

Living the Gospel

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“Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good.”

1 Thess. 5:20-21



I recently heard of a monastery in Texas, the Mission of Divine Mercy, that has been receiving messages from God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother. Fr. John Mary Foster is the priest of the small monastery in Canyon Lake, Texas. He

relates that he had served in various missions over the years but for the last 30-years has been prior of the monastery there. One day two women visited and met with Fr. John Mary and told him that they had been receiving messages from God and requested that he be their spiritual advisors. At first, he was hesitant, thinking that these women could possibly be unbalanced, perhaps suffered from psychological problems; all those things that come to mind when someone suggests hearing a still, small voice within. He decided to continue to meet with them and discern the messages and the possible source of them. As the quote (above) from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians suggests, we should not despise prophecy nor prophets who have been given heavenly messages and instructions but... of course, we do. There is perhaps a legitimate wariness in us that causes us to be very reluctant to believe something someone else has heard but we haven't, and all the more so when they share their own personal experiences with us. After all, we haven't seen nor heard what they have and thus are forced to either take their word for it or just simply disregard their stories altogether. But what does St. Paul say? "Test everything." That's exactly what Fr. John Mary did. He prayed about what the two women had shared with them. He got to know them and their backgrounds and compared their 'messages' to the revelation of God from the scriptures and the teaching of the Church. In every age there have been those in the Church chosen to convey messages to the people from heaven. One thinks of those of more recent memory to whom either Jesus or Mary, His Mother, spoke to through St. Bernadette of Lourdes in the 19th century, the three children seers of the 20th century appearances of Our Lady at Fatima, the earlier messages of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the 17th century. All of these people, most often children, claimed they saw a 'beautiful Lady' who spoke with them and gave them messages they were to share with individuals, priests, or even the world. And in every age of the Church, she has tested and waited to receive confirmation about the seers themselves and their messages.

And that is what is happening now in Texas. In time, a few more members of the monastery community have had messages. Fr.

John Mary said he took the messages received over the years to the local bishop but he instructed them not to share them with anyone. The community respected the bishop's wishes for these many years until just recently when a message was received by a nun at the monastery on February 8 from Our Blessed Lady who said that the message is to be shared with the world. Part of the message is as follows:

“Children, the battle looms and you are asleep. I come to awake you; as a good Mother who, being vigilant and keeping watch over Her children, and seeing the increasing danger, shakes her children so that they may not perish without fighting.

Children, these are the times announced from of old, in which the thrice cursed serpent will poison many, and meddle in what is Ours, and will rise to confuse the nations with his puppets, his servants, to destroy all that is of God and to take His place and sovereignty. His longing to be adored and his hatred for God have motivated him to prepare for centuries what is now being unveiled before your eyes.

I have come to you, children, time and time again, year after year, to warn you, to call you to the battle, to give you weapons with which to fight and defeat Satan's works.

But how few of you have listened to Me. How few of you have understood Me and placed yourselves at My disposal in order for Me to form My luminous army. How few, children. How few. From My new Tepeyac – yes, new, for from here will flow the great River of Grace to reconquer all of the children of God – from this little piece of land, hidden, rough, I call out to you once more. Children, there is no time left. The battle, Our counterattack begins. It begins with these Words, which We give to you as Light, Protection, Guidance and consolation.”

The above quoted part of the longer message was given on February 8, last month. It was released publicly by Fr. John Mary on Feb. 28 for it is supposed to be told to the world. As well, and this is very unusual, they have announced that there will be a second message delivered on Wednesday, March 6 at 11 am (which had not been given yet at the time of my writing of this bulletin article) and a third message which will be given on Wednesday, March 13th.

Of course, I have no way of knowing whether these messages are legitimate and from God or not but, using St. Paul's wise instruction, we should not despise the messages or the messengers – even though both the Lourdes and Fatima messages and recipients underwent great scrutiny, persecution and insult – sometimes even from Church authorities. We should pray about them and hold them up to the scriptures, the teaching of the Church and listen to them with an eye on the world in which we live that more and more resents and hates the followers of Christ and His Church. If it is not of God, it will dissipate and fade into history. But if it is of God, the God of Jesus Christ who is with us, no one will be able to stop it or silence those God has called to speak in the prophetic fashion as through the ages. God will not be mocked in this generation that has denied Him, ignored Him, defied Him and consider Him, in light of their own ugly evil plans, dead. But we know different. And our Lord Jesus Christ has our backs and always – and perhaps now, speaks. Listen. (FrC)

MARCH 10, 2024

MASS  **SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

Tuesday Mar 12th
7:00pm +Giuseppe Timpano
Requested by Linda & Bruno Timpano

Wednesday Mar 13th
8:30am Special Intentions Fllo MacRae
Requested by Gal & Jagielski Family

Thursday Mar 14th
7:30am Holy Hour
8:30am Special Intentions Halina Szczerbowicz-
Wieczor
Requested by Gal & Jagielski Family

Friday Mar 15th
6:30pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7:00pm Special Intentions Helen & Roy Adams
Requested by Christy & Family

Saturday Mar 16th
3:00pm Confessions
4:30pm +Mary Villa
Requested by the Godin Family

Sunday Mar 17th
9:00am For the People
11:00am +Paul Ford
Requested by Clare & Gene Bisogno

Please Pray for the Sick

Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Mary Little, Elizabeth Pavilsa, Kaz Watroba, Stan Faria, Innocent Mwendalubi Malwa, Albert Sant & Tracy Rivers, Rose Flanagan, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb.

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Intentions of Daniel Furtado
From March 3rd to March 30th



Regular Collection Mar 3rd \$4770.00 (Inc PAG)



CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in December 2023 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call 1 800 268 2637.

**4th Sunday of Lent
March 10, 2024
Inspired by God's love:
Support ShareLife's mission**



Today, as we contemplate God's boundless generosity, may we, too, be moved by this same spirit of generosity. May this inspire all of us to be kind, compassionate, and move us to share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

Next Weekend March 16th and 17th is our first ShareLife Sunday

PAG – PREAUTHORIZED GIVING

The Archdiocese of Toronto has established a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (PAG) to assist you in your support of the work of the Parish through your regular parish offerings. To accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Christ, the parishes depend entirely on the generosity of their parishioners. Pre-authorized giving allows you to give to your parish through scheduled monthly transfers from your bank account.

These funds are then deposited directly to the parish account. If you require further information, please contact the parish office.

LENTEN PRESENTATION

The CWL are having a Lenten Presentation by Susan Campbell-Fournel PhD on "The Healing Foods of the Last Supper". This presentation is approximately 30 minutes long and is open to all parishioners not just the CWL. It is an interesting perspective of the foods our Lord shared with his disciples in the upper room. There is no cost to attend but we ask that you sign up using the forms at both entrances of the church so that we can prepare adequate seating. Thank you.

Where: Fr. Ellard Hall

When: Tuesday March 19th at 1:00pm.

Hope to see you there.

LENTEN DAY OF CONFESSIONS

Tuesday March 12th
9:00am to 11:00am
& 5:00pm to 7:00pm



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