



Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

JUNE 2021

Volume XXXV Issue No. 06

"Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

DEAR ST. JOSEPH, LEAD MY DONKEY By: Dr. Jacqueline Phillips

Such an appropriate time for a year dedicated to awareness of the power of Saint Joseph. St. Joseph has long been invoked in times of plagues and has wrought miraculous cures to many who have relied upon his intercession.

I have been hearing so many good talks and sermons on St. Joseph lately. It is quite natural to think of how God chose Mary to be a part of His redemption plan. Just as Eve said "no" to God through disobedience, Mary, the new Eve, said "yes" to God, even though she admitted that she did not understand. As soon as She said yes, the Holy Spirit overcame Her and filled Her. She traveled to see Her cousin Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist, who was immediately filled with the Holy Spirit *"at the sound of Mary's greeting."* We have such a love and appreciation for Our Lady and Her 'yes.'

But Joseph *also* was chosen by God to be *the earthly foster father* of His Son *and the husband* of the woman chosen to bear Him. We often think of how Mary was chosen and then somehow believe that God would leave to chance the detail of choosing an earthly father for Jesus. But Joseph was the man God chose, just as Mary was the woman God chose. How do we know? Well, first we know that Joseph was a "righteous man": *"And Joseph her [promised] husband, being a just and righteous man and not wanting to expose her publicly to shame, planned to send her away and divorce her quietly."* Mat 1:19 AMP. God chose a man who would be an

earthly model of righteousness to His Son. It is so interesting to consider that the 'righteous' act, was not Joseph getting revenge and giving Mary what she *appeared* to deserve for a sin of adultery. Surely he was personally devastated to find out this news. Yet, he did not react out of vengeance or spite. He decided to not disgrace her, to send her away and "divorce her quietly" ...and *this* is described as being consistent with righteousness; a demonstration of *mercy*!

And Joseph had his own annunciation: *"But when he had thought this over, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.'"* Matthew 1:20, NASB. Just like Mary, Joseph agreed to play his part in God's plan for salvation.

One could spend much time pondering Joseph and why God chose him. In the old testament, when Abraham had faith that God would do as He said, it was "counted to him as righteousness (faith)." Joseph, though He likely had difficulty comprehending all that was happening, also just believed God. He was righteous. He believed God could do what He said He would do. Joseph never questioned God. From what we read, he has a strong and perfect obedience to God. When he was told to do something, he did not hesitate. He doesn't have a conversation about it like Eve did. He just does it. "Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife..." and he took her as his wife.

"Terror of demons." I love this title of Saint Joseph. I was pondering recently why he was given that title. The Holy Spirit immediately impressed upon me that he was "Terror of demons" in part because he immediately did whatever God told him to do, without questioning it. His obedience to the will of God is what we call 'holiness' or 'sanctity' and it incorporates a complete faith in God's plan; like Abraham. Joseph had this combination of righteousness with mercy, faith, and immediate obedience to whatever God asked. It seems to me that this combination makes demons tremble. It seems to me that God gives great power to Joseph because God knew that He could *entrust* HIS only begotten Son to this earthly foster-father, and that together, they would share in protecting Jesus from the demons that sought to kill Him and upset God's plan.



When God told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and leave, Joseph didn't question God. He put them on a donkey (or at least it is always portrayed that way in our art) and took them to Egypt and stayed until God told him to come back. *"Get up!" he said. "Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill"*

Continued on page 2

DEAR ST. JOSEPH, LEAD MY DONKEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Him." So he got up, took the Child and His mother by night, and withdrew to Egypt" Mat 2:13-14, BSB. The angel did not alert Mary to the plan. He told Joseph. And Joseph immediately obeyed. God entrusted the safety of HIS Son and Mary to Joseph. And Mary trusted Joseph also. *It strikes me again that trust in the Lord in a terrifying or difficult situation is something that terrifies demons.* And Jesus was obedient to His earthly father during his life, so when we ask for St Joseph to intercede, we trust that Joseph's requests are still very special to Jesus.

I want to share that, about 5 years ago I said a novena to Saint Andre Bassette (the modern Saint of Montreal). I did know that he put great faith in St. Joseph and directed everyone to pray to St. Joseph, but I honestly had not thought much about that. The novena included a novena to St Joseph, so I included it. That novena is the moment that St. Joseph became *real* to me.

A few days after finishing that novena, this whole picture of Joseph taking Mary and Jesus in the middle of the night to a place they didn't know really settled in. God trusted Joseph. Joseph trusted God. Mary trusted Joseph. Jesus trusted Joseph. As the earthly Holy Family, God put Joseph at the head and they trusted him.

They didn't know where they were going, but they trusted Joseph to get them there safely. They trusted that Joseph was following the will of God. The Holy Spirit immediately formed a prayer in my mind and I am sharing it with you. I will also share that I believe that St. Joseph loves this prayer based on the testimonies of non-coincidental instances of being at just the right place at just the right time that God needed. I also began to experience this immediately.

During this year of Saint Joseph, I hope you ponder this *chosen-ness* and his utter importance, not a bit part, in God's plan of salvation. Please email Word of Life with testimonies about the prayer.



Editor's note: St Joseph/Bread of Life in Erie is holding special Wednesday 7pm Masses in honor of St Joseph. There is a plenary indulgence attached to the practice this year and Fr. Larry anoints people with the Oil of St Joseph right after Mass.

The Donkey Prayer

Dear St. Joseph, God entrusted you to put Mary and Jesus on the donkey and lead them to where they were supposed to go. When God spoke, you listened and obeyed without one word of hesitation. Mary trusted completely that God was leading you, though She knew not where you were taking Her and Jesus. You always went where God led and you always led Them in safety, and to safety, from all who threatened Them. Dear St. Joseph, I entrust you as my foster father also. Please put me on the donkey and take me to where God wills, even though I don't know where you are taking me today or in the future. I trust you to hear God and to take me where I am supposed to be at every moment of every day, in great and small ways. Please put me on the donkey today and lead me. I also ask you to bring put others on donkeys and lead them into my path as God wills. Thank you in advance for your intercession, provision, and protection. Amen.

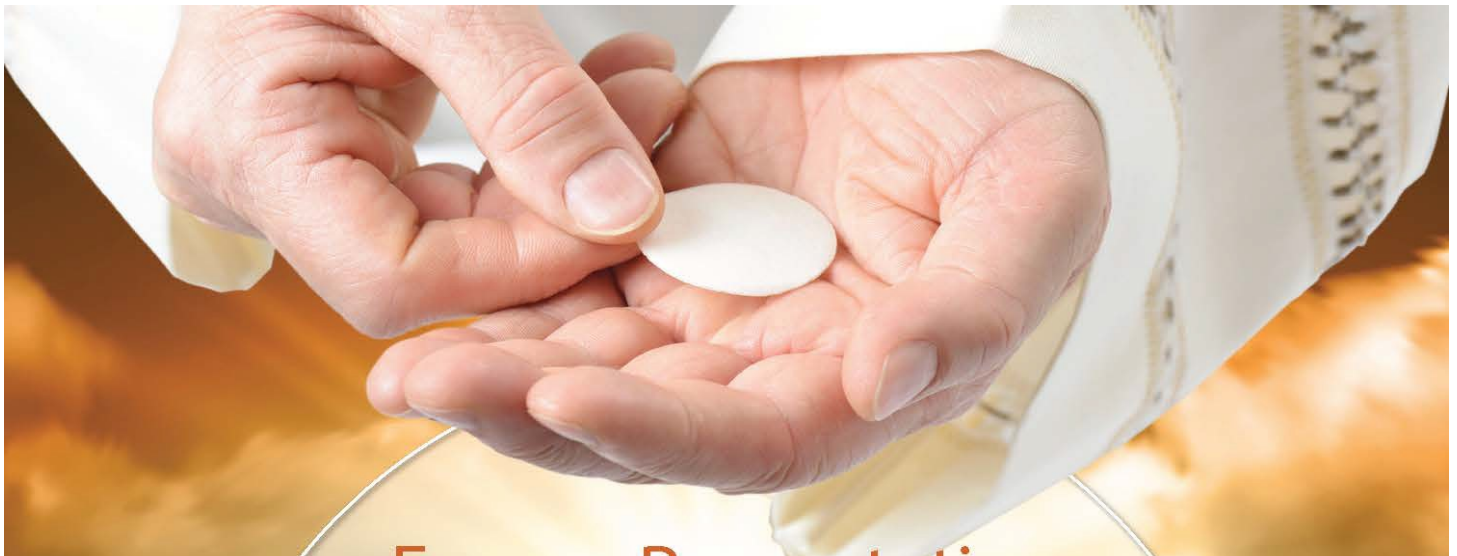
SHORT VERSION

Dear St. Joseph, God entrusted you to put Mary and Jesus on the donkey and lead them to where they were supposed to be. Please put me on the donkey and lead me to where I am supposed to be and lead others into my path. Thank you. Amen.

(Saint Joseph loves this prayer!)



The Donkey Prayer
To Saint Joseph



Encore Presentation

IN HONOR OF

Corpus Christi Sunday

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES

"My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink"

Come in 'believing.'

Walk out

'BELIEVING!'

INTRO BY

Fr Joe Petrone

SPEAKER

Jaci Phillips PhD

"Cease your doubting and believe!" ...Jesus

SUNDAY, JUNE 6 @ 1-2:30

St Joseph Church Bread of Life Community Center
147 W. 24th St., ERIE

This is a free event. Join us and please bring people who would like to hear the research evidence of the miracles and increase their belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

We recently returned from wintering in Florida. After a few days of unpacking, I settled into my favorite rocker, and there on the top of a stack of books on the table beside the chair, was a little booklet written by Ralph Martin. I did not remember leaving it there or reading it so I picked it up and realized our Lord wanted me to read it. Title: THE FINAL CONFRONTATION.

Published just a few years ago, in 2015, Ralph starkly points out the acceleration of evil in our society: *"Sometimes, it seems as if the gate of hell has opened wide and the demons are flying out to wreak havoc wherever they can."* When I read just the headlines, it certainly is obvious that evil is rampant. He goes on to point out that scripture warned in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9, that the restraints on evil will be removed in the final conflict.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-9

¹Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ²not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie.

*Be not afraid.
I go before you always.
Come follow me,
and I will give you rest.*

Ralph then recalls the words of then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, (Saint Pope Paul II) spoken at the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in 1976:

"We are now standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has ever experienced. We are now facing the final confrontation between the church and the anti-church. Between the gospel and the anti-gospel, between Christ and the antichrist. The confrontation lies within the plan of Divine Providence. It is therefore in God's plan, and it must be a trial which the church must take up and face courageously."

It is interesting to note that during this same time that our Lord gave us Pope John Paul II, he also gave us the diary of an extraordinary young woman, Faustina Kowalska, who came from the same locality as Karol Wojtyla in Krakow Poland.

There are no coincidences, and Karol, in a secret seminary during WWII, heard about Faustina's diary and even visited her nearby grave located at the convent where she lived. According to those who knew him well, he was profoundly influenced by her writings. In 1967, when he was an archbishop, he presented her writings and her cause for beautification.

She wrote that the Lord often told her that she was to be a messenger preparing the way for his Second Coming and final judgement. She wrote that while He extends Mercy to all, the final judgement is coming when he will judge people on their repentance and response, or lack of response, to His mercy. Saint Faustina's diary, with Gods messages of Mercy, was approved to be released in 1978, just 6 months before Karol became Pope John Paul II.

It was Pope Saint John Paul II who allowed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy to be promoted, and presented Faustina for beautification on April 18, 1993, and then canonized *Saint Faustina* on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 30, 2000. God gave us two saints linked together for this time. So, what are we to believe, and what are we to do?

So, are we in the final battle, is this really it? Scripture says that we will not know the exact time or day, but that we can read the signs, and events that occur around us. It is a time of persecution of the church, distortion of truth, the promotion of sexual immorality as a good

thing, and the denial of any action as sin. The warning from Saint Pope John Paul II was 55 years ago and he said it in the present tense: *"We are now standing."* This affirms the importance of the battle and affirms that we are in an ever shorter time of Mercy God is extending to the world for people to turn to Him and seek His mercy.

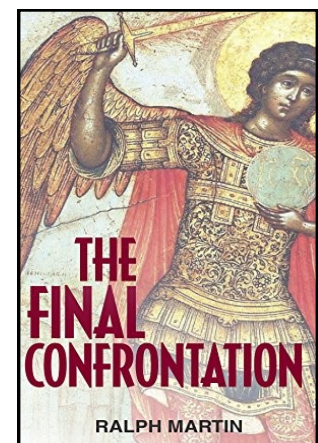
If there were ever a time for intense prayer and fasting, this is it. We need to pray for more time and for more people to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus. We should make sure that we are spiritually ready for anything that happens and proclaim the message of salvation to anyone we can. there are so many in need of this truth. God is giving us this mission and opportunity to do His work.

Both saints had the same message. Do not be afraid of the world, do not be afraid of welcoming Christ and accepting his power and His mercy. Whenever the final confrontation occurs, we who are under God's saving protection need not fear what happens. We find "fear not" 365 times in the bible. We can only live one day at a time, fear not, and walk in faith as we repeat Saint Faustina's words: **"Jesus I trust in you."**

***Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.
John 14:27 NRSVCE***

For more information on the Divine Mercy devotions visit:
<http://www.sjdivinemercy.org/>

The booklet: Final Confrontation, by Ralph Martin, can be ordered from:
www.RenewalMinisteries.net or
Renewal Ministeries
PO Box 1426
Ann Arbor Michigan, 48106



Exorcist Diary #133: Demons Mess with Easter -and- Prayer For Technology

Msgr. Stephen Rossetti

This Holy Thursday, as a local priest began the sacred triduum, unexpectedly, the church lights began to flicker. They got unnaturally bright, and then very dim, despite the controls having no rheostat. The lights flashed and faded. Then the church went completely dark. The priest, unfazed, led a beautiful celebration by candlelight. Later, a spiritually gifted woman present in the congregation confided to him: "One of Satan's minions entered the church and invoked the help of demons to disrupt the Mass." When the Mass ended, the lights returned to normal, as if nothing had happened.

In a nearby Church two days later at the Easter vigil, when it came time to sing the Gloria, the organ inexplicably would not play. The priest calmly preceded to lead the people in a blessed vigil Mass acapella, without instruments. The organist tried throughout the liturgy to get the organ to work, to no avail. At the very end, the organist had an inspiration and took out some of the holy water blessed on Epiphany. He sprinkled the water on the organ and it began to function normally, just in time for the final hymn.*

This is typical demonic behavior. It harasses and tempts, but it can never thwart the work of God. I have encountered a number of people recently who are frightened by Satan and cower in fear. Unwittingly, because of their fear and letting this fear control their behavior, they fall under his control.

On Divine Mercy Sunday and always, we say the prayer that St. Faustina offers us, "Jesus, I trust in you." Satan is toothless and powerless in the presence of the Risen Lord. Trust in Jesus.

In our app: "Catholic Exorcism," there is an **Umbrellino Prayer for Technology that is used to protect computers, cell phones, etc., from demonic harassment. It can be adapted for other uses, such as a church organ.*

Umbrellino Prayer for Technology:

Lord Jesus Christ, Sovereign King enthroned in Heaven, in your love and mercy establish a perimeter of protection with Your Precious Blood around our communication devices and all technology used during this session, the cameras or webcams, microphones, speakers, displays, any and all software, WiFi connec-

tions in the air, both my router and the router of N. and anyone assisting, the optic cables involved in the transmission of data, and the light waves being used to transfer data. Cleanse them with your precious blood and drive from them any satanic influence. Establish around them a sanctuary of your mercy where Satan and any other evil spirit or human agency cannot interfere. I ask Father that you would block, bind, rebuke and render impotent any assault of the evil one from them in any way. Father, so long as these instruments are utilized in this ministry of Divine mercy, we ask you to allow them to enjoy the protection of the Blessed Mother, St. Michael the Archangel and all the Holy Angels. We ask this in Your Most Holy Name, the Name before which every knee shall bow, in heaven, on the earth and under the earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord.

R. Amen.



<https://www.catholicexorcism.org/post/exorcist-diary-133-demons-mess-with-easter>

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FAN INTO

FLAME SEMINAR

STEPPING OUT IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 18 & 19, 2021

6-9 PM Friday, 9 AM-3:30 PM Saturday

Registration (by Wednesday, June 16th): \$20

2nd Floor of St. Joseph Bread of Life Community Center 147 W 24th St, Erie, PA

REGISTER AT: WWW.ERIERCD.ORG/WORDOFLIFE/SEMINAR.HTML

Call T.A. at (814) 824-1282 FOR ASSISTANCE;

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Led by Jaci Phillips and Pat Montefiori, this is a safe and friendly environment to both learn and practice the Gifts. Contrary to what we sometimes think, the Gifts do not necessarily just descend on us in full power at the moment that we are Baptized in the Holy Spirit. We have to step out in them. And that can be a little intimidating in your everyday life. So this is a safe place to learn and to practice; to Fan into the Flame! Bonus session on basics of deliverance included.

upcoming events

First Saturday of the Month Mass in honor of Our Lady

9:00 AM at St. Gregory's, Northeast, PA
Sacred Music beginning at 8:50 AM
Music provided by: Soloist, Jacqueline Phillip;
Violinist, Louis Nicolai and Organist Corey Spacht
Celebrant: Rev. Jerry Priscaro

Encore Presentation

"CHURCH OF MIRACLES"
St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center
Saturday, June 6, 2021
1:00- 2: 30
See Newsletter Flier

Fan Into The Flame Seminar

Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center
Friday & Saturday - June 18 - 19, 2021
See Newsletter Flier

Greater Things Luncheon -Save The Date-

St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center
Saturday, August 21, 2021
9:30—1:00

Spirit Filled - Healing Mass

Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group
Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Ave, Erie
Tuesday's Worship 6:15 Mass 6:30
August 10th and October 5th, 2021

Adoration Worship Concert

St. George's Church, Erie PA
Thursday, September 16, 2021
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Greater Things Conference -Save The Date-

Our Lady of Peace Parish
Saturday, October 23, 2021
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Jesus, Son of God, in whom the fullness of the Divinity dwells, You call all the baptized to "put out into the deep," taking the path that leads to holiness. Waken in the hearts of young people the desire to be witnesses in the world of today to the power of your love. Fill them with your Spirit of fortitude and prudence, so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation. Our Savior, sent by the Father to reveal His merciful love, give to your Church the gift of young people who are ready to put out into the deep, to be the sign among their brothers of Your presence which renews and saves. Holy Virgin, Mother of the Redeemer, sure guide on the way towards God and towards neighbor, You who pondered his word in the depth of your heart, sustain with your motherly intercession our families and our ecclesial communities, so that they may help adolescents and young people to answer generously the call of the Lord. Amen.

—John Paul II—

You Can Help Make a Difference

Word of Life is *completely* dependent upon your donations to spread the fire of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese of Erie.

Your donation, no matter how much, makes a big difference!

Contributions can be made by check, text, Tithe.ly app, and on the website.

Checks can be made payable to:

Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center
St. Mark Catholic Center
429 E. Grandview Blvd
Erie, PA 16514



Contributions via text:

Text the word "give" to our dedicated giving number: (570) 536-9187



Tithe.ly app on your phone:

Apps for Tithe.ly are available for both iPhones and Android Phones In the app store search for "tithe.ly" - "create account"

In 'find a church' search for and select "Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center"



Website contributions:

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Click on the green "give" button

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Reflections on 'The Greater Things' JUNE 2021



ENCORE PRESENTATION EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

FR JOE PETRONE & JACQUELINE PHILLIPS

JUNE 6 - 1:00PM

ST JOSEPH CHURCH

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY CENTER

“CEASE YOUR DOUBTING
AND BELIEVE”

...JESUS

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Word of Life Catholic
Charismatic Renewal Center
429 E. Grandview Blvd, Erie PA 16514

Phone: (814) 824-1286
Fax: (814) 824-1285
e-mail: office@wordoflifecrc.org
website: www.eriecd.org/wordoflife
www.facebook.com/wolcerc

The office is generally open limited hours.
Please call before coming.

The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim
the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide
teaching, news, and calendar of events, which
help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal
throughout the Diocese of Erie.

**This newsletter may be copied to put in
churches or shared with others.**

CHIEF EDITOR

Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD

EDITORS

Loretta Laufer, Amy Mosbacher

FORMATTING

Loretta Laufer

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