

Mobile Rooster



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"Something Worth Crowing About"



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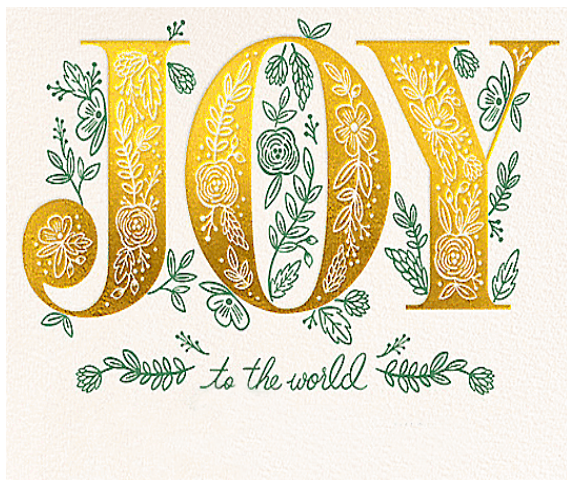
*May each of you have a beautiful
and bright Christmas season and a happy 2023.*

I wanted to share this with you as we just started the "O" antiphons. What are the seven O Antiphons? The O Antiphons (also known as the Great Advent Antiphons or Great Os) are Magnificat antiphons used at Vespers on the last seven days of Advent in Western Christian traditions. They likely date to sixth-century Italy, when Boethius refers to the text in "The Consolation of Philosophy." They subsequently became one of the key musical features of the days leading up to Christmas. Collectively they also suggest Christ's response to that plea: the seven titles in Latin—Sapientia, Adonai, Radix Jesse, Clavis David, Oriens, Rex Gentium, and Emmanuel—in reverse order form an acrostic ERO CRAS hicheans "I am coming soon."

Let us all enjoy the coming of the Christ Child as we prepare our hearts, homes, hearths and hands to receive the gifts He will share and has shared with us. One of those gifts is Cursillo. If you're still working on a New Year's resolution, think about resolving to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ!

God bless you and may you be filled with JOY!

--Theresa Gorman





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

THE END IS NEAR

A few weeks before Advent began, our Scripture readings reflected all about the coming of the end times. Revelation spoke of the trials and tribulations that would be coming with the end times. The stars will be falling from the sky, terrible storms, earthquakes and nation against nation.

And so we are coming to an end, the end of another calendar year. Some of us may be asking, "Where has the year gone?" Yet, this time of the year should give pause to something greater that is happening, the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate.

Advent is a time at the end of our year not only to prepare for the birth of Jesus, but a time to look ahead. It is a time for us to reflect on what or how the Word of God has affected our lives this past year. What have we heard or read that changed something in our life to bring us closer to our Lord?

Yes, the New Year will be here soon, but what will we prepare for? Another time to make resolutions that can be out of reach, a goal that will never be achieved? How about viewing the coming year as time to begin a spiritual renewal, personally or with the family, with our Lord Jesus Christ!

Fall Weekends 2023

Men's Weekend #146:
9/28 – 10/01
Visitation Monastery, Mobile
Rector: TBA

Women's Weekend #147:
10/19 – 10/22
Visitation Monastery, Mobile

Scheduled Cursillo Weekends

Cursillos are generally scheduled for a Men's Weekend and a Women's Weekend each fall at the Visitation Monastery in Mobile, and a Men's Weekend and Women's Weekend each spring at the Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat in Holy Trinity (Fort Mitchell).



Meditations by Bishop Robert Barron

Friends, let us meditate on John the Baptist. Young John, the son of the priest Zechariah, grew up in and around the temple, acquainted with its rituals. And he sensed that the true Messiah was on the horizon. And so he went away from the old temple, but he continued to act as a priest of a new Temple.

John was baptizing people in the Jordan. Why this ritual? Well, in the Jerusalem temple, a pilgrim would cleanse himself in a mikvah, a ritual bath, before he entered to make sacrifice. John was acting as a priest, and the River Jordan was his mikvah. But what—or, better, who—was the new Temple? Jesus, who came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John. The heavens were torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descended on him.

This is temple talk. When the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies, he was entering into the heavenly realm. The Holy of Holies was the place where the “heavens were torn open” and a humble human being could enter. So the point is that Jesus is himself the new Holy of Holies.



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School of Leaders

The School of Leaders is not yet
up and running at St. Columba.
Please keep the Cursillo in your prayers.



Reading this is guaranteed to bless you and add more joy and meaning to your Christmas.

I had finished the household chores for the night, when I heard a noise in the front room of the house. I opened the door and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing?" I asked, and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. He then answered me with a simple statement. "TEACH THE CHILDREN!" I was puzzled; what did he mean? With one quick movement he brought a small toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children the old meaning of Christmas, the meaning that today's Christmas has forgotten."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantel. "Teach the children that the color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of Him who displaces the darkness."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."

He then pulled from his bag an ornament of himself. "Teach the children that I, St. Nick (Santa Claus) symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December."

He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant signifies immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly represents the blood shed by Him."

Next he pulled out a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the Holy Babe and presented Him with gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men."

Then he pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook that helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. It is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper."

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men'."

Then I heard a soft tinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. "Teach the children that, as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return." Then Santa looked at me and the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the true meaning of Christmas. Do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship Him, our LORD, our GOD."

--Author unknown

WHAT IS IT THAT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO BEING CHRISTIAN?

Christianity is not a doctrine to be known, but reality that must be lived. To embody what it means to be Christian in daily life, Christianity must be lived in connection with life itself, internalizing the realities that lead to the summit of what it means to be Christian. What is fundamental to Christianity is not just trying to understand and assimilate the Gospel as an easy option for virtue, but to strive with honesty to always exercise the virtue of opting for Christ and for the person. God in Christ loves us. God loves me. To be a Christian, more than anything, is to feel loved by God and to live in astonishment of that love. Allowing oneself to be loved by God is what is most genuinely Christian. The internal attitude that this reality generates, when it is truly believed and lived to its fullness, ferments and infects. But to understand it, to experience it, to find the God who is love - as He is - it is necessary to present ourselves to Him as we are. God loves me. It is the accurate truth and the greatest good. It is the only value that values everything... and never loses its value because it gives value to everything that is of real value in a currency that never changes. It is the most vivid, most real, and dynamic reality. It is the connection, direction, and rhythm of the most effective, most personal, and fullest reality in life. When this reality is understood, lived, and shared by a person, it becomes resoundingly clear with the strength to

provoke a vitality that energizes everything. It impels people, events, and things, towards their most radical originality, towards their most abundant fullness, and towards their most dynamic creativity. This lets us see everything from God's perspective, and therefore in an optimistic, cheerful, and confident way. It is a new way of seeing ordinary things. The Cursillo focuses on what is Christian from this reality in all of history. It is not a change in the system; it is a change of system. It is about discovering another vision, undoubtedly deeper and more authentic. With utmost respect, it is something like what the Lord says in the Gospel: "It has been said that . . ., but I tell you . . ." To understand it, one must move from the concept of the "commandment" to love God to the Good and perennial News that God loves us. The part of the solution a person can offer must begin with oneself, starting from within, and starting right now. To those who have ears to hear they are asked to have a consistent attitude, with possibility, immediacy, and concreteness, that can be achieved right now, by oneself and, more than anything, what you are trying to achieve is to know how to adopt a positive attitude towards life. The message, the spirit of Cursillo, should not be just a reality that was realized in history but rather it should become an axis that we give to our personal history and therefore to a change of system. It is about discovering another vision, undoubtedly deeper and more authentic.

--Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló

Founder of Cursillos in Christianity 1917

