The West Wagga Wag

Issue 117

Coming Events

St Thérèse of Child Jesus: Mon 1 **Relic of St Francis Xavier:** Leeton: Mon 1 Leeton and Rand: Tues 2 **Guardian Angels Feast:** Tues 2 St Francis of Assisi: Thurs 4 **Praver Vigil for Peace:** Thurs 4 **Divine Mercy Prayer** Group: Fri 5 Serra Club Wagga: Sat 6 **2012 World Mission** Sun 7 Appeal: **Parish Film Night:** Fri 12 **Rosary in the Park:** Sat 13 **Catholic Malabar Indian Rite Mass:** Sun 14 St Teresa of Jesus: Mon 15 St Luke: Thurs 18 Fri 19 **Prayers for Healing: Parish Silent Retreat:** Fri 19 to Sun21 **All Saints:** Nov Thurs 1 All Souls: Fri 2

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Wag Contacts

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The due date for the next Wag is: Sunday November 4th

Young Parishioners Caving!



During the holidays some of the young people from our parish travelled together to

explore the Jersey Cave, one of the Yarangobilly caves (a string of caves in a limestone belt, approximately 1.5 kilometres wide and 14 kilometres long).

about 2 hours from Wagga.



The weather was perfect for the trip & the barbecue expertly lit & cooked by the children (with proper supervision of course).

The guided tour of the caves took about one & a half hours.

The cave was filled with stalactites & stalagmites, formations called straws & bacon &

Lady Jersey's Dress. The guide explained that the colours derived from different colored dirt seeping into the cave & also smoke from bushfires hundreds or thousands of years ago.



All the beauty of nature in hidden places, waiting to be discovered & appreciated, is a sign of the greater beauty of God waiting to be discovered & praised & enjoyed by us.





September to December, 2012

Relic of St Francis Xavier in the Wagga Diocese Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd of October

Monday—Leeton Catholic Church: 6.00 pm Mass; 7.30 pm Talk & Veneration

Tuesday—Leeton Catholic Church: 9.00 am Mass; 10.00 am Talk & Veneration; 12 noon depart

Tuesday—Rand Catholic Church: 6.00 pm Rosary; 6.30 pm Mass 7.30 pm Supper at the Bowling Club





October 2012



The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. According to an account by fifteenth-century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St Dominic (Founder of the Order of Preachers) in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy.

Albigensianism claimed that a good deity created the world of the spirit, and an evil god the material world, including the human body, which is under its control. The good deity sent Jesus Christ, as a creature, to deliver human souls from their imprisonment. Albigensians favoured suicide and advocated abstaining from marriage. By the sixteenth century they had disappeared as a political force, but their Manichaean ideas reappeared in the Reformation.

The Blessed Virgin Mary praised Dominic for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others.

Since the prayers of the Rosary come from such excellent sources, from Our Lord Himself, from inspired Scripture, and from the Church, it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven.

If we consider the power of the Rosary as seen in its effects, we find a great abundance of proofs of its wonderful value. Many favours are granted to individuals through

pastor's page

its devout recitation: there are few devoted users of the Rosary who cannot testify to experiencing its power in their own lives. If we turn to history, we see many great triumphs of the Rosary. Pope St Pius V attributed the great defeat of the Turkish fleet on the first Sunday of October, 1571, to the fact that at the same time the Rosarv confraternities Rome at and elsewhere were holding their Rosary prayer processions. Accordingly, he ordered a commemoration of the Rosary to be made on that day each year, October 7. Two years later, Pope Gregory XIII allowed the celebration of a feast of the Rosary churches having an in altar dedicated to the Rosary. In 1671, Pope Clement X extended the feast of the Holy Rosary to all Spain. A second great victory over the Ottoman Turks, who threatened the ruin of Christian civilization, occurred on August 5, 1716, when Prince Eugene defeated the Moorish Turks at Peterwardein in Hungary. Thereupon Pope Clement XI extended the feast of the Rosary to the whole Church.

Today, when dangers far greater than those of the ancient Turks threaten not only Christianity but all civilization, we are urged by our



Blessed Mother at Lourdes, Fatima and Akita to turn again to the Rosary for help. If Christians in sufficient numbers do this, and at the same time carry out the other conditions that she requested, we have the greater reason for confidence that we will be delivered from all dangers.

of No form extra-liturgical devotion to Mary is more widely practiced among the faithful or found by them to be more satisfyingly complete than the Rosary, which has come to be regarded as the very badge of Catholic piety. No form of extraliturgical devotion to Mary has been recommended more warmly or frequently by the Popes. With perhaps two exceptions, all the Sovereign Pontiffs from Sixtus IV in 1478 down to Benedict XVI, especially Leo XIII and Blessed John Paul II (in 25 documents, ten of them encyclicals entirely on the Rosary), have extolled this form of prayer. Blessed JP II said, 'the Rosary is my favourite prayer'.

Pope Benedict XVI in 2011 on the feast of the Rosary, stated that the Rosary is experiencing a new springtime: "It is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother." Moreover, such saints as St Teresa of Avila (whose feast day is this month), St Francis de Sales, St Louis de Montfort, St Alphonsus Liguori, St Don Bosco, St Bernadette of Lourdes, the Blessed "children" of Fatima and many more have begged people to recite the Rosary daily as individuals or as families.

This month re-engage the family Rosary with renewed enthusiasm. No one fails to be blessed who recites this beautiful prayer daily. It assuages problems and removes obstacles. Our Lady of the most holy Rosary pray for us.

Fr Gerard

October

I was visiting my daughter and sonin-law the other night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

'This is the 21st century, old man,' he said. 'We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPad.'

I can tell you, that pesky blowfly never knew what hit it!

A mum was about to serve pancakes for little Johnny and Marty. They began to argue over who would get the biggest pancake. Discerning an opportunity to teach a spiritual lesson, the mother told them, "If Jesus were at this table, he would of say, I can wait, let my brother have the biggest pancake." Johnny turned to his brother and said, "Okay, Marty, you be Jesus."

Mary and her little brother Tommy were at Sunday Mass when Tommy began to sing and act up. Finally, Mary had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in Mass." Tommy replied, "Oh yeah, well who's going to stop me?" Mary pointed to the back of the church, and said, "See those two men in jackets standing by the door? They're hushers."

What's as big as an elephant but weighs nothing? An elephant's shadow!

A fruit farmer hired two new workers for his fields, but before he sent them out for the day's work, he told them he had just one rule: don't steal any fruit. The two agreed to obey the rule.

After the day was over, the two workers came in to report to the farmer. He asked them if they had stolen any fruit, and immediately their conscience forced them to tell the truth.

"Yes, we did. We ate some when we got hungry," they said.



The farmer replied, "Ok, here is your punishment. I want each of you to go pick ten of your favorite fruit and come back to me."

The men couldn't believe their ears. This seemed more like a reward than a punishment!

After fifteen minutes, the first thief came back with ten cherries. The farmer promptly told him that as part of his punishment, he would have to stuff each cherry up his nose. The thief was upset about this, but he knew he had done wrong, so he slowly began to push the cherries up his nose one by one.

As he was working on the third cherry, he began to laugh hysterically. The farmer asked him, "What's so funny?"

The thief replied, "The other guy is out there picking watermelons!"

Grandpa John was celebrating his 100th birthday and everybody complimented him on how athletic and well-preserved he appeared. "Gentlemen, I will tell you the secret of my success," he cackled. "I have been in the open air day after day for some 75 years now." The celebrants were impressed and

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OOOOOOOH, LOOK AT MR FANCY JOSEPH

Jokes

asked how he managed to keep up his rigorous fitness regime. "Well, you see my wife and I were married 75 years ago. On our wedding night, we made a solemn pledge. Whenever we had a fight, the one who was proved wrong would go outside and take a walk."

A sloth calls the police to report that he was attacked & robbed by a gang of turtles. When the police ask him to describe the attack, he replies: "I ... doooon't knoooow ... It ... all ... happened ... sooooo ... faaassst ..."

A terrific explosion occurs in a gunpowder factory, and once all the mess has been cleared up, and inquiry begins. One of the few survivors is pulled up to make a statement. "Okay Simpson," says the investigator, "you were near the scene, what happened?" "Well, it's like this. Old Charley Higgins was in the mixing room, and I saw him take a cigarette out of his pocket and light up." "He was smoking in the mixing room?" the investigator said in stunned horror, "How long had he been with the company?" "About 20 years, sir" "20 years in the company, then he goes and strikes a match in the mixing room, I'd have thought it would have been the last thing he'd have done." "It was. sir."

"Just relax", the hospital staff kept telling Jim, but it was to no avail. Jim's wife was in labor and Jim was a nervous wreck. After what seemed like a week, to both Jim and the hospital staff, a nurse came out with the happy news, "it's a girl", she cried. "A girl! Thanks be to God!", said Jim, "at least she won't have to go through what I just went through!"

God's Grace

One Easter Sunday morning a pastor came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, & set it by the pulpit.. Eyebrows were raised &, as if in response, the pastor said:

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were 3 little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright.

I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds."

"What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home & have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em. And pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh ?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?"

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket



and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!!"

"How much? He asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.



Ho.T FILM NIGHT



Friday October 12th 7.30 pm - Join together to watch:

Letters to God PG

A young boy fighting cancer writes letters to God, touching lives in his neighborhood and community and inspiring hope among everyone he comes in contact. An unsuspecting substitute postman, with a troubled life of his own, becomes entangled in the boy's journey and his family by reading the letters. They inspire him to seek a better life for himself and his own son he's lost through his alcohol addiction.

Tea and coffee provided. Come and enjoy!

ISSUE 117

LIFE wristband dropped in Carpark saves baby from abortion

BY PETER BAKLINSKI

MANKATO, Minnesota, 5 September, 12 (LifeSiteNews.com) – Rachel remembers being excited as she purchased a red Bound4LIFE bracelet with the single word LIFE engraved on it. Wearing the bracelet wasn't a fad or fashion statement for her, but a sign of her commitment to pray daily for the end of abortion.

But one day, as Rachel was loading groceries into her car from Walmart, the LIFE Band inexplicably slipped off her wrist and landed on the parking lot, without her even knowing it had happened.

"I looked everywhere for it — in my car, my bedroom, everywhere," said Rachel in a testimony obtained by LifeSiteNews. "I finally decided that it must have slipped off while I was carrying those groceries to the car."

While being perplexed about how the bracelet could have fallen off her wrist without her knowing it, Rachel nevertheless hoped that "somebody who needs it will find it."

The Bound4Life LIFE band, the same kind that Rachel dropped in the parking lot.

Not many months later, Rachel began a job as a server in a local Olive Garden restaurant. One day a mother and her newborn baby came in and were seated in her section.

Rachel greeted the woman at the table & remembers her being "very pretty... probably in her mid-20s."

"She seemed a bit shy, but she smiled as I greeted her."

Rachel served her a drink, took her order, and made some small talk about how the woman's baby was beautiful and seemed so peaceful as she slept in her baby seat.

As Rachel talked to the woman, she caught a quick glimpse of a red bracelet wrapped around the woman's wrist with the distinctive word LIFE engraved on it. "You have a LIFE Band, huh?" Rachel ventured.

The woman was at first confused about what Rachel was referring to, but then clued in. "Yeah, I found this in a parking lot," the woman replied.

The woman, noticing that Rachel was curious about the bracelet, mentioned that she had a peculiar story about the bracelet that she would not mind sharing. Rachel was all ears.



The woman recounted that a few months previous she was dismayed to find herself unexpectedly pregnant. She had gone out shopping to distract herself because she had just scheduled an appointment to get an abortion & was terrified. The appointment was 2 days away.

As the woman walked from her car into Walmart, a red bracelet lying on the ground caught her eye. She picked it up and saw that it had the word LIFE on it. She quickly stowed the bracelet in her purse & continued shopping.

That night the woman sat in her room crying, filled with an awful dread about what she was about to do. She was worried about what her parents would think & felt the need to "get rid of the problem." As well, her boyfriend had abandoned her, making abortion seem like the only choice left.

At this point in the woman's story, Rachel could not hold back her tears any longer. She completely forgot she was working & had other tables to serve.

The woman recounted how at this bleakest of moments, she suddenly remembered the bracelet in her purse. She pulled it out & held it in her fingers until she drifted off into a troubled sleep.

At one point she suddenly awoke in the middle of the night with the word "LIFE" surging through her mind and heart.

In the morning, the woman canceled her abortion appointment.

"I was stunned," Rachel remembers about hearing this incredible story. "All I could do was cry. This beautiful baby girl that was sitting in the carrier was her almost aborted baby. I just couldn't stop crying."

Through sobs and sniffles, Rachel told the woman how she had lost a LIFE Band in the very same parking lot, not many months ago.

"I told her the meaning behind the band and what the word LIFE on the band actually meant."

Now both women were crying, with tears of joy and gratitude streaming down their faces.

Through her sobs, the woman managed to whisper to Rachel: "Thank you. If you hadn't lost this bracelet, I wouldn't have my beautiful baby next to me."

Rachel says that she will "forever remember" the woman with her precious little daughter.

"Losing that Life Band was probably the best thing that ever happened to me. Ultimately, it was the best thing that happened to this mother and her baby girl who is alive because God intervened in a parking lot one night."

The Amazing story of the Hiroshima Eight



Early on August 6, 1945, a lone American B-29 Superfortress bomber circled in a vividly blue sky over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The unsuspecting inhabitants on the ground barely glanced at the plane. They were unaware of the deadly payload it was about to unleash on them, ushering in the atomic age with unimaginable death & destruction. As one single bomb neared the ground, a city died in an instant. Houses crumbled, people evaporated, an immense ball of fire shot skywards, & a terrible wave of super-heated gas bulged out from ground zero, flattening buildings for miles.

Amongst the unsuspecting inhabitants of Hiroshima was Fr. Schiffer, a Jesuit missionary assisting the many Catholics of that city. On the morning of August 6, 1945, he had just finished Mass and sat down at the breakfast table. As he plunged his spoon into a freshly sliced grapefruit, there was a bright flash of light. His first thought was that a fuel tanker had exploded in the harbor, as Hiroshima was a major port where the Japanese refueled their submarines. Then, in the words of Fr. Schiffer: "Suddenly, a terrible explosion filled the air with one bursting thunder stroke. An invisible force lifted me from the chair, hurled me through the air, shook me, battered me, whirled me round and round like a leaf in a gust of autumn wind." Next thing he remembered was that he opened his eyes & found himself on the ground. He looked around, and saw

there was nothing left in any direction: the railroad station and buildings in all directions were gone. Yet, the only harm to him was a few slight cuts in the back of his neck form shards of grass. As far as he could tell, there was nothing else physically wrong. The small community of Jesuits to which Fr. Schiffer belonged lived in a house near the parish church, only 8 blocks from the center of the blast. When Hiroshima was destroyed by the atomic bomb, all 8 members of the small Jesuit community escaped unscathed, while every other person within a radius of one-and-a-half kilometers from ground zero died immediately. The house where the Jesuits lived was still standing, while buildings in every direction from it were leveled. Father Hubert Schiffer was 30 years old when the atomic bomb exploded right over his head at Hiroshima. He not only survived, but also lived a healthy life for another 33 years! How did this group of men survive a nuclear blast that killed everyone else, even people over ten times further away from the blast? It is absolutely unexplainable by scientific means. An interesting detail is that this group of Catholic clergy was made up of ardent enthusiasts of the Message of Fatima. They lived the Message. Was their fidelity to Our Lady rewarded by this stupendous miracle of their survival? Even more astonishing is that the story was to be repeated a few days later at Nagasaki, the second Japanese city to be hit by an atomic bomb. In both Hiroshima & Nagasaki the survivors were Catholic religious. Most other buildings were leveled to the ground, even at 3 times the distance, but in both cases their houses stood - even with some windows intact! All other people, bar a handful of scattered mutilated

survivors, even at thrice the distance from the explosion, died instantly. Those within a radius ten times the distance of the Jesuits from the explosion were exposed to fierce radiation & died within days. After the American conquest of Japan, U.S. army doctors explained to Fr. Schiffer that his body would soon begin to deteriorate because of the radiation. To the doctors' amazement, Fr. Schiffer's body showed no radiation or ill effects from the bomb. All who were at this range from the epicenter should have received enough radiation to be dead within a matter of minutes. Scientists examined the group of Hiroshima Jesuits over 200 times during the next 30 years and no ill effects were ever found. Could it have been a fluke? Could the bomb's makers have designed it to avoid killing U.S. citizens? There is no known way to design a uranium-235 atomic bomb so it could leave such a large discrete area intact while destroying everything around it. The Jesuits say: "We believe that we survived because we were living the message of Fatima. We lived & prayed the Rosary daily in that house." Fr. Schiffer feels that he received a protective shield from the Blessed Virgin, which protected him from all radiation and ill effects. He attributes this to his devotion to Our Lady, and his daily Fatima Rosary: "In that house the Holy Rosary was recited together every day." Secular scientists are dumbfounded and incredulous at his explanation. They are sure there is some 'real' explanation. However, over 60



The Hiroshima 8 continued ...

years later the scientists still have not been able to explain it. From a scientific standpoint, what happened to those Jesuits at Hiroshima still defies all the laws of physics. It must be concluded that some other force was present, whose power to transform energy and matter as it relates to humans is beyond our comprehension. Dr. Stephen Rinehart of the U.S. Department of Defense is widely recognized as an international expert in the field of atomic blasts. Says Rinehart: "A quick calculation says that at one kilometer the bulk temperature was in excess of 20,000 to 30,000 degrees F, & the blast wave would have hit at sonic velocity with pressures on buildings greater than 600 PSI. If the Jesuits, at one kilometer from the geometric epicenter, were outside the atomic bomb's "plasma" their residence should still have been utterly

destroyed. Un-reinforced masonry or brick walls, representative of commercial construction, are destroyed at 3 PSI, which will also cause ear damage and burst windows. At 10 PSI, a human being will experience severe lung and heart damage, burst eardrums and at 20 PSI limbs can be blown off. All the cotton clothing would be on fire at 350 degrees Fahrenheit, and your lungs would be inoperative within a minute of breathing even one lungful of air at these temperatures. "No way could any human have survived nor should anything have been left standing at one kilometer. At 10 times the distance, about 10 to 15 kilometers. I saw the brick walls standing from an elementary school & there were a few badly burned survivors; all died within 15 years of some form of cancer. Reconnaissance pictures taken of a panoramic view from epicenter of the blast, at Shima

Hospital looking towards the Jesuits' house, did show some kind of 2-story building totally intact, at least from what I could make out, & it looked to me the windows were in place. Also there was a church with walls still standing a few hundred yards away, but the roof was gone.

"The Department of Defense never commented officially on this & I suspect it was classified & never discussed in open literature... it is possible the Jesuits were asked not to say anything either at the time." For God, who made all matter and energy, it is simply a matter of willing it and the laws that govern them are suspended. This is what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It also happened in ancient times, to the loyal servants of God Sidrach, Misach, and Abdenago, as is related in the Book of Daniel (3:19-24).

Death of the Rosary Crusader

A Jesuit priest who inspired Catholics across England has died on August 21, aged 95.

Fr Hugh Thwaites converted from Anglicanism to Catholicism following his experience as a prisoner of the Japanese during the Second World War and later became a Jesuit priest.

He linked the abandonment of the rosary with a loss of faith, writing: 'If we want in any way to be like Jesus, we must do what His Mother asks. If we do not, can we expect things to go right?'

Following his conversion, Fr Thwaites was passionate about evangelisation and he was renowned for asking people: 'Are you a Catholic?' and then adding: 'But you would like to be, wouldn't you?' He also once compared the Anglican Church to 'whisky with three parts water', while saying Catholics were 'straight out of the bottle'. Fr Thwaites was instrumental in the establishment of the annual Rosary Crusade, during which Catholics recite the rosary in procession from Westminster Cathedral to London Oratory .



In his booklet, *Our Glorious Faith and How to Lose It*, Fr Thwaites made a passionate case for the importance of the rosary to the Catholic faith.

He wrote: 'I know that Fatima is only a private revelation, but nevertheless the Church has endorsed it, and that makes it rash for us to disregard it. If

Fr Hugh Thwaites SJ

the Church informs us that Our Lady really did come to Fatima and tell us these things, then we must harken to her words. It really seems to me that those Catholics who do not take Fatima seriously and say the rosary every day in their homes are very akin to the Jews who laughed at Jeremiah.

'If God sends us His prophets and we do not take them seriously well, we have the whole of the Old Testament to tell us what happens as a result. But at Fatima, God sent us not His prophets, but His Immaculate Mother. So I think that the abandonment of the family rosary is a main reason why so many Catholics have lost the faith. It seems to me that the Church of the future is going to consist solely of those families who have been faithful to the rosary. But there will be vast numbers of people whose families used to be Catholic.'

