell me how distressed they are of all that has happened in 2020 and see little change coming in 2021. They feel lost, disillusioned, asking, "why is God allowing this to happen?" Individually neither of us have any control over world events. Neither of us can predict the future. So do we just hang in the balance? NO! We put our trust in God. We allow God to be in control.

*You indeed are my savior, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me. (Ps 63: 8-9)*

Fall Weekends 2020

**ALL WEEKENDS HAVE BEEN
POSTPONED UNTIL THE VIRUS
IS CANCELLED**

Mother Suzanne Guillemin D.C.

"The conversion of a soul is not a thing done once and for all – this conversion, our conversion must take place daily. Every day we must direct our soul anew towards God and make it pass from the demands of nature to the call of grace."



Continued From Cover

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!!"

"How much?" He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

Let us thank God every day for His sacrifice.

Moreover, let us use this season of Lent to look at our hearts, allow God to break the strongholds in our lives, and possibly consider going hungry. Not just physical hunger, but a hunger for our Lord. Find Him – hunger for Him – and we can truly shout ALLELUIA during Eastertide.



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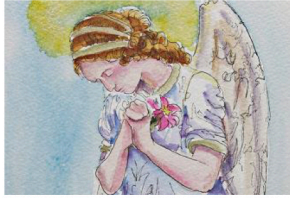
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Skype and similar formats on the computer are being used to hold Ultreyas, School of Leaders and Group Reunions until the Covid 19 situation can be reassessed.



Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat
Peace in the Pines



Painting by Carl Calderone



Wood Burning by Anonymous Donor

We invite you to consider supporting B TSR through our first online auction!

What: Online silent auction and exciting donation opportunities

When: Auction opens on February 5, 2021 and ends on February 11, 2021

Description: Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat is auctioning off beautiful and unique handmade items donated by a variety of artists. Examples of the handmade items include original artwork, child's afghan, beautiful aprons, stunning rosary, detailed wood burnings, and more!

Not interested in bidding on auction items? B TSR is also offering the opportunity to donate towards specific needs to help enhance the retreat experience and share the rich history here at Holy Trinity, Alabama. Donations received through this online auction will be used to pay for trail enhancements, including a new trail map with historic sites noted, trail signs, and social media equipment.

Online Auction Website:

To register for the online auction and browse the items ahead of time, use this website:

<https://givergy.us/btsrauction2021/?skipHolding=3EXVJGC>

Otherwise, mark your calendar for February 5th with this website:

<https://givergy.us/btsrauction2021>

Inquiries: If you have any questions about the online auction process, please contact Elisabeth Donner, Executive Director, at 334-947-9557 or btsr.director@msbt.org.

Thank you for your continued support of B TSR. We hope to "see" you online!

Elisabeth Donner, Executive Director

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Something Worth Crowing About

Recently Bobbie and I received a late Christmas letter that moved me to tears. I think will find it meaningful. Fr. Tom Dore was a friend of ours. When we first met no one would have believed that a friendship would be formed. We had just made our Cursillo and wanted to have a get together potluck and Mass. Our neighbor asked her pastor, Fr. Dore, to the say the Mass for our small Cursillo group, and reluctantly he agreed. He pretty much let everybody know that he had little use for Cursillo or the people connected to it, and wanted to get it over with and get of there. But God had other plans. About the middle of the mass a horrendous thunder storm broke loose. Fr. Tom got drenched and so did the communion hosts, and you could hear him grumbling as he packed to leave. Our paths didn't cross again for almost two years. I was working on a Cursillo team and guess who was on that team: Yep, new Cursillista Father Tom Dore. That was the start of a lifelong friendship. In January we received this note from Fr. Tom's parish:

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to Father Thomas M. Dore, who passed away on December 17, 2020 due to complications from COVID-19. We wanted to send this small gift to all of the dear friends he remembered year after year in his annual Christmas letter. Below is the letter he wrote for this year at the beginning of November. We hope you enjoy reading words of wisdom from Fr. Dore one more time.

Dear Friends,

Blessings this Christmas Season to one and all!

Twenty-twenty has been a year like no other...and I always heard that 20/20 was perfect vision! Amidst all the mayhem and the tsunami of issues we faced and are still facing, where was the Prince of Peace to be found or can we find Him at all?

When all of us were told to stay at home, wash our hands, wear a mask, and don't gather in large groups, I began to reflect. Is the Prince of Peace trying to teach us something? Are we supposed to learn something? Well, honestly, yes. The news of great joy that Jesus brings to the whole world is the gift of the Paschal mystery.

As we experience the frustration, isolation and exhaustion that have engulfed all of us for most of this year, I have come to realize the news of great joy this Christmas and every Christmas is the reality of that Paschal Mystery. Jesus' coming is the gift like no other!

As Jesus has shared the human experience with us, he invites us to share the divine experience with Him. "Follow Me", he says to each of us, all the way to the cross. "If you do that, you will be given a share in My resurrection for all eternity." You cannot tell me that is not "news of great joy!" If we are willing to unite the myriad of emotions we have felt with those of Jesus, we will ultimately experience the joy that Jesus brings.

The Christmas season has always been a time of celebration and giving thanks to God for the gift of his Son as well as a time of thanks to Jesus for giving each of us the gift of experiencing the good and bad events of our lives in a new way - His Paschal Mystery. That helps me keep everything in my life in perspective. My prayer for you is that the same perspective will enable you to live 2021 more joyfully than ever!

I pray that each of you experience the Paschal Mystery each day of the New Year!

Peace,

Fr. Tom Dore

