



# The Little Flower Weekly



An Addition to the St. Theresia Parish Bulletin

“You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?”  
- Matthew 18:33



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# Remembering 9/11

## The Catholic Memorial at Ground Zero in New York City

Many people are unaware that there is a 9/11 Catholic Memorial in New York City, located in St. Peter's Church, which stood in the shadows of the Twin Towers. St. Peter's original church was built in 1785 on, at that time, the outskirts of the city; this was because of the rampant anti-Catholicism that took place back then (ironically, it is now near the center of the city). The current church was built between 1836 and 1840. The parish's mission chapel, St. Joseph's Chapel, is located a few blocks away. Although the towers and other buildings were destroyed on September 11, 2001, the two churches escaped serious damage (although landing gear from one of the planes struck the roof of St. Peter's). However, both churches were strongly affected by the disaster as they served as staging grounds for rescue and recovery operations. "We were the first place they were bringing all the emergency equipment. Everything was in disarray," Pastor Fr. Kevin Madigan stated. "Stuff was piled six feet high all over the pews—bandages, gas masks, boots, hoses, and cans of food for the workers."



Fr. Mychal being carried by firefighters

Fr. Mychal Judge, a Franciscan priest and the chaplain to the New York City Fire Department, resided at St. Peter's. On September 10, 2001, the day before the attacks, he celebrated Mass for the firefighters at Engine 73, Ladder 42, in the Bronx. Included in his homily were the following words: "You do what God has called you to do. You get on that rig and do the job. No matter how big or small the call, you have no idea of what God is calling you to do, but He needs you. He needs all of us. God needs us to keep supporting each other, to be kind to each other, to love each other... We love this job, we all do. It is a difficult, difficult job, but God calls you to do it, and indeed, He gives you a love for it so that it will be well done. Isn't He good to you, to each one of you, and to me? Turn to God each day and put your faith, your trust, your hope, and your life in His hands. He'll take care of you, and you'll have a good life." The next day, September 11, upon learning of the first plane strike, Fr. Mychal rushed to the site and prayed for the City and for the victims lying on the ground. Afterwards, he entered the lobby of the North Tower and was unfortunately killed by falling debris (his death was the first officially recorded of the 9/11 attacks). Firefighters carried his body into St. Peter's Church and reverently placed him before the altar. Many of the firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers who died were also Catholic.

After more than 30 artists submitted proposals for the Catholic Memorial at Ground Zero, John Collier of Dallas—a Catholic convert—was chosen to produce four statues as memorials to some of the groups affected by the tragedy: St. Joseph, patron of construction workers; St. Michael the Archangel, patron of police; St. Florian, patron of firefighters; and St. Mary Magdalene, the first witness to the Resurrection and "apostle to the apostles". This Catholic memorial was designed to honor the heroes of 9/11 for their acts of love and courage, as well as to convey themes of hope.



Two of the sculptures: St. Joseph & St. Florian

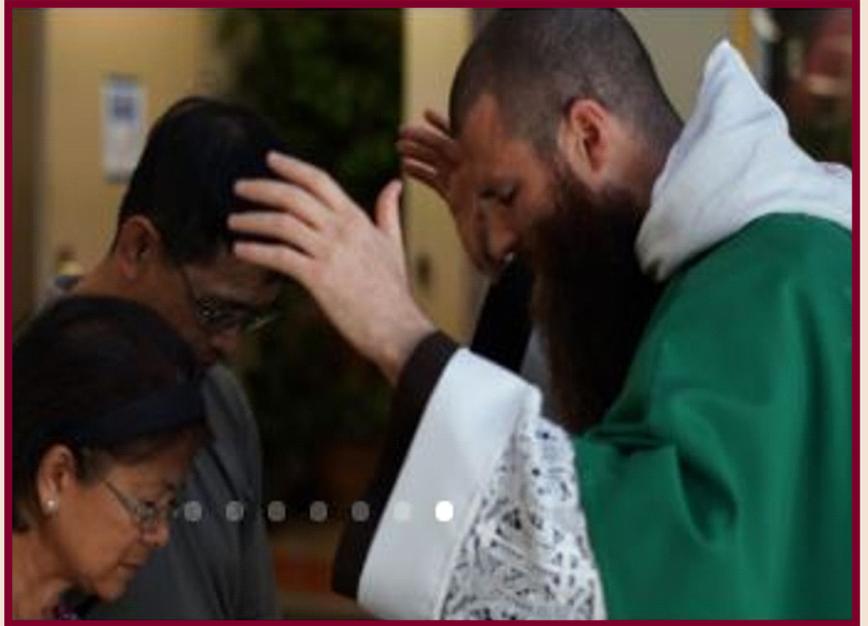
The next time you visit New York, be sure to visit this Memorial at 22 Barclay Street. It is open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

## FUN FACTS!

- ♦ **Pierre Toussaint**, a Haitian born into slavery, arrived in New York in 1787 and joined the Parish. He was known for his generosity to the poor and his piety. His cause for sainthood has begun.
- ♦ **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**, the first native-born American to be canonized, converted to Catholicism at St. Peter's on March 14, 1805, and often prayed there.
- ♦ **Billy the Kid** was baptized at St. Peter's on September 28, 1859. His parents were married there on June 19, 1851.

# SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to a special “Going-Away” celebration for Fr. Philip and Fr. Matthias (Fr. Donald has already gone up north). It will be held on Sunday, October 4, beginning at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Depending on what conditions are at that time, the Mass and the reception will both be held outside or—hopefully—in the Church and Hall. More information will be available as we get closer to that time. However, in the meantime, be sure you put the date in your calendars so you won’t miss this perfect opportunity to say “farewell” or “until we meet again”.



To the left and below: The FINAL photos of the current community of the Carmelite Friars before the transfers take place—masked and unmasked!



"Goodbyes are not forever  
Goodbyes are not the end  
They simply mean, I'll miss you  
Until we meet again"...

# A Message from the Pastor

## ATTENTION: Confirmation Students AND RCIA Students

**Bishop Robert Barron will be coming to  
St. Therese on Saturday, September 26,  
to celebrate the 5:00 p.m. Mass and  
confer the Sacrament of Confirmation!**

The Sacrament will be conferred upon the students from both Year One and Year Two (these are the students who were scheduled to receive in May of 2020 **AND** those students slated to receive in May of 2021). This Sacrament will also be conferred onto the Confirmation students from **St. Monica's Academy** and onto the Confirmation students who are **home schooled**.

In order to receive the Sacrament on September 26, you **MUST** e-mail the Parish Secretary at [denisekay@hotmail.com](mailto:denisekay@hotmail.com) in order to register your name and receive the necessary form. Then you must fill the form out completely and return it with a copy of your baptism certificate. Bishop Barron says you **MUST** have chosen your Confirmation name so that it can be provided on the form.

There is a link on the E-mail cover page for the Registration form. You can also pick up a form after this weekend's Masses!

**We MUST receive a completed  
form from you in order for you  
to receive the Sacrament.**



# Class Lawsuit Against the Archdiocese



The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has been named in a class action lawsuit involving the **Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese**. In the lawsuit, the class members allege that the Archdiocese acted improperly by charging cemetery patrons for a contract category labeled "care and maintenance" of the cemeteries when, in fact, the funds could be used for other purposes. The Archdiocese denies that it did anything wrong.

The lawsuit has not reached the stage where the Court has made any decision regarding the merits of this lawsuit, but **the Court has ordered the Archdiocese to post** the following "**Publication Notice**" at all parish locations:

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**PUBLICATION NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS WHO PAID MONEY FOR INTERMENT SERVICES AT A ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES CEMETERY AND YOUR CONTRACT CONTAINED A LINE ITEM CHARGE FOR "CARE AND MAINTENANCE":**

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** of a pending Class Action in Los Angeles Superior Court captioned *Howard v. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles*, Case No. BC655179, regarding the following Class:

All persons and their successors in interest who paid money for interment services pursuant to the SUBJECT CONTRACTS, which is a defined term. The term "SUBJECT CONTRACTS" is defined as any agreement for interment services at Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles cemeteries that includes a discrete charge for "care and maintenance." The lawsuit alleges that, starting in 1992, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles engaged in deceptive and unfair business

practices **by charging a line item in burial contracts for Archdiocese of Los Angeles Cemeteries for "Care and Maintenance"** when, in reality, the money could be used for other purposes and some of the money was used to settle claims brought by victims of abuse.

Plaintiff alleges that this conduct violated California law and that the class members are entitled to restitution of the money paid for "Care and Maintenance" and injunctive relief for the violations. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles has denied any wrongdoing. The Court has not decided whether the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles did anything wrong, and the case is currently scheduled to go to trial.

There is no money available now and no guarantee that there will be. However, your rights are affected, and you must make a choice in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Class Notice.

There are pending legal deadlines, so you should follow the below instructions as soon as possible.

For important information regarding the case, you should view the entire Class Notice at [www.spencerlaw.net/archdioceseaction](http://www.spencerlaw.net/archdioceseaction).

You may also call one of the attorneys representing the class:

- The Spencer Law Firm  
(949) 240-8595
- Lakeshore Law Center  
(714) 854-7205
- The Law Offices  
of Scott Schutzman  
(714) 374-0099

# "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN"

## Vox Vitae invites you to the NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ABORTION CHILDREN



Pictured: The Youth of Vox Vitae place flowers at the Memorial grave of the 16,000 aborted babies (from 2019)

Dear Vox Vitae Friends,

This **Saturday, September 12**, please join Vox Vitae to remember and mourn all the babies who have been aborted and to pray anew for an end to abortion. On this Day of Remembrance, people will gather at graves and memorial sites across the country to honor the short, precious lives of the millions of boys and girls killed by abortion. **\*The largest burial site of aborted babies in the country, possibly the world, is in Los Angeles, where the bodies of over 16,000 unnamed babies lie in a mass grave.** Millions of other babies have been discarded as trash and have no grave. Please join us in praying the Rosary for an end to abortion and to mourn for these babies.

- When: **10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 12**
- Where: \*Odd Fellows Cemetery, 3640 Whittier Boulevard, Los Angeles
- For more information, call the Coordinator, Catherine Contreras, at (213) 395-8977.

Bring flowers and posters if you'd like to leave something at the babies' gravesite. Our Lord told us: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Let us pray that our mourning turns to the courage to be the voices for life who bring an end to the destruction of abortion.

### **NOTE RE COVID:**

The location has assured us that, as long as we follow masking and distancing guidelines, we will be compliant with Covid restrictions.

# Seventy-Seven Times--And More!!

By Mary Ortwein  
www.aCatholic.org



I used to think when Jesus answered Peter's question about how many times he must forgive with, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times," He meant that we must accept someone's regret for hurting us, no matter how many times a hurtful or unjust action is repeated. Maybe that meaning holds, but today I want to talk about another meaning of forgiveness. This meaning is that Jesus may be asking us to forgive in our minds and hearts as many times as anger, judgment, and blame pop up. This could be for 77 instances of hurt or of one instance, which is remembered and nursed as resentment in our hearts 77 or 770 or 777,000 times.

Looking at forgiveness this way adds meaning to understanding what mercy is to God. It also gives us some guidance about how to actually do what Jesus asks of Peter—and us—today. My work on myself and with couples and families through 25 years as a therapist has taught me that Jesus' standard of forgiveness is a really good thing. It keeps evil from taking up residence in us. There is more to forgiveness than simply stopping the thought that stops the flow of loving others, BECAUSE God has first loved us and forgiven us. But this thought seems to be the root of difficulties with forgiveness. Evil—as abuse, war, violence, or injustice—is present at some point in virtually every life. Evil as ordinary inconsiderateness, selfishness, anger, defensiveness, human frailty is present in most of our lives on a regular basis. Whether I mean to step on my brother's toes or not, I do it. Whether he means to step on mine or not, he does it.

We each yell "ouch" and remember the pain. We begin to protect our feet, as the servant did in the parable Jesus told Peter in today's Gospel. As we do this, the flow of love from God through us stops. We receive mercy, but we do not pass it on. When we begin to protect ourselves, a conversation begins inside our heads that causes us to think of our pain again and again. That conversation may lead us to be afraid—or angry. It may cause us to hide—or to attack. It can come to plague us in the silence of the night. It can cause us to say and do hurtful things. It can cripple our hearts. Through this conversation in our head the evil done to us takes up residence within us. We are no longer just touched by evil, we hold it. We keep it.

How can we stop conversations in our heads such as these so that we can forgive 77 or 777,000 times? A friend of mine, Ron McClain, has a wonderful way of naming what to do: "Fire the attorney in your head!" That is a way to look at what happens in your mind. There is this accusing voice that keeps you fired up. Sometimes that voice sounds like you telling the person off. Sometimes it is the person who has caused the wound, sounding absolutely despicable so you feel justified having ill feelings. Sometimes it is a memory of the hurtful event played again and again. Sometimes it is your voice, naming your wounds. Whatever it is, it is NOT the voice of God. It is not a voice of peace.

As a therapist I have taught many strategies to fire this internal attorney. I have taught people to imagine such thoughts are on boats that float away down a river. I have taught them to contain them in a box. I have taught them to write them down. I have encouraged them to put such thoughts in a larger context and to see if over-generalization or "awfulizing" is happening. I have taught them to confront the "evildoer" in a respectful way. But working on a not-big, but troublesome, struggle to forgive, I have found a new way to fire the internal attorney: Quote Scripture.

Quoting Scripture at temptations makes them go away! Satan and his minions flee when we proclaim God's Word. I knew that, but I never saw the conversation in my head as my entertaining temptation. I thought I was processing events. Perhaps I was—for a day or so. But then Satan got in my imagination and thought to imagine conversations that either made me feel justified to be hurt or nursed the anger along. And I was NOT at peace. The first day I started quoting scripture I think I had to do it 77 times. The second day, almost that much. I picked out some verses and said them again and again and again. I got really tired of it. But I also saw how often my mind was going in a "not-toward-Jesus" direction. The fourth day it began to work. My mind began to get the message that I meant it when I asked God to help me forgive. After catching myself several times in a row, I would get up and totally turn my attention in another direction. Peace would return. I keep on working on it. It is hard, but this tool really helps.

Our parish prays often for Christians who are seriously persecuted for their faith—in the Middle East, Asia, Africa. I often wonder, "how angry and unforgiving would I be if I saw my children or grandchildren killed for being Christian?" Would I die, not a martyr with a crown of gold, but totally dependent on Christ's mercy, because I died with the evil of unforgiveness in my heart because of the evil I had witnessed? I pray that those who do sacrifice for their faith may be free from unforgiveness. I pray I may learn to forgive fully. I'm glad I'm not asked today to give my life for my faith. I don't think I would do it with a pure heart.

I am more like the servant in the story Jesus told Peter. Even though God shows me great mercy and goodness, when I have a close call in life, I draw back in self-protection. The meaning of this parable is very clear, however. *"Should you not have pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my Heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.*" Ouch, Jesus! Help me! Peter must have learned what he needed to learn from this story. When Jesus made it clear to Peter that he was forgiven but that he would be asked to die for Christ, Peter's response was to name the love he received and to give love in return. *"Lord, you know everything. You know I love you."* (John 21: 17) Jesus response was, *"Follow me."* That is Jesus' standard. It is a wonderful standard that enables us to tap into Jesus' mercy. It coats our souls with Teflon to keep the ordinary or extraordinary evils we experience from taking up residence within us.

### Prayer Suggestion

Pray for those who find forgiveness hard or to pray for those who must forgive great things.

Or pray that God will help you fire your internal attorney, so neither small nor great evil done to you no longer can live in your soul.

Talk to God about it. His mercy is endless.



### About the Author

Mary Ortwein converted to Catholicism in 1969. She experienced another conversion when she earned a theology degree from St. Meinrad School of Theology in 2015 and became an Oblate of St. Meinrad. Mary takes as her model the Prophetess Anna, who met the Holy Family in the temple at the Presentation. Like Anna, Mary spends time praying, being at church, and enjoying the people she meets. A grandmother, widow, and retired marriage and family therapist, Mary normally spends her time writing, taking the Eucharist to the homebound in her parish, and being enthusiastic about building up the Kingdom of God.