

HOLY REDEEMER



GRACE NOTES

June 2023

June Newsletter - 2023

Introduction...

Catholics traditionally dedicate the month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Devotion to Jesus's Sacred Heart goes back to 17th century France, and the visions described by a Visitation nun named Margaret Mary Alcoque of Jesus presenting himself with his heart. The visions were initially disbelieved by her fellow sisters, but a Jesuit priest named Claude la Colombiere saw that Sister Margaret Mary's visions were authentic, and devotion to the Sacred Heart spread from there.



Four centuries later there are rumblings that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is out of step with today's world, given the somewhat outdated representations of Jesus pulling open his cloak and pointing to his exposed heart. But if we were to set this devotion aside, we would miss out on a great opportunity to meditate on one of the most important aspects of Jesus's life: his love. The Sacred Heart devotion is an invitation to ask ourselves, "How did Jesus love?" and "Whom did Jesus love?" Indeed, in Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus made it perfectly clear that love was the foundation for all of his teaching.

"But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, who was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law?' Jesus said unto him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'"

As we meditate this month on the love that filled the Sacred Heart of Jesus it would be worthwhile to remember to put a little love in our own hearts as well.



On the Shoulders of Giants – The Apostle James

Isaac Newton said that all he had accomplished in life was due to “standing on the shoulders of the giants” who came before him. Each month we remember one of the giants upon whose shoulders the parishioners of Holy Redeemer are perched. For the next several months Grace Notes will focus on the Apostles and individually illuminate each of their life stories. This month it’s James.

James, the older of the two sons of Zebedee (the other being John) was thirty when he became an apostle. He lived near his parents in the outskirts of Capernaum, at Bethsaida, and he was a fisherman, plying his calling in company with his brother John and in association with two other brothers and future apostles, Andrew, and Simon Peter. (James is occasionally referred to as "James the Greater" to distinguish him from another apostle "James the Lesser," with "greater" in this case simply meaning older or taller, rather than more important.)

Like Simon, Jesus had a nicknames for James and his brother John, referring to the pair as "Boanerges" or "Sons of Thunder." The nickname was apparently a reference to their occasional bold and aggressive personalities, as demonstrated by the fact that they once asked Jesus to let them bring down fire from heaven to destroy a Samaritan village that rejected them. (Luke 9:51-56).



Except for these periodic upheavals of wrath, James was a thinker and planner. He was modest and undramatic, an unpretentious worker, and he sought no special reward. It is important to remember that the somewhat inappropriate request often ascribed to James and John that they be granted places at the right hand and left hand of Jesus did not come from either brother, but instead from their mother, Salome. (Moms, what are you going to do.) Along with Andrew, James was one of the more level-headed of the apostolic group. Although James did not have Andrew’s discretion or insight into human nature, he was a much better public speaker. Aside from Peter, James was perhaps the best public orator among the Apostles.

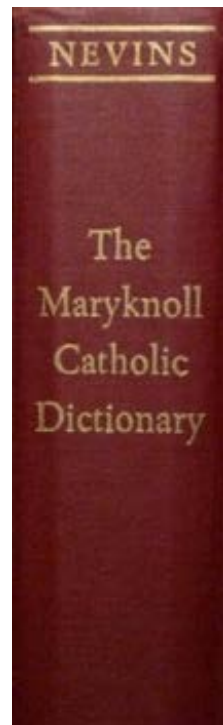


James, along with his brother John and Simon Peter, also was part of an informal triumvirate among the Apostles. Jesus allowed the trio to be the only apostles present at several momentous occasions during his public ministry: the Raising of Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration of Jesus, and Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

James was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred. Following Jesus' crucifixion, James made a pilgrimage to the Iberian Peninsula (which is current-day Spain) to spread the word of Jesus. When he returned to Judea an individual brought charges against him before the Tribunal. When the trial was concluded and James had been condemned to death by Herod, the man who had instigated his trial was so moved by James' faith and demeanor that on the way to the place of execution he made a confession of faith in Christ. When he asked James to forgive him, James answered, "Peace be to thee, brother." James then kissed him and both men were led off to be martyred for their faith.

Following his death James' body was transported by his followers back to the Iberian Peninsula, and today James is the patron saint of Spain.

Jeopardy for Catholics – Here's the way this works. We will give you several definitions of important aspects of Catholicism as defined in "The Maryknoll Catholic Dictionary," and ask you to name them. As always, your answers must be worded in the form of a question. This month we're focusing on different orders of monks and friars. (NOTE: The two are similar, with the primary difference being that a friar lives and works among everyday people in society, while a monk lives in a secluded, self-sufficient group.) Here goes.



- *Number One:* Often called "The Marines of Religious Life," this order is famous for the privations to which they subject themselves, including rising at 2 am for four hours of prayer and contemplation. They also make some pretty tasty beer and jelly.
- *Number Two:* Their motto is "ora et zabora," which translates to "prayer and work." Sean Connery portrayed a member of this order in the Dark Ages murder mystery "The Name of the Rose."
- *Number 3:* Well known for their oratorical and debating skills, their lives are rooted in four pillars – prayer, study, community, and service – all for the sake of "Veritas," or the truth of God's mercy and love. Also theirs is the only order to wear all white robes.

The answers are provided on the final page of Grace Notes.

Do You Have a Favorite Prayer?

Most everyone has a "go to" prayer. Even if they prefer to pray the rosary they likely favor one of the three primary prayers over the other two. A recent poll revealed that The Hail Mary appears frequently on many people's list of favorite prayers. Indeed several experts have declared The Hail Mary to be the oldest, most repeated, most imitated, and most powerful Christian prayer. But why is it so popular? Theologians and ordinary people each have their reasons.

We'll let the theologians have their say first.

- The Hail Mary prayer literally came from heaven, as it was first pronounced for human ears by the Archangel Gabriel when he appeared to Mary and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" The second part of the prayer is likewise taken directly from the Bible, when Elizabeth greeted Mary with the following: "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."
- The Hail Mary prayer is especially powerful because it encompasses our entire life from the present to our last breath, as in "now and at the hour of our death."



While it's hard to argue with the theological rationale for why The Hail Mary prayer is so popular, the fact remains that in addition to being "blessed" and "full of grace," Mary is also both familiar and approachable. Up until the appearance of Gabriel and the birth of her son she likely was an average young girl of common means from a poor region of Israel, betrothed to a working-class fiancé who earned his living as a carpenter.



And while the Bible provides no information regarding Mary's experiences with Jesus as an infant or toddler, most parents would have no trouble relating to Mary's anxiety when Jesus wandered away while the family was in Jerusalem, only to be found three days later teaching in the Temple. And upon finally locating her missing son, the unapologetic pre-teen was unapologetic when he was reunited with his worried mother, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Likewise, it's somewhat amusing to picture Mary at the wedding in Cana, sharing the embarrassment of the host family when the wine ran out and imploring her son to "do something!" only to again receive another brusque response, "Woman, my time has not yet come." In response, the ever-patient Mary simply ignored her son, and told the servants to do whatever he said.

So after having raised a very precocious youngster, and a young man who has a plan that did not always include motherly advice, it's not hard to imagine that Mary had developed a decent sense of humor. Which is to say, she probably would have smiled broadly when in a 1975 NFL playoff game Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach threw a 50-yard touchdown pass to Drew Pearson on

the last play to win the game, and told reporters afterwards when describing the play, "I closed my eyes and said a Hail Mary."

Mary has one other attribute to which many parents can unfortunately relate: witnessing the death of her child. Because every mother knows that a child is never supposed to die before their mother. One only has to watch a fund-raising commercial for St. Jude's Children's Hospital to know there are lots of distraught parents wandering those halls and whispering Hail Mary's.

It's reassuring to know that whether you're dealing with a cranky teenager who won't get off their phone, a grown child who can't seem to find the right job, or a child of any age with a worrisome medical diagnosis, that there is a prayer that will put you in contact with someone who understands exactly what you're going through.



Have You Ever Thought About Becoming a Deacon

There currently are about 19,000 deacons in the United States. Unfortunately the number is dropping, mirroring trends seen in religious life and the priesthood for the past half-century. And those who are currently serving as deacons are getting older. Roughly 35% are 70 or older, 40% are ages 60-69, 21% are ages 50-59, just 5% are ages 40-49, and only 1% are under 40.



But don't despair, the Catholic Church has faced similar challenges before and overcome them. For nearly 1,000 years, the permanent diaconate had all but disappeared from the Church in the West. How were permanent deacons restored, and what service do they offer the Church today? Amazingly, interest in reviving the permanent diaconate was sparked by a group of priests imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps during World War II. They envisioned men — married or single — taking up the work of the Church beyond the walls of the sanctuary. When the idea was presented to Pope Pius XII after the war's conclusion he expressed his support but indicated that "the time is not yet ripe." However, in the following decade, the Church decided that the time had indeed arrived, and The Second Vatican Council emphasized the importance of restoring the permanent diaconate.

In July 1967, Pope St. Paul VI issued the document "Sacred Order of the Diaconate," which authorized the re-establishment of the permanent diaconate, allowing married men, with the explicit consent of their wives, to be ordained permanent deacons. Bishops then began to set up formation programs for those men interested in being ordained a deacon, and, by the middle of the 1970s, the Church around the world saw the ordination of these new permanent deacons.

So what exactly do deacons do, and what sort of training is required?

A deacon's ministry has three dimensions: liturgy, word, and service. At the liturgy, he assists the bishop and priests. At the Mass, the deacon proclaims the Gospel, may be invited to preach the homily, and assists at the altar. The deacon may also baptize, witness and bless marriages, preside at the Liturgy of the Hours, and preside at funeral liturgies among many other duties. Living in the world, deacons have a particular sensitivity to the needs of real families, including single parents, students, older people, those with disabilities, the incarcerated and those who suffer from poverty or addictions of many kinds. Holy Redeemer's Deacon Joe Mador has been especially effective with his work in prison ministry, conducted primarily at the Barnstable County Correctional Facility. Although his efforts at the correctional facility were limited during the pandemic, prior to that he spent a great deal of time at the facility conducting weekend retreats for prisoners, coordinating with various priests to hear confessions and say mass, and performing a variety of other activities to address the religious needs of the inmates.



The training required to become a deacon varies somewhat among dioceses, but generally involves four years of academic, spiritual, and pastoral formation, and includes coursework in – among other things – The History of Christianity, Spirituality of Old Testament, Sacramental Theology, Introduction to Preaching, and Ecclesiology, leading ultimately to ordination. Deacon candidates are also required to participate in a series of workshops and other training sessions over the four-year period.

For married candidates, wives play a significant role in responding to their husband's call to the Diaconate, and they are required to attend several workshops of their own choosing. Since the wife's consent is required for her husband to enter the program and to be ordained, it is essential that she have a complete and thorough understanding of the extent of her spouse's commitment and of her role and sacrifices in supporting his ministry as an ordained deacon.

The Diocese of Fall River typically conducts an annual series of Information Nights for anyone potentially interested in becoming a deacon. If you would like more information about becoming a deacon, please contact Deacon Frank Lucca or Father Robert Oliveira, Co-Directors of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, at office@frpermanentdiaconate.com or contact the Office of the Permanent Diaconate at 508-990-0341. Alternatively, you are more than welcome to contact the Holy Redeemer parish office at 508-945-0677 and speak with Father Sullivan.



Getting to Know the Members of the Parish – Tom and Liliane Groux

A recent article in Twin Times identified 38 wonderful things that come in pairs, including peanut butter and jelly, salt and pepper and Batman and Robin. However, there was one wonderful pair that was a glaring omission from the article, namely Tom and Liliane Groux. They are virtually inseparable, instantly recognizable to anyone who regularly attends services at Holy Redeemer, and although they have been married for 62 years they still have a way of looking at each other that must have been the same look they shared on their wedding day.



PROBABILITY OF THE 1 EVENT × PROBABILITY OF THE 2 EVENT × ... = PROBABILITY OF MULTIPLE EVENTS

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{🎲 🎲} \quad \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{36} = 2,7 \% \\ \text{✝ ✝} \quad \frac{13}{52} \times \frac{12}{51} = \frac{12}{204} = 5,8 \% \\ \text{● ● ●} \quad \frac{5}{20} \times \frac{4}{19} \times \frac{11}{18} = \frac{44}{1368} = 3,2 \% \end{array}$$

It's hard not to overstate that last point: Tom and Liliane have been married for 62 years and appear to have the same feelings for each other as when they were first married. Three things quickly come to mind. First, in a world that often appears to be governed by probability tables, what are the odds that among the more than 3 billion people inhabiting the planet in the early sixties when Tom and Liliane were married the two of them would find each other. And more improbably, that they would remain married and deeply in love for the next six decades. And finally, what was their formula for beating those seemingly insurmountable odds?

It's certainly tempting to attribute at least part of Tom and Liliane's success to their faith (more about that in a moment). But their devotion to service and helping others likely had a role to play. Indeed, Tom's entire career was focused on public service. After obtaining a degree in political science from Fordham University and completing a tour of duty in the Air Force, Tom began working with the American Institute of Planners, leading to a succession of positions as town manager. His early efforts involved positions in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. After the family moved to Massachusetts Tom spent nine years as Winchester's first town manager, and six years as Duxbury's first town manager. His last position before retirement was serving for nearly five years as Chatham's top executive. Many of the Chatham facilities that we now take for granted -- the town annex building and new police department on George Ryder Road and expanded fire department on Depot Road -- had their origins on Tom's watch. He also played a major role in correcting numerous deficiencies in Chatham's financial situation that he inherited upon his arrival.



Along the way Tom and Liliane's family grew steadily to include four children: Thomas (who recently retired from the police force in Winchester), Matthew (who is a pilot for Southwest Airlines), Beth Anne (who is a Team Chairperson in Education), Jonathan (who is a practicing attorney in Oregon). Tom and Liliane also have 18 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Liliane is also no stranger to service. Until recently she served as a Eucharistic Minister at Holy Redeemer, and also distributed communion at Liberty Commons. These days though she has a new calling: leading the rosary at Holy Redeemer following each daily mass. “I really enjoy it, and it’s very important to me.” One day it’s the five joyful mysteries, another day it’s the five sorrowful mysteries. “While I’m leading the rosary I picture each decade in my head. I just put myself there.”



Given the inspiration that Tom and Liliane have been to so many people at Holy Redeemer we’ll end with a few inspiring quote about love and marriage.

- “A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.” — Mignon McLaughlin
- “You know you are in love when the two of you can go grocery shopping together.” — Woody Harrelson
- “Love doesn’t just sit there, like a stone, it has to be made, like bread; remade all the time, made new.” — Ursula K. LeGuin, *The Lathe of Heaven*
- “Love at first sight is easy to understand; it’s when two people have been looking at each other for a lifetime that it becomes a miracle.” — Sam Levenson
- “A happy marriage is a long conversation which always seems too short.” — Andre Marois

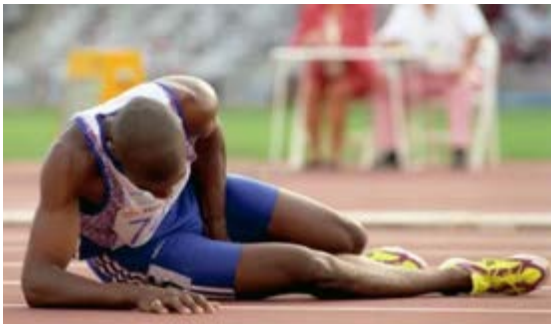
...Conclusion

Jim Redmond died a few months ago at the age of 81. His story has mostly been forgotten, and that's a shame. We'll remember it this month, since Father's Day is coming up in a couple of weeks. And Jim Redmond was one of the best examples of fatherhood we could think of.

The story begins at the 1992 Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona. Jim's son Derek Redmond was a sprinter for Great Britain, seeking to overcome the injuries that had plagued him throughout his career. He'd had five previous running-related surgeries, and his Olympic dreams had been dashed four years earlier at the 1988 Games in Seoul when he tore his Achilles tendon just one hour before his race.



Derek's pursuit of a medal in Barcelona in the 400 meters started off well, as he notched the fastest time in the preliminary heats and also won his quarterfinal heat.



In the semifinals, Redmond charged out of the blocks and looked strong on the first straightaway. But shortly before the race's halfway mark, he suddenly grimaced in pain and grabbed the back of his right thigh: his hamstring had torn. He crumpled to the track in pain and dismay, as the rest of the pack sprinted by.

Alone on the track, Redmond stood and began hopping on his left foot — careful to remain in his lane — determined to finish the race. The crowd stood and cheered as Redmond limped slowly toward the finish line. Then a figure emerged from alongside the track: Redmond's father, Jim. (Who was dressed, it should be noted, in perfect dad-wear of the early '90s: white crew socks and sneakers, roomy shorts, and a Nike hat emblazoned with "Just Do It.")



Waving off officials who tried to get him off the track, Jim Redmond ran to his son, putting an arm around his waist. Derek turned and wept on his father's shoulder. Together, father and son walked the final meters of a race now long decided.

As Derek later described it, "All these doctors and officials were coming onto the track, trying to get me to stop but I was having none of it. Then, with about 100 meters to go, I became aware of someone else on the track. I didn't realize it was my dad, Jim, at first. He said, 'Derek, it's me, you don't need to do this.' I just said, 'Dad, I want to finish, get me back in the semi-final.' He said, 'OK. We started this thing together and now we'll finish it together.' He managed to get me to stop trying to run and just walk and he kept repeating, 'You're a champion, you've got nothing to prove.'"



The Olympic Committee has called the finish "one of the most inspirational moments in Olympic history."

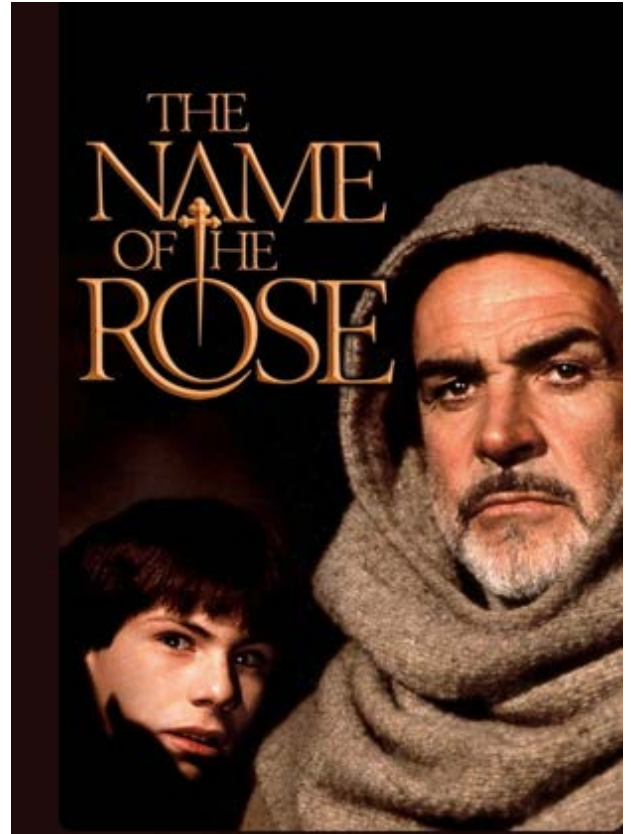
Answers to Jeopardy for Catholics

Answer to Number One: Who are The Trappists?



fourteen recognized Trappist beers

Answer to Number Two: Who are the Benedictines?



Answer to Number Three: Who are the Dominicans?

