

Una Voce Arkansas Ozarks Regional Newsletter

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Excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI's Sermon at the Beatification of Pope John Paul II

Please Note: *As Father Zuhlsdorf remarks, beatification is not an infallible act as canonization is. However, God has chosen to favor the Church with a miracle through Blessed Pope John Paul II's intercession, a sign of His blessing. Whatever we may think of certain judgments this pope made and things he did, only God can judge the interior disposition of this new Blessed and his actions.*

Let God always be the judge and let us imitate Pope John Paul II's virtues. Let us not engage in bitter words over his life and works as some are doing, but rather learn what God is teaching us through his life.

Six years ago we gathered in this Square to celebrate the funeral of Pope John Paul II. Our grief at his loss was deep, but even greater was our sense of an immense grace which embraced Rome and the whole world: a grace which was in some way the fruit of my beloved predecessor's entire life, and **especially of his witness in suffering**. Even then we perceived the fragrance of his sanctity, and in any number of ways God's People showed their veneration for him. For this reason, with all due respect for the Church's canonical norms, I wanted his cause of beatification to move forward with reasonable haste. And now the longed-for day has come; **it came quickly because this is what was pleasing to the Lord: John Paul II is blessed!**

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter, which Blessed John Paul II entitled Divine Mercy Sunday. **The date was chosen for today's celebration because, in God's providence, my predecessor died on the vigil of this feast.** Today is also the first day of May, Mary's month, and the liturgical memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker. All these elements serve to enrich our prayer, they help us in our pilgrimage through time and space; but in heaven a very different celebration is taking place among the angels and saints! Even so, God is but one, and one too is Christ the Lord, who like a bridge joins earth to heaven. At this moment we feel closer than ever, sharing as it were in the liturgy of heaven.



“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe” (*Jn 20:29*). In today’s Gospel Jesus proclaims this beatitude: the beatitude of faith. For us, it is particularly striking because we are gathered to celebrate a beatification, but even more so because today the one proclaimed blessed is a Pope, a Successor of Peter, one who was called to confirm his brethren in the faith. **John Paul II is blessed because of his faith, a strong, generous and apostolic faith.** We think

at once of another beatitude: “Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven” (*Mt 16:17*). What did our heavenly Father reveal to Simon? That **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Because of this faith, Simon becomes Peter, the rock on which Jesus can build his Church. The eternal beatitude of John Paul II, which today the Church rejoices to proclaim, is wholly contained in these sayings of Jesus: “Blessed are you, Simon” and “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe!” It is the beatitude of faith, which John Paul II also received as a gift from God the Father for the building up of Christ’s Church.**

Our thoughts turn to yet another beatitude, one which appears in the Gospel before all others. It is the beatitude of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Redeemer. Mary, who had just conceived Jesus, was told by Saint Elizabeth: “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (*Lk 1:45*). The beatitude of faith has its model in Mary, and all of us rejoice that the beatification of John Paul II takes place on this first day of the month of Mary, beneath the maternal gaze of the one who by her faith sustained the faith of the Apostles and constantly sustains the faith of their successors, especially those called to occupy the Chair of Peter. Mary does not appear in the accounts of Christ’s resurrection, yet hers is, as it were, a continual, hidden presence: she is the Mother to whom Jesus entrusted each of his disciples and the entire community. In particular we can see how Saint John and Saint Luke record the powerful, maternal presence of Mary in the passages preceding those read in today’s Gospel and first reading. In the account of Jesus’ death, Mary appears at the foot of the cross (*Jn 19:25*), and at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles she is seen in the midst of the disciples gathered in prayer in the Upper Room (*Acts 1:14*).

Today’s second reading also speaks to us of faith. Saint Peter himself, filled with spiritual enthusiasm, points out to the newly-baptized the reason for their hope and their joy. I like to think how in this passage, at the beginning of his First Letter, Peter does not use language of exhortation; instead, he states a fact. He writes: “you *rejoice*”, and he adds: “you *love* him; and even though you do not see

him now, you *believe* in him and *rejoice* with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you *are receiving* the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (*1 Pet* 1:6, 8-9). **All these verbs are in the indicative, because a new reality has come about in Christ’s resurrection, a reality to which faith opens the door.** “This is the Lord’s doing”, says the Psalm (118:23), and “it is marvelous in our eyes”, the eyes of faith.

Dear brothers and sisters, today our eyes behold, in the full spiritual light of the risen Christ, the beloved and revered figure of John Paul II. Today his name is added to the host of those whom he proclaimed saints and blessed during the almost twenty-seven years of his pontificate, thereby forcefully emphasizing the universal vocation to the heights of the Christian life, to holiness, taught by the conciliar Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium*. All of us, as members of the people of God – bishops, priests, deacons, laity, men and women religious – are making our pilgrim way to the heavenly homeland where the Virgin Mary has preceded us, associated as she was in a unique and perfect way to the mystery of Christ and the Church. Karol Wojtyła took part in the Second Vatican Council, first as an auxiliary Bishop and then as Archbishop of Kraków. **He was fully aware that the Council’s decision to devote the last chapter of its Constitution on the Church to Mary meant that the Mother of the Redeemer is held up as an image and model of holiness for every Christian and for the entire Church.** This was the theological vision which Blessed John Paul II discovered as a young man and subsequently maintained and deepened throughout his life. A vision which is expressed in the scriptural image of the crucified Christ with Mary, his Mother, at his side. This icon from the Gospel of John (19:25-27) was taken up in the episcopal and later the papal coat-of-arms of Karol Wojtyła: a golden cross with the letter “M” on the lower right and the motto “*Totus tuus*”, drawn from the well-known words of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort in which Karol Wojtyła found a guiding light for his life: “*Totus tuus ego sum et omnia mea tua sunt. Accipio te in mea omnia. Praebe mihi cor tuum, Maria* – I belong entirely to you, and all that I have is yours. I take you for my all. O Mary, give me your heart” (*Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*, 266).

...**“Do not be afraid! Open, open wide the doors to Christ!”** What the newly-elected Pope asked of everyone, he was himself the first to do: society, culture, political and economic systems he opened up to Christ, turning back with the strength of a titan – a strength which came to him from God – a tide which appeared irreversible. By his witness of faith, love and apostolic courage, accompanied by great human charisma, this exemplary son of Poland helped believers throughout the world not to be afraid to be called Christian, to belong to the Church, to speak of the Gospel. In a word: he helped us not to fear the truth, because truth is the guarantee of liberty. To put it even more succinctly: he gave us the strength to believe in Christ, because Christ is *Redemptor hominis*, the Redeemer of man. **This was the theme of his first encyclical, and the thread which runs through all the others.**

... Throughout the long journey of preparation for the great Jubilee he directed Christianity once again to the future, the future of God, which transcends history while nonetheless directly affecting it. **He rightly reclaimed for Christianity that impulse of hope which had in some sense faltered before Marxism and the ideology of progress. He restored to Christianity its true face as a religion of hope, to be lived in history in an “Advent” spirit, in a personal and communitarian existence directed to Christ, the fullness of humanity and the fulfillment of all our longings for justice and peace.**

Finally, on a more personal note, I would like to thank God for the gift of having worked for many years with Blessed Pope John Paul II. I had known him earlier and had esteemed him, but for twenty-three years, beginning in 1982 after he called me to Rome to be Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, I was at his side and came to revere him all the more. My own service was sustained by his spiritual depth and by the richness of his insights. **His example of prayer continually impressed and edified me:** he remained deeply united to God even amid the many demands of his ministry. **Then too, there was his witness in suffering: the Lord gradually stripped him of everything, yet he remained ever a “rock”, as Christ desired.** His profound humility, grounded in close union with Christ, enabled him to continue to lead the Church and to give to the world a message which became all the more eloquent as his physical strength declined. In this way he lived out in an extraordinary way the vocation of every priest and bishop to become completely one with Jesus, whom he daily receives and offers in the Church.

Blessed are you, beloved Pope John Paul II, because you believed! Continue, we implore you, to sustain from heaven the faith of God’s people. You often blessed us in this Square from the Apostolic Palace: Bless us, Holy Father! Amen.

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Our Lady, Star of Evangelization

May is Mary's month. How fitting, then, to offer images of our Mother for meditation and prayer. Mary always points us to her Son and gently protects us under her mantle where, as St. John Bosco saw in one of his dreams, we find protection from the Evil One whose head she crushes.

David Clayton posted an entry at [New Liturgical Movement](#) on this work by [Marek Czarnecki](#), an icon writer from Connecticut. The notes on this icon state: "Egg tempera and gold leaf on shaped wood panel, 24" x 24". Commissioned by Holy Spirit Friary, Franciscan University of Stuebenville OH.

An adaptation of the ancient Byzantine prototype, written to illustrate Pope John Paul II's praise of Our Lady as the "star of evangelization".



Clayton notes about Czarnecki's icon: "He is drawing on Western artistic traditions as well as Eastern in doing this. The style of the eight-pointed star, which is created by drawing two squares, is a common theme in the Western, Romanesque iconographic form (though not exclusive to it) and is seen, for example, in the geometric patterned art at the 12th century [Capella Palatina](#). **Eight-pointed stars symbolize, the 'eighth day' of creation, the incarnation, passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord.** Sunday is simultaneously the first day of the next week and the eighth day of the previous. The Octave of Easter, such a special time in the liturgical calendar, could be thought of perhaps, as eight consecutive days of eighth days."

More of Czernicki's work and his comments:

Our Lady of Life Giving Spring

Icon of Mary, The Mother of God, The Life-Giving Spring. Egg tempera and gold leaf on wood panel, 48" x 36". Commissioned by the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Springfield IL., for its 2003 centennial jubilee.

Based on a sixth century Byzantine prototype, with some modifications, while maintaining the integrity of the original. Here, the Mother of God is a full figure, seated above the fountain; the people of the world, indicative of the diocese, are multi racial, and lead by a Latin Rite bishop. The fountain has the coat of arms of the diocese of Springfield and Alton.

An allegorical icon, it shows Mary as "the fountain that brought forth the living waters" of Christ, and shows the church leading us to drink from that spring.



Our Lady of Vilnius

A faithful copy of the miraculous image of the Mother of God of Mercy, enshrined in the city gates ("Austras Varta") of Vilnius, Lithuania.

In this version, the gilded aedicule shrine recreates the architectural forms of the actual pointed gate (in Polish "Ostrabrama"). Under the pediment is painted the prayer to the Mother of God, repeated from the facade of the actual gate, "Mater Misericordiae Ora Pro Nobis"- "Mother of mercy, pray for us".

This image is honored by both Orthodox and Catholic believers, and was the prototype of the beloved icon of the Mother of God belonging to St. Seraphim of Sarov.



Hail Mary, full of grace, Theotokos, and Mother of all mankind. Pray for your children in their times of suffering and need. Mother of Peace and Truth, Mother of our Savior, Queen of heaven and earth, pray that we imitate your Son in our lives and in our deaths. Spouse of the Holy Spirit, obtain for us the graces of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit that we may claim our eternal inheritance after living a holy life. Be with us always as we conform ourselves to the will of God.



News and Notes

New Latin Mass location in Arkansas

After over a decade of prayer, sacrifice, letter writing, and petitions to the Ecclesia Dei Commission, Catholics in northwest Arkansas now have access to the Traditional Latin Mass. Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. they gather at St. Joseph Church, 154 E. Henri de Tonti Blvd. in Tontitown to celebrate the Extraordinary Form. *Deo Gratias!* He rewards persistent faithfulness.



Enroll now for a place in St. John Bosco Academy and St. Cecilia Girls School

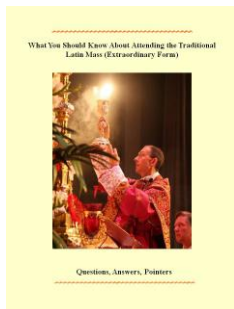
From Principal Lori Sonnier:



We are gathering applications for Saint John Bosco Academy and Saint Cecilia Girls School for next year. If you would like to enroll any of your children, please visit <http://www.saintjohnboscoacademy.net/> or send e-mail to lsonnier@hotmail.com. We are attempting to determine the number of students we will have for next year. **We are accepting boarding students in some cases.**

A Catholic school education is priceless, so be sure, if you have kids, to contact Mrs. Sonnier and **reserve a place for the future saints you are raising.**

Tips for Participating in the Traditional Latin Mass



Newcomers to the Traditional Mass often feel awkward and uncomfortable. If they are from parishes celebrating the Novus Ordo in English *versus populum*, Latin isn't the only foreign element. If they are non-Catholics who have not studied Catholic theology of the Eucharist they will find much that bewilders.

Newcomers are a great opportunity for Latin Mass groups to extend a wonderful welcome. If you want to help first-timers, or if you have friends who are curious and want to join you at Mass, this **free ebook** will help prepare them to have a good first experience. It can also be a discussion starter for groups studying the Traditional Latin Mass. You can download it here: <http://www.mediafire.com/?no0eifjsxabei4>.

This is something you'll want to share with others. Since it was uploaded in February, more than 800 people have downloaded it. **Let's don't keep the Traditional Mass a secret.** Invite your friends and offer them this booklet. Don't let non-Catholic Christians out do us in evangelizing.

Rorate Caeli Purgatorial Society

Click on this link: <http://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/search/label/Purgatorial%20Society> to contribute names of loved one who have passed away so the priests offering the Traditional Mass for the Purgatorial Society may pray for them. This is a worldwide endeavor for the Poor Souls.

To enroll family and friends, email Christopher Paulitz at cpaulitz@yahoo.com.

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**That Thou wouldst vouchsafe to humble the enemies of Mother Church.
(priests of Dachau Concentration Camp, 1939-45)**