

HOLY REDEEMER



GRACE NOTES

January 2024

January Newsletter - 2024

Introduction...

In the Catholic Church the month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, but where exactly did the name “Jesus” come from. Tradition says that it was contained in a message from God that was delivered to Mary by the angel Gabriel. “And you shall call his name Jesus.” (Matthew 1:21) However, the name that Gabriel announced was not “Jesus,” but rather the Hebrew version, which is “Yeshua” (or “Yehshuah”). The name Yeshua was well known to the Jews, and you can find men called Yeshua in various places in the Old Testament (1 Chronicles 24:11; 2 Chronicles 31:15; Ezra 2:2,6,36). The name is a version of Joshua, which means “salvation.”

So why do we call the Hebrew hero of Jericho Joshua and the Christian savior Jesus? Because the New Testament was originally written in Greek, not Hebrew or Aramaic. Greeks did not use the sound “sh,” so the evangelists substituted an “s” sound. Then, to make it a masculine name, they added another “s” sound at the end. And thus “Yeshua” became “Jesus.”



Another interesting naming convention related to the holy name of Jesus are the letters “IHS” which are often engraved on the altar. One urban legend holds that the letters are an acronym that stands for “I have suffered.” In fact, the letters are not an acronym but a “Christogram,” that is, a combination of letters that represent the name “Jesus.” Early scribes often abbreviated the name Jesus using the Greek letters “I” (iota) and “H” (eta). Sometime in the second century, a third letter “S” (sigma), was added, resulting in “IHS.” These Christograms frequently served as secret codes to thwart the Roman authorities and would be inscribed on a tomb (indicating a deceased Christian) or on a doorpost (indicating a Christian home).

St. Bernardine of Siena and his student St. John of Capistrano took the Christogram IHS a step further. In their preaching missions throughout Italy, they carried wooden placards with the IHS surrounded by rays. They also encouraged people to have the Christogram placed over the city gates and the doorways of homes, rather than regional or family crests, to show devotion and allegiance to Jesus.



Which brings us finally to Shakespeare. In “Romeo and Juliet” he wrote the famous line, “What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.” The line represents Shakespeare’s attempt to make the point that the naming of things is irrelevant. Perhaps that might be true for a “rose” but hopefully the preceding paragraphs have demonstrated that nothing could be more relevant than the word “Jesus,” and the importance of celebrating his name.

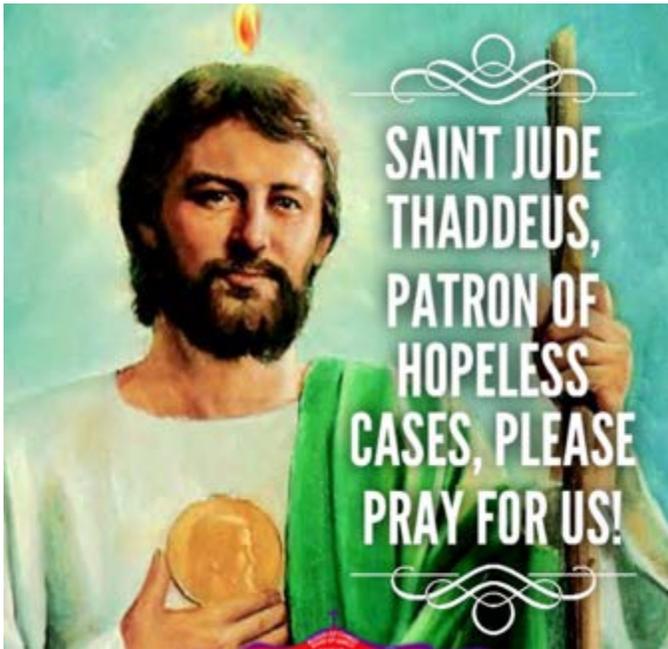
On the Shoulders of Giants – The Apostles

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 past several months Grace Notes has focused on the Apostles, individually illuminating each of their lives. So far we’ve profiled Andrew, Simon Peter, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew and James the Lesser. This month it’s one of the best known of the Apostles, the patron saint of hopeless causes, Jude Thaddeus.

Jude Thaddeus was born into a Jewish family in Paneas, a town in the Galilee portion of ancient Palestine, the same region where Jesus grew up. Jude was described by Matthew (13:55) as being one of the “brethren” of Jesus. His mother, Mary, was referred to as a cousin of Jesus’ mother Mary, while his father, Alphaeus, was the brother of St. Joseph. Thus Jude was related to Jesus on both his mother and father’s side.

Jude Thaddeus had several brothers, including James the Lesser, who was another of the original Apostles. He is included in the list of apostles noted in Luke 6:16 and in Acts 1:13. The Gospel of John also once mentions a disciple called “Judas not Iscariot” (John 14:22). Finally, Jude was the apostle who asked Jesus at the Last Supper, why he would not “manifest Himself to the whole world after his resurrection.”





Following Jesus' crucifixion Jude preached in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, and Mesopotamia. He returned briefly to Jerusalem in the year 62 A.D. to help with the election of another brother – Simeon -- to become Bishop of Jerusalem. He is the author of an epistle to the recent Christian converts in Eastern churches who were being persecuted. In it, he warned them against the pseudo-teachers of the day who were spreading false ideas about the early Christian faith. He also encouraged them to persevere in the face of their harsh, difficult circumstances, just as their forefathers had done before them. And he exhorted them to keep their faith and to stay in the love of God as they had been taught. His inspirational support of these early believers led to him be known as the patron saint of desperate cases.

Devotion to St. Jude began in earnest in the 1800's, first in Italy and Spain, and then spreading to Western Hemisphere in the 1920's. In the United States novena prayers to St. Jude helped people deal with the pressures caused by recent immigration, the Great Depression, and the Second World War.

So why has devotion to St. Jude continued to grow exponentially, far outstripping devotion to any other saint?

It's hard not to attribute St. Jude's enduring popularity to a single person: the late actor Danny Thomas. Early in his career when Danny Thomas was a struggling young entertainer with a baby on the way, he visited a Detroit church and was so moved during the Mass, he placed his last \$7 in the collection box. When he realized what he had done, he prayed for a way to pay the looming hospital bills. The next day, he was offered a small part that would pay what he owed. It was his first experience with the power of prayer.



Over the next two years Danny achieved moderate acting success in Detroit, but he was struggling to take his career to the next level. Once again, he turned to the church. Praying to St. Jude, he asked the saint to "help me find my way in life, and I will build you a shrine."

In the years that followed, Danny's career flourished through films and television, and he remembered his pledge to build a shrine to St. Jude.

In the early 1950s, Danny began discussing with friends what concrete form his vow might take. Gradually, the idea of a children's hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, took shape. More than just a

treatment facility, it would be a research center for the children of the world, regardless of race, religion, or financial status. To raise the money required to build and maintain his hospital, Danny, of Lebanese descent, frequently turned to his fellow Arab Americans. Danny's requests struck a responsive chord. In 1957, 100 representatives of the Arab American community met in Chicago to form ALSAC (American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities) with a sole purpose of raising funds for the support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Through striking improvements in the care of pediatric leukemias and numerous forms of solid tumors, St. Jude has brought about improved health care for children all over the world. Treatments developed at St. Jude have helped increase the overall survival of children with cancer from 20% when the hospital opened in 1962 to more than 80%, and for children with the most common childhood cancer, acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), to more than 90%.

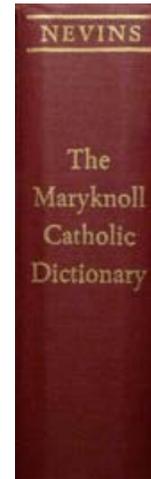
From a promise of "Help me find my way in life, and I will build you a shrine," Danny lived to see his little hospital become an international beacon of hope for the catastrophically ill children of the world. The founder of St. Jude and ALSAC died on February 6, 1991, just two days after joining patients, parents, and employees to celebrate the hospital's 29th anniversary.



Jeopardy for Catholics – Here’s the way this works. We will give you an important aspect of Catholicism as noted in the “The Mary Knoll Catholic Dictionary,” and ask you to name it. As always, your answer must worded in the form of a question. This month the subject is popes. Here goes.

- **Number 1.** He was the first pope.
- **Number 2.** He was the first pope to travel by airplane.
- **Number 3.** He had the shortest tenure of any pope.

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



And the Winners Are...

The December Art Sale sponsored by the Holy Redeemer Women’s Club was a resounding success. Over two dozen paintings by Holy Redeemer parishioners were sold following the weekend masses. The highlight of the Art Sale was the raffle of two of Deacon Art’s watercolors, one depicting downtown Chatham and the other the very welcoming seating area outside Chatham Cookware. The winner of the downtown area watercolor was Rosemary O’Reilly, and the winner of the Chatham Cookware watercolor was Mildred Hastbacki.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Women’s Club Art Sale.

Take A Letter

That’s actually how it typically started when one of the apostles decided to write a letter (or epistle) to the emerging groups of Christians scattered about the Mediterranean, be they Corinthians or Philippians or Galatians, or to individuals, such as Timothy, who was a disciple and frequent companion of Paul. Their letters were often dictated by the author to someone who would physically transcribe them. Peter and Paul both used others to transcribe their letters, which they then signed to verify their authenticity. It has been speculated that Paul had vision problems, which would have necessitated him seeking assistance with the actual writing.



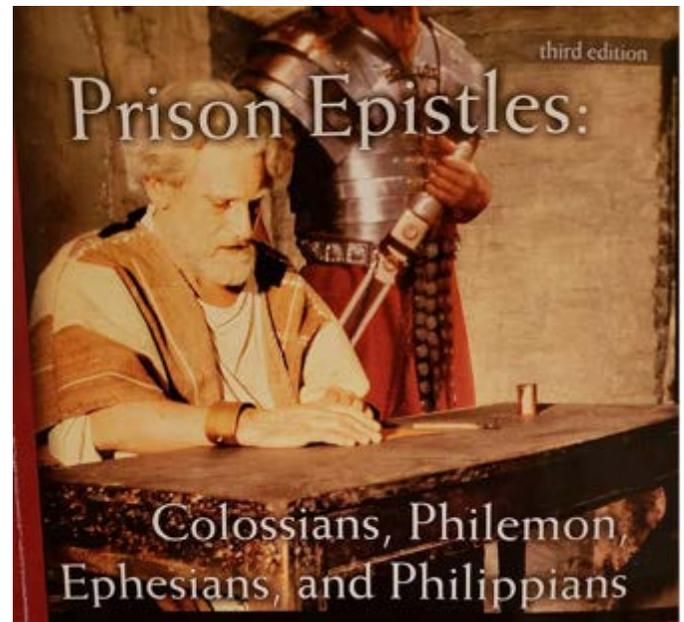
The letters written by the apostles make up the majority of the New Testament; twenty-one of the twenty-seven books, from Romans to Jude. Paul is by far the most prolific letter writer among the apostles, and the most poetic. His first letter to the Corinthians on the subject of love probably holds the record for the most frequent reading at weddings.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.”



The letters in the New Testament are often divided into several groups based on the author or the intended audience. For example, Paul’s thirteen letters are collectively known as the “Pauline Epistles,” and include Romans, First Corinthians, Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First Thessalonians, Second Thessalonians, First Timothy, Second Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Hebrews.

A subgroup of the Pauline Epistles – letters to the Ephesians, the Philippians, the Colossians and to Philemon -- is referred to as the “Prison Epistles” since they were composed during Paul’s house arrest in Rome. Although confined while writing these letters they nonetheless deal with some of the most liberating concepts imaginable. *“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace.”* (Colossians 3: 14, 15), and *“But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.”* (Philippians 2: 17,18)



The remaining non-Paulian epistles were written by James, Jude, Peter (First Peter and Second Peter) and John (First John, Second John, and Third John).

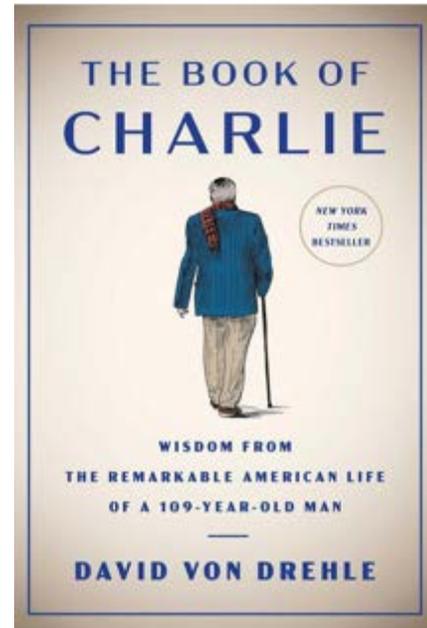
Do the epistles noted above constitute all the letters written by the apostles? Probably not. For example, there are no letters to emerging Christian populations in Damascus, or Caesarea, or Tyre, or Ptolemais, or many other places where Paul and the other apostles had associations. The absence of such letters is not surprising given the frequency of fires and the lack of a reliable postal system, not to mention the absence of xerox machines. That said, the adherence of all the known epistles to a similar set of core values – love, forgiveness, trust in God, hope, unity of purpose – suggests that any missing epistles almost certainly would have expressed the same point of view.

One final point. As often as our ears have listened to epistles with names like “First Corinthians” and “Second Thessalonians,” for most of us such places probably seem as abstract as the mythical “Shangri-La.” To try and remedy that situation, here is a map showing the location of the communities to which Paul and his fellow letter writers directed their missives.



Book Review – The Book of Charlie

When a veteran Washington journalist moved to Kansas, he met a new neighbor who was more than a century old. Little did he know that he was beginning a long friendship, and a profound lesson in the meaning of life. Charlie White was no ordinary neighbor. Born before radio, Charlie lived long enough to use a smartphone. When a shocking tragedy interrupted his idyllic boyhood, Charlie mastered survival strategies that reflect thousands of years of human wisdom. Thus armored, Charlie’s sense of adventure carried him on an epic journey across the continent, and later found him swinging across bandstands of the Jazz Age, racing aboard ambulances through Depression-era gangster wars, improvising techniques for early open-heart surgery, and cruising the Amazon as a guest of Peru’s president.



David Von Drehle came to understand that Charlie’s resilience and willingness to grow made this remarkable neighbor a master in the art of thriving through times of dramatic change. As a gift to his children, he set out to tell Charlie’s secrets. “The Book of Charlie” is a gospel of grit -- the inspiring story of one man’s journey through a century of upheaval. The history that unfolds through Charlie’s story reminds us that the United States has always been a divided nation, a questing nation, an inventive nation -- a nation of Charlies in the rollercoaster pursuit of a good and meaningful life.

Holy Redeemer's Adopted Seminarian -- Update

One component of Holy Redeemer's current three-year Pastoral Plan focuses on vocations. Part of that effort involves the creation of an "Adopt a Seminarian" Program. Our first "adopted" seminarian – Bryan Bangs – is from Sandwich. He is in the final stage of his studies at Seton Hall University and will be ordained shortly. We had hoped that Bryan would be able to visit Holy Redeemer this winter but unfortunately his studies currently prevent him from traveling. Please continue to pray for Bryan and for his vocation.



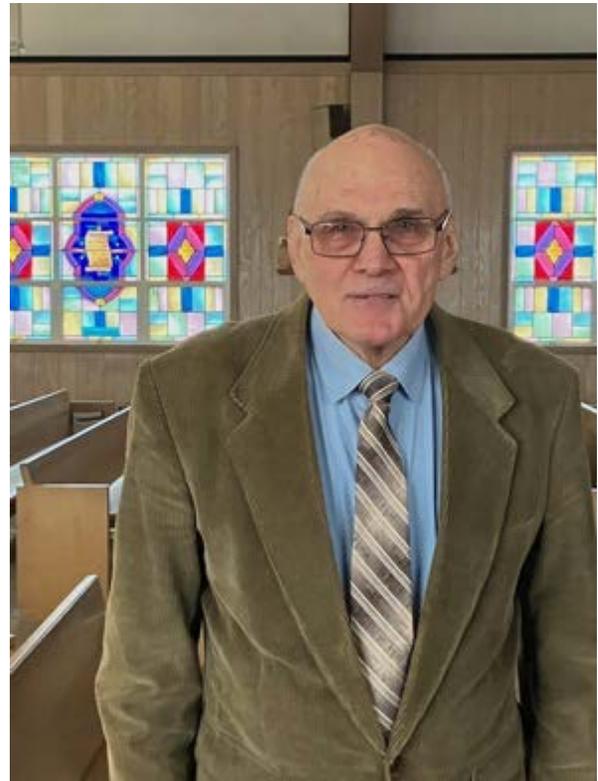
We are delighted to announce that Ray Tallia and the Knights of Columbus have generously provided a \$500 scholarship to Bryan.

We hope to be able to send a delegation from Holy Redeemer to attend Bryan's ordination ceremony in 2024.

Getting to Know the Congregation – Dennis Macklin

You probably don't pay much attention to Dennis Macklin. And that's the way he wants it: his role is to serve and not to be the center of attention. But Dennis is definitely worthy of some limelight because he's on track to be in the Guinness Book of Records. And how many of us can make that claim.

You see Dennis has been an altar server since he was in second grade. That's more than seventy years. The current record holder – the late Peter Reilly of Scotland -- served mass for 91 years. So Dennis only has a couple of decades left to go to become the new record holder. It shouldn't be a problem because as Dennis puts it "I have good knees."





Dennis currently serves at all the daily masses and at the 10 am mass on Sunday. He's developed an excellent working relationship with Father Sullivan. "He's very easy to work with." That hasn't always been the case with some priests Dennis has assisted. "Some priests can be very demanding," he noted, adding that one priest became very angry with him when the ribbons on the bible used during mass were mistakenly placed in the wrong positions. "He accused me of trying to select the readings for him."

Dennis' partnership with Father Sullivan began in 2019 when he moved back to the Cape. "I left Brewster in 2009 to get away from the snow, but I came back to help a relative in need." Prior to his off-again on-again relationship with the Cape Dennis had a long career in the Army working as a military analyst. He spent much of his time in the Army stationed at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, near the border with Mexico. He also had postings in Germany and several other bases outside the United States. Of his four children, two are Korean girls Dennis and his wife adopted as a result of his being stationed in South Korea.

Dennis has previously been involved with other religious ministries, including running a parish library and teaching religious education. But in speaking with him you get the sense that he seems most comfortable in the role of altar server. And if you watch Dennis closely during mass you will immediately be impressed by his calm demeanor, his nimble movements about the altar, and his deft anticipation as he smoothly glides from task to task. Almost like a nurse in an operating room handing instruments to the surgeon before they are requested. He seems so comfortable with his role as altar server you get the sense that the everything else that Dennis accomplished in his life simply functioned as a way of preparing him to be the world's best altar server.

As comfortable as Dennis seems performing his duties as altar server, he seemed equally *un-*comfortable talking about himself. Which begs the question of why he consented to be interviewed. "I'm hoping that it will encourage other people to become altar servers."

We hope so as well, Dennis. Knowing full well that none of them will likely be able to match the splendid example you have set.



Why Do We Do That?

Anyone who has gone to mass for a number of years, or participated in any other devotional practice, has occasionally wondered “why do we do that?” as they kneel or stand or make a particular gesture. Therefore we are including a section in Grace Notes entitled “Why Do We Do That?”, which will appear from time to time.

The ringing of altar bells at various times during the mass is a staple of Catholic services. But why do we ring bells in the first place? And when are they typically rung?



Bells in the Bible were a reminder of holiness. *“The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the Lord, and when he comes out.”* (Exodus 28:35). This particular scriptural passage speaks of the bells on the hem of the garment worn by Aaron, a high priest anointed and consecrated by the Lord. The sound of the bells told the people when he was in or out of the Temple.

Likewise today’s altar bells are rung to signify the real presence of Christ. They are frequently rung at the epiclesis, when the priest calls down the power of the Holy Spirit on the gifts of bread and wine, and again at the elevation of the Host and the elevation of the Chalice.

If you have any nagging “why do we do that” questions just let us know and we will provide the answer.

...Conclusion

Here’s a story for the St. Jude file.

Ten years ago, the world watched in awe as then 5-year-old Miles Scott transformed into Batkid and saved the city of San Francisco, thanks to Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area and the support and participation of many local partners and friends.





On November 15, 2013, with the help of the late San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, the San Francisco Police and Fire Departments, the San Francisco Giants, and countless others, San Francisco transformed into Gotham for the day and thousands of people crowded the streets to cheer Miles on as he battled villains, thwarted crime, freed San Francisco Giants mascot Lou Seal and earned a key to the city. The San Francisco Chronicle produced a special edition of the newspaper that day, with a full front-page takeover dedicated to the wish. The wish also inspired a full-length New Line Cinema and Warner Bros. documentary, entitled "Batkid Begin."

"I feel like it brought hope to more than just a couple people. They came out and were happy. It wasn't just about me on that day. It was about getting all together and just having fun."

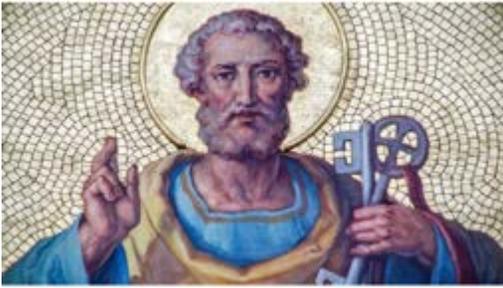
Today, at age 15, Miles remains cancer free and enjoys teen life in a small town near the Oregon border. After fighting his own heroic battle with leukemia since he was a year old, Miles visits his oncologist once a year, and has been in remission from leukemia for the past 10 years. When asked what he might want to say to his fans out there, Miles said: "I'm doing amazing. I would love to just say like 'yeah, I'm fine.'" Reflecting on his battle with cancer and his wish experience, he said: "I feel normal, but every time I think about it, it's like, 'Wow, that actually happened.'"

Having once suited up to save the city, Miles now suits up to play football at his high school, where he enjoys the comradery of his teammates and coaches. For his wish, he was driven around in the Batmobile, and he now drives a tractor when helping out on the family farm. Miles no longer fits in the Batkid costume, but his brother Ben wore it last Halloween

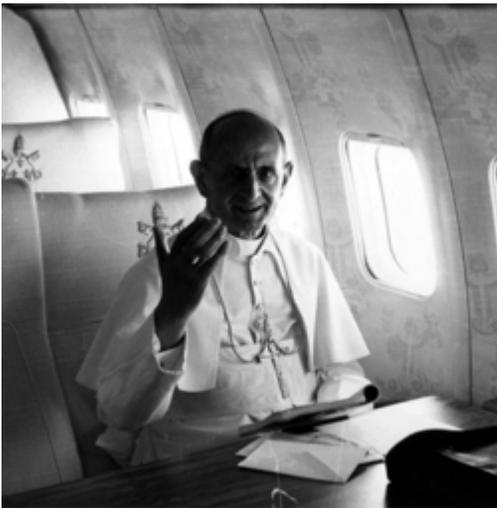


Answers to Jeopardy for Catholics

Answer to Number 1: Who was St. Peter?



Answer to Number 2: Who was Pope Paul VI?



Answer to Number 3: Who was Pope Urban VII? (NOTE:: Pope Urban VII died in 1590, after just 12 days in office. Half-credit if you guessed Pope John Paul I, who succeeded Pope Paul VI and was followed by Pope John Paul II. He died in 1978, after just 33 days in office.)

