

FROM THE DEACONS DESK



“Is God really listening?” This thought may have come to us in our prayer life as we have prayed for things from God and yet it seemed that God just wasn’t responding to our requests. We are then left with the choice of either continuing in our prayer or to simply give up out of frustration that our prayer might never be answered.

Have we prayed for a loved one who has stopped practicing their faith? Perhaps we have prayed seemingly in vain for the cure of one who is very dear to us. Yet in all of these moments, we are encouraged by today’s gospel message that it is in perseverance in prayer that we come to see God’s hand at work in all of these seemingly hopeless moments. God is listening and he answers our prayers.

We recall the story of St. Monica the mother of Augustine. She prayed for years that her son might be converted to the Catholic faith. She watched as he lived a life of excess in carousing and sinfulness. Never did she cease to pray for the moment when Augustine would come to his senses and realize that the life he was living would only eventually lead to his destruction. And when it seemed that God would never answer this mother’s prayer, Augustine turned to Scripture and was forever changed by it. He would later become one of the great doctors of the Church.

Throughout the years that Monica prayed for her son’s conversion, she like the woman in today’s gospel refused to give up on God. God does listen and is moved by our prayers. The woman in the gospel story knows that Jesus can help her. She refuses to take no for an answer. She is unmoved by the disciple’s efforts to have her go away or by Jesus’ seeming indifference to her plight. It is in her persistence to have Jesus cure her daughter that he helps her in her crisis and commends her for her deep faith. We too are challenged to have this same persistence in prayer. Even when it seems that God is not listening, we remain hopeful and we trust that God will answer each prayer that is placed before Him.

God wants to help each of us. The gift of His son, Jesus, shows us how much he loves us and he wants us to return that love in prayer in praise and thanksgiving. We should never hesitate to call upon God in our times of doubt or trouble. Whether we pray for ourselves or for others, our prayer is to be constant. We should never give up on God. He loves us too much to give up on us.

In Christ,
Deacon Frank

p.s.: Johnny, a very bright little boy, one day asked his father for a baby brother. His father told him if he prayed real hard that his prayer would come true. Johnny prayed for a month and nothing happened. After checking around the neighborhood, he found out that praying for something like this never produced any results, so he gave up on prayer. When Johnny’s mother went to the hospital several months later, they took Johnny to the hospital room and showed him not one but two baby brothers. His father asked him what he thought. Johnny looked at his father and said, “Boy, aren’t you glad that I stopped praying after one month!”

--Sunday, August 17-- Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass Schedule—7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.,
5:00 p.m. (all in English) and 7:00 p.m. in Spanish

Special Collection for the Infirm Priest

--Coffee and Donuts by the Scouting Group-- in the Parish Hall
--2:00 p.m. Youth for Christ—Community Center
--2:15 p.m. Meeting of Black /African American Community—
Parish Hall
--2:30 p.m. English Baptism—Church
--5:00 p.m. Spirit of Notre Dame Mass
--7:00 p.m. Mass—Spanish

--Monday, August 18-- Mass 6:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

--7:00 p.m. RCIA—The Bible—The Existence of God
—Parish Hall
--7:00 p.m. Inquiry Class: Are you interested in joining the
Catholic Church? Have you been absent from the
Church? Do you have questions concerning the
Catholic Church? —Parish Hall
--7:30 p.m. Novena to our Lady of the Miraculous
Medal/Recitation of the Rosary—Chapel

--Tuesday, August 19-- Mass 6:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

--7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts—Conference and St.Maria Goretti
Rooms
--7:30 p.m. Marriage Prep—Parish Office
--8:00 p.m. Apostolado de la Cruz—Bishop Odin
--8:45 p.m. Neo Catechumenate—Meeting, Alleluia &
Room A

--Wednesday, August 20--Mass 6:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

--6:30 p.m. Holy Hour for Vocations—Chapel
--7:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer—Room C
--7:00 p.m. Legion of Mary—Seniors—Room D
--7:00 p.m. Legion of Mary—Juniors—Room B
--7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts—Community Center
--7:30 p.m. Rosary—Spanish—Chapel
--8:00 p.m. Apostolado de la Cruz-en Español
Salón Obispo Odín y Salón de Conferencias
--8:00 p.m. Devotions in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual
Help—Church. After devotions –Laying of hands &
prayers for healing of anyone seeking health—
Totus Tutus Prayer Group
--8:45 p.m. Neo Catechumenate—Meeting, Alleluia &
Room A

--Thursday, August 21--Mass 6:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

--7:30 p.m. Choir Practice—Church
--7:30 p.m. Legion of Mary—Room C (English)
--7:30 p.m. Legion of Mary—Room B (Spanish)
--11:00 p.m. 3:00 a.m. Gethsemane Vigil Hour —Chapel

Friday, August 22—Mass 6:55 a.m. , 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

--6:00 p.m. Holy Hour—In Honor of the Sacred Heart of
Jesus—Church
--7:30 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus—Meeting Room
--7:30 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy—Chapel
--7:30 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group—Room A
--7:30 p.m. Youth for Christ—Room C & Alleluia Room
--7:30 p.m. Lord’s Flock—Room B
--8:00 p.m. Totus Tuus Prayer Group—Parish Hall

--Saturday, August 23—Mass 8:00 a.m.

--8:00 a.m. Mass

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

--1:00 p.m. Pasoch Meeting—Alleluia Room
 --4:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
 --5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass for Sunday
 --7:00 p.m. Filipino Mass—Church
 Reception after Mass in the Parish Hall

Masses For The Week



--Sunday, August 24—Twenty- First --Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass Schedule—7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. (all in English) and 7:00 p.m. in Spanish
 --Coffee and Donuts by the Totus Tuus Prayer -- in the Parish Hall
 --2:00 p.m. 50 & Better—Parish Hall
 --2:30 p.m. Spanish Baptism—Church
 --2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study—(Everyone is Welcome)—
 Meeting Room
 --5:00 p.m. Guadalupanos—Parish Hall
 --5:00 p.m. Spirit of Notre Dame Mass
 --7:00 p.m. Mass—Spanish

Saturday, August 16
 Ez 18: 1-10, 13b, 30-32; Mt 19: 13-15
 --8:00 a.m. Jacinto Valdepenas +
 --5:30 p.m. Maria Tran Thi Na +
Sunday, August 17
 Is 56: 1-6; Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32; Mt 15: 21-28
 --7:00 a.m. Douglas Hicks +
 --9:00 a.m. DeGuzman Family
 --11:00 a.m. Notre Dame Parishioners
 --1:00 p.m. Catherine Tarver--Success
 --5:00 p.m. Bonifacio Bayot +
 --7:00 p.m. Maria Nguyen +

Monday, August 18
 Ez 24: 15-23; Mt 19: 16-22
 --6:15 a.m. Eleciterio & Perla Parras +
 --7:00 p.m. Jeff White +

Tuesday, August 19
 Ez 28: 1-20; Mt 19: 23-30
 --6:15 a.m. Lam Nguyen +
 --7:00 p.m. George Badough +

Wednesday, August 20
 Ez 34: 1-11; Mt 20: 1-16
 --6:15 a.m. Mary Lam +
 --7:00 p.m. Vocations

Thursday August 21
 Ez 36: 23-28; Mt 22: 34-40
 --6:15 a.m. Margie Smith +
 --7:00 p.m. Marge Smith +

Friday, August 22
 Ez 37: 1-14; Mt 22: 34-40
 --6:15 a.m. Mrs. Simone Lane LeMay +
 --10:00 a.m. Alberto Rivera Jr. (Birthday)
 --7:00 p.m. Grace Diaz (Birthday)

Saturday, August 23
 Ez 43: 1-7ab; Mt 23: 1-12
 --8:00 a.m. Agustin Mahilum
 --5:30 p.m. Carlos Caviles +

Sunday, August 24
 Is 22: 19-23; Rom 11: 33-36; Mt 16: 13-20
 --7:00 a.m. Ignacia Lazaga +
 --9:00 a.m. Mundy Parshall +
 --11:00 a.m. Notre Dame Parishioners
 --1:00 p.m. Cyganski Family +
 --5:00 p.m. Mundy Parshall +

Hymn Selections	<i>Música para</i>
August 17, 2008	<i>17 de Agosto 2008</i>
English Masses	<i>7:00 Misa Español:</i>
Entrance: 523	<i>Entrada: 725</i>
Gloria: 33	<i>Gloria 114</i>
Offertory: 688	<i>Ofrendas: 681</i>
Acclamations: 34, 35, 39, 40	<i>Aclamaciones: 15, 16, 19</i>
Communion: 638, 780	<i>Comunión: 749, 746</i>
Closing: 800	<i>Despedida: 540</i>

COLLECTION	
Weekly Need---\$13,800	
Regular Collection.... (08-10-2008--)	\$13,497.42
Mother of Perpetual Help	207.00
Poor Box.....	194.00
“Building the Future Together”—Capital Campaign	
As of, August 10, 2008 the amount pledged for our parish was \$2,516,802.85 of which \$822,117.84 has been paid. Total number of participants is 721 families.	
Regular Envelopes	338
Capital Campaign	93

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

If you are moving, please notify the office of your new address. Also if you are leaving the Notre Dame area, let us know so we can make the necessary changes.

ATTENTION: If you want anything put in the bulletin, please submit it to the parish office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday. Thank You!

Sanctuary Candle Burns for:
Marge Smith & Mundy Parshall
From: Leonard Smith
Vela En El Santuario Prendida por:
Marge Smith & Mundy Parshall
From: Leonard Smith

TOGETHER -  LET US PRAY ...

As a Church Family Let us pray together:

Dolores Aroche, Lupe Alden, Fatima Alonzo, Dominick Adamo Sr., Ed Breaud, Rose Mary Barletta, Ruby Borzilleri, Christopher Busby, Nikut Boma, Audry Boma, Gerald Brownson, Lydia Cevilla, Mary Campbell, Ed & Sophie Fattig, Puring Fabugais, Al Fiaschetti, Mabel Gaspard, George Haynes, Melissa Hernandez, Mary Hons, Johnny Ho, Harold & Molly Inman, Naomi Jefferson, Cary Kearns, John Kealy, Sharon LeJeune, Sergio Lozano, David Lowell, Connie Marks, Alfred Mikula, Brianna Morrison, Helen O'Connor, Kathy O'Shaughnessey, Richard Paseman, Michel Perez Jr., Mr. & Mrs Michel Perez, Tony Rios, Jerry Spacek, Richard Trevino Sr. Teresa Vass, Earl Willaims, Rosa Waguespack, Stephen Waguespack, Anna Wyszogrodzki, Henry Williams,

Homebound

Wilson Babin, Catherine Babin, Janet Bereznak, Joseph Chrustek, Toni Gutierrez, Ignatia Murphy, Magdalena Meline, Beatrice Maris, John McMillin, Stella Munis, Magdalen Nzskwu, Cecilia Perez, John Perez, James Tenney, Mary Tenney, Barbara Terraso, Egan Volia, Joyce Wills, Dan Weglar,

Assisted Care and Nursing Facilities

Beechnut Manor Nursing Home, Nissi Care Home, Westwood Rehab, Evening Star Villa, Autumn Years, Home Sweet Home-No. 1, Home Sweet Home—No. 2.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you are aware of someone who is sick or homebound and that they would like to receive a visit from one of our priests or lay ministers of Holy Communion, call the Parish Office @ 281-498-4653. Please talk to Dolly Cyganski and arrangements will be made for a visit to their home.

COMUNIÓN PARA LOS QUE NO PUEDEN SALIR DE CASA

Si Usted sabe de alguien que esté enfermo, ó que no pueda salir de su casa y quisieran recibir una visita de uno de nuestros sacerdotes ó uno de nuestros Ministros laicos de la Sagrada Eucaristía, llamen al (832) 661-3335 por favor hable con José Coronado y se harán arreglos para que alguien visite sus hogares.

VOCATIONS

If we really believe in something, it does not seem to be a sacrifice to give up everything else to pursue that one dream. Jesus asks the same as any great leader—total dedication; but He promises rewards no one else can promise: “You will then have treasure in heaven.” Come, follows the leader’s lead.

PARISH VOCATION COMMITTEE

VOCACIONES

Si verdaderamente creemos en algo no parece ser un sacrificio de dejar todo lo demás para seguir ese sueño. Jesús pide lo mismo como cualquier otro lider—dedicación total; pero El nos promete recompensas que ninguno puede prometer: “Ustedes tendrán un tesoro en el cielo.” Vengan, sigan el liderazgo del lider.

COMITÉ VOCACIONAL DE LA PARROQUIA



Plan Ahead
“Protecting God’s Children”

It’s a 3 hour session. All volunteers who have a regular contact with children and youth are required to attend this training. Workshops are held throughout the Diocese and you may attend the one that is most convenient for you. **NO** nursery is provided: Please make your own arrangements. **You must pre-register for the workshop** through the Virtus Program on line: To register log on to www.virtus.org. Password “trust”. If you need assistance please call the parish office 281-498-4653 or Martha Abaya at 281-495-4354. Updates of scheduled workshops in area churches will be listed weekly in the Bulletin.

St. Michael Church—Houston—1801 Sage Rd.—Saturday, August 23—9:00 am—51 of 75 spaces available.
This session will be conducted in **English**.

St. Francis de Sales—Houston—8200 Roos Road—Wednesday, August 27—6:30 p.m.—56 of 60 spaces available—this session will be conducted in English

St. Justin Martyr Church—Houston—13550 Ashford Pont Drive—Thursday, September 11—6:00 pm—45 of 60 spaces available.
This session will be conducted in English.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church—Sugar Land—12627 West Bellfort—Saturday, September 13—9:00 am—47 of 50 spaces available.
His session will be conducted in English.



Free to everyone –Learn more about our faith. —Monday evening in the Parish Hall. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Each week we will be posting the RCIA topic of the week. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of the classes.

Monday, August 18—The Existence of God—Our Faith
Presenter: Msgr. Roland

Monday, August 25—Creation and Sin—Our Faith
Presenter—Syl Riel

De la Esquina del Diácono:

“¿Está Dios realmente escuchando?” Este pensamiento puede que nos haya llegado en nuestra vida de oración mientras le hemos rezado a Dios por cosas y que parece que Dios no está contestando a nuestras peticiones. Nos hemos quedado con la elección de continuar con nuestra oración ó simplemente de dejar de hacerlo con la frustración de que nuestra súplica nunca va a ser contestada.

¿Hemos rezado por algún ser querido que ha dejado de practicar su fe? Tal vez hemos rezado lo que parece en vano por que alguien muy cercano a nosotros se cure. Aún en todos estos momentos, nosotros debemos de estar animados por el mensaje del Evangelio de hoy que es la perseverancia en rezar para que podamos ver la mano de Dios trabajar en estos momentos que parecen sin esperanza. Dios está escuchando y respondiendo a nuestras oraciones.

Recordemos la historia de Santa Mónica la madre de San Agustín. Ella rezó por años para que su hijo se convirtiera a la fe Católica. Ella observó como él vivió una vida llena de excesos de celebraciones pecaminosas.

Ella nunca dejó de rezar por el momento cuando Agustín volviera a sus cinco sentidos y realizara que la vida que estaba viviendo lo conducía eventualmente a su destrucción. Y cuando parecía que Dios nunca escucharía las oraciones de su madre, Agustín se volteó a las Escrituras y fue transformado por siempre por estas. El se convirtió en uno de los grandes Doctores de la Iglesia.

Durante los años que Mónica rezó para la conversión de su hijo, ella al igual que la mujer en el Evangelio de hoy, rehusó insistir ante Dios. Dios está escuchando y se conmueve por nuestras oraciones. La mujer en la historia del Evangelio sabe que Jesús la puede ayudar. Ella rechaza recibir el no como respuesta. No se mueve por los esfuerzos del discípulo para que se vaya ó por lo que parece indiferencia de Jesús a su situación. Es en su perseverancia que Jesús cura a su hija y la ayuda a ella en su crisis y la felicita por lo profundo de su fe. A nosotros también se nos hace el reto para que tengamos perseverancia en nuestras oraciones. Aún cuando parezca que Dios no está escuchándonos, nosotros permanecemos con la esperanza y confiamos que Dios contestará cada oración que se presenta ante El.

Dios nos quiere ayudar a cada uno de nosotros. El regalo de Su Hijo, Jesús, nos demuestra cuanto nos ama y quiere que le devolvamos ese amor con oración, alabanzas y acción de gracias. Nosotros nunca debemos de titubear a pedirle a Dios en nuestros momentos de duda ó problemas. Ya sea que recemos por nosotros ó por otros, nuestra oración debe de ser constante. Nosotros no debemos de perder la esperanza en Dios. El nos ama tanto para El perder la esperanza en nosotros.

En Cristo,
Díacono Frank

PSD: Humor...

Juanito, un pequeño niño muy brillante, un día le pidió a su papá un hermanito. Su papá le dijo que si rezaba bastante

su oración se haría realidad. Juanito rezó por un mes y nada sucedió. Después él averiguando por el vecindario, supo que rezando por algo como esto no producía resultados, así que abandonó los rezos. Cuando la mamá de Juanito fue al hospital varios meses más tarde, llevaron a Juanito al cuarto del hospital y le enseñaron no uno sino que dos hermanitos. Su papá le preguntó que pensaba ahora. Juanito vio a su papá y dijo, “Muchacho, ¿No están contentos de que paré de rezar después de un solo mes?”

Durante esta Semana:

Domingo 17 de Agosto

Vigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Colecta Especial-Cuidado de Sacerdotes Retirados

2:30 p.m. Bautizos en Inglés- en la Iglesia

7:00 p.m. Misa en Español

Rosario después de la Misa en la Iglesia

Martes 19 de Agosto

7:30 p.m. Preparación Matrimonial- Oficina Parroquial

8:00 p.m. Apostolado de la Cruz- Salón Obispo Odín

Miércoles 20 de Agosto

7:30 p.m. Rosario en español- En la Capilla

8:00 p.m. Apostolado de la Cruz

Salón Obispo Odín y Conferencias

Jueves 21 de Agosto

7:30 p.m. Legión de María-en Español

Salón “A”

11:00 p.m.-- 3:00 a.m. *Apostolado de la Sangre Preciosa-
en la Iglesia*

Viernes 22 de Agosto

8:00 a 9:00 p.m. Grupo de Oración-Jesús de Nazareth
en Español. Salón “A”

Sábado 23 de Agosto

4:00 p.m. Sacramento de Reconciliación (Confesiones)

Domingo 24 de Agosto

Vigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

2:30 p.m. Bautizos en Inglés- en la Iglesia

5:00 p.m. Grupo Guadalupano-Salón Parroquial

7:00 p.m. Misa en Español

Rosario después de la Misa en la Iglesia