

Mobile Rooster



March 2021

"Something Worth Crowing About"

Dear Cursillo Family. I hope you enjoy the following message which is a great reminder of what we are called to do as Christians and Cursillistas! DeColores!

--Theresa Gorman

ST. PATRICK, ST. JOSEPH, AND THE CONVERSION THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

by Bishop Robert Barron

I am always pleased when the feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph roll around every year, the first on March 17th and the second on March 19th. Joseph is especially dear to the Italian people, who celebrate him with festive meals, and Patrick, of course, is specially revered by my own people, the Irish, who celebrate him with parades, parties, and (often) too much drinking. Though separated by four centuries and though hailing from extremely different cultures, Patrick and Joseph have a great deal in common, spiritually speaking. For both stubbornly situated their lives in the context, not of the ego-drama, but the theodrama, and therein lies their importance for the universal church.

Let's consider Patrick first. A Roman Briton, born in the early fifth century, Patrick, while still a young man, was kidnapped by raiders and brought to Ireland, where he lived the brutal life of a slave. One can only imagine the darkness of these years: torn away from family, friends, and home, compelled to learn an unfamiliar language, treated with disdain, forced to do the most disagreeable work. How often he must have wept. How often he must have cried out to God, wondering how he could have been so thoroughly abandoned. After six years in Ireland, Patrick finally managed to escape and return home. Some accounts have it that he then sojourned in France, doing his theological studies there and becoming ordained as a priest.

Looking at this life from a purely natural or psychological perspective, one would readily conclude that still youthful Fr. Patrick would never want to journey again to the place where his life had hit rock bottom. Or perhaps, he would want to return there as chaplain to an invading army! Instead, he decided to go back to Ireland in order to carry the Gospel to those who had enslaved and persecuted him. How can we explain this? We have to move beyond a merely natural and psychological framework and understand his life theologically. Stated differently, we have to appreciate that Patrick, like all of the saints, saw his life as ingredient in a drama that God was directing and producing. He appreciated that the whole awful experience of being a slave was not simply dumb suffering, but was, strangely, a preparation for the work that God had for him. During those terrible years, he learned a great deal about the history, topography, and language of the Irish; he came, perhaps, to love some of their lore and religious customs. Like Moses among the Egyptians, he came to understand the "enemy" culture from the inside and hence was able, with special skill and creativity, to engage it. Now think of the worst moment of your life, the time when you hit bottom. How do you read it? Pointless pain—or a moment of particular grace?

Now let us look at St. Joseph. Every episode of his life recounted in the Bible is a crisis. He discovers, to his dismay, that the woman he loved and to whom he **Continued on page 3**



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**A Word From
Deacon
Joe Mueller**

MISSED GIVINGS

I was reflecting back to the fall of 2020. As the Holidays approached no one knew if we would be celebrating Thanksgiving. We were warned not to travel or if we did visit family and friends it would have to be under social distancing conditions. Yes, some of us did miss sharing Thanksgiving Day with family. Maybe some of you did a virtual Thanksgiving. Whatever was done, it was an event we had to formally give up due to the pandemic.

Giving it up! What's that about? It's the Lenten Season. Just as we may have had to give up something during the Holidays, now we are asked to give up

something for Lent. What are you giving up for Lent is a typical question.

How about turning the question around and asking, "What can I give?" And this question should not be just about almsgiving, or a monetary giving. How about giving something of yourself? That is, doing some good deed for another. Consciously going out of your comfort zone to help someone, even if you don't like them.

So don't let Lent pass by without giving sacrificially of yourself in a way Jesus would ask a disciple. Jesus never missed an opportunity to give more.

Weekends in 2021

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

Mother Suzanne Guillemain 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 was betrothed to marry, was pregnant. How lost and confused he must have been. The Mosaic law permitted him to hand Mary over to be stoned to death, but his native decency prevented him from taking that path.

Instead, he resolved, undoubtedly with a broken heart, to divorce her quietly. But then the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream and explained the anomalous pregnancy. Placing his own fears and preoccupations to one side, Joseph understood what was happening in the context of God's providence and he took Mary as his wife.

Next, discovering that the child was in mortal danger, Joseph took mother and baby on a perilous journey, across hundreds of miles of trackless desert, to an unknown country, an unknown village, an unknown people. Anyone who has ever been forced into exile, compelled to leave his homeland, or even obliged to move to a new city to take up a job knows the anxiety that Joseph must have felt. Now add to it the keen sense that your baby is being pursued by agents of the government, intent upon murder. But Joseph went because God had commanded him.

Finally, we hear of Joseph desperately seeking his lost twelve-year old son. Speak to any parent who has gone through a similar experience—looking for a child who has wandered away or been taken—and you will hear of a fear beyond measure. And this anxious search went on for three days. Did Mary and Joseph sleep? Did they eat? What did they say to one another? Thus we fully understand Mary's reaction when, having finally discovered Jesus among the doctors in the Temple: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety?" And they received that devastatingly understated response: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" Quietly taking the child home, Joseph once more put aside his human feelings and trusted in the purposes of God. The little we know about Joseph is that he experienced heartbreak, fear unto death, and a parent's deepest anxiety, but each time, he read what happened to him theo-dramatically and not ego-dramatically.

This shift in attitude, this re-orientation of the heart, this conversion is what made Patrick the patron of the Irish and Joseph the patron of the universal Church.



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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.



2021 National Catholic Women's Conference

A restorative event for Catholic women seeking Christ's Peace

I hope your Lenten journey is going well. Recently, I forwarded a Virtual Catholic Conference for Men (sorry Ladies!) which helps men in their fourth day. TODAY, this is women only! See below for a VCC for Women. A great time for reflection and finding/restoring peace! De Colores!

--Theresa Gorman

Discovering Peace as Catholic Women

at the Free National Catholic Women's Conference March 12-14 What if you could be at peace most of the time? And, what if you already had all the resources in your day to love your God, husband, kids, friends, yourself, AND rest in God's peace.

Peace is possible! At this year's Free National Catholic Women's Conference, Virtual Catholic Conference has assembled a team of leading presenters in the Church to help you discover Christ's peace in your daily life.

50+ On-Demand Presentations

Hear from some incredible Catholic presenters on ways for growing peace in your life.

Live Presentations

Join our premium pass for access to all live sessions and replays, or browse our free prayer rooms and Q&As.

See the Live Schedule

At this year's National Catholic Women's Conference, we will be entering into Christ's words, "My Peace I give to you." And here's the best news. You don't have to earn it!

Topics Include

Finding peace in marriage; Peace at work; Peace with our children; Peace with ourselves; Peace in discernment; and more.

REGISTER FOR THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
Go to the website: <https://go.virtualcatholicconference.com>



*Something Worth
Crowing About*

Random Thoughts

As we reach the first anniversary of the pandemic in the US, these random thoughts are flying around in my head:

- Our youngest granddaughter turns 18 this week. She has sacrificed her senior year in high school—homecoming, her track team events, hanging out with friends, and probably prom and graduation—to try to maintain her GPA and college entrance requirements virtually. Her life has definitely been impacted.
- After recovering from Covid19 in a city of 12 million people, our eldest granddaughter continues her job teaching English to Chinese children in Shanghai. Her life was upended, but she's again doing what she loves in spite of that virus.
- Trouble can come unexpectedly and wreak havoc on our lives. Sam's fall in November has had severe results that he still is dealing with. His mobility is impaired and, combined with the social restrictions of this pandemic year, both of us have had to readjust our expectations.
- While Sam and I have been mostly confined to our house, we are among the fortunate ones who don't have to worry about home schooling, entertaining toddlers, or working from home. We also have avoided the terrors of Covid19 and now that we've completed our two-dose vaccine shots, we feel relatively safe in our own skin.
- Spring is renewing the earth—at least in our part of the country. Fruit trees are dressed in their lacy finery, the grass is greening up, tulip trees and azaleas and dogwood are bursting with color. Nature took away so much from us with the coronavirus, but now seems remorseful and is putting on a show to beg for forgiveness and lift our spirits.
- Suddenly our bird feeders, just outside our kitchen window, are again a source of entertainment. From a few lonely doves and a cardinal who stayed the winter, we now have colorful visitors from faraway lands who scap and tweet and elbow their way to the food source, seemingly in joyful mayhem. No pandemic scare for them, no social distancing. I think of Jesus' words: the Heavenly Father feeds them.

In our politically charged world, we endure assailants from all sides who try to distract and distress us with doom and gloom scenarios that rob us of peace and pit us against one another. Yes, we inhabit an earth that is undergoing climate shifts. Yes, there is dreadful suffering and death among our neighbors. Yes, we must find a way not only to coexist with those who think differently than we, but also to find solutions to the problems that are so evident around us.

Yet there is hope: we have the ultimate solution because our God reigns. If He cares for the birds in the air and lilies of the field, how much more does He care for us. As we make our way through the Lenten season, we know we approach the crosses in our own lives, but we also know that Easter will dawn for us.

It's simply a matter of perspective. This global scourge that is Covid19 will be conquered; our nation will right itself; and our families will once more celebrate birthdays, graduations and new jobs. And the birds, in all their colors and sizes, will continue to bring us joy year after year. To paraphrase Robert Browning: God's in His heaven; all will be right with the world!

--Bobbie Genovese

