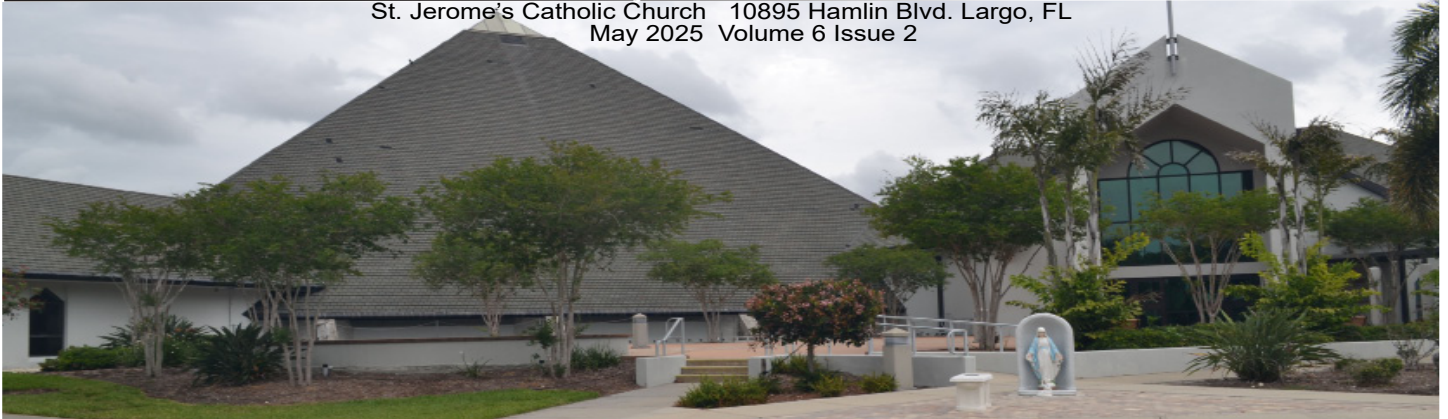


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
May 2025 Volume 6 Issue 2



Eternal rest grant unto him,
O Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.
Amen.

Mothers' Day May 11, 2025

Mother of Mercy

'Neath the foot of the Cross, She faithfully kept Her watch
Consoled by Saint John e'er so softly,
And from the Cross itself He bent down,
To give us a Mother of Mercy.

It was as if it was not enough to bear the Cross
That sinners wretched He might redeem,
More generous still, He bent down
To endow us with the fairest Queen.

Queen of Heaven, Queen of Angels, and Queen of all men,
Queen of Priests and Holy Souls awaiting,
Mistress to the pleading child in need,
Mother of Mercy: sweet succoring.

O Mother most merciful, Mother of compassion,
Ark of Salvation, Gate of Heaven,
Refuge of sinners and those in despair,
To Thee we fly, unto Thy leaven.

O Mother most sweet, most radiant, O Mother of mothers!
Mother most pure, Mother most dear,
Thee do we entreat sending up our sighs,
As Thou benedest to blot every tear.

O Mother most tender, most mild, O Mother of Mercy!
Masterpiece of God's holy design,
Fount of all graces, Thine to dispense,
To the humble, repentant, uncondign.

'Neath the foot of our crosses, Thou maintains Thy watch,
That Thy servants persevere e'er fast,
'Til from Cherubim'd Throne He bends down,
And with Thee, welcomes us home at last.

by Pauly Fongemie

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



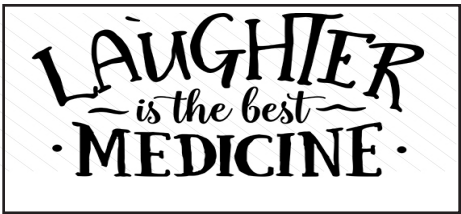
Pete McCabe

Brothers:
the month of May is an important month for our council. There are many important events. We are having a Mass at the grotto on Saturday, May 10, presided by our council chaplain, Fr. Mike. The Mass is for the repose of the souls of Knights and Columbiettes along with their families. Hopefully you can join us.
Later in the month, during our general meeting on May 14, we will be holding the council officers' elections for the next fraternal year. Choosing your next set of officers is always an important event. Please plan to attend to make your vote count. You must be present to vote.

Finally, on Sunday, May 18, there will be a going away reception for Sr. Lucia. As you know, she is retiring and her long and faithful service to St. Jerome Church should be celebrated. Please plan to attend to say thank you from the Knights.
Enjoy this Easter season.
He is risen!



The Empire State Building in New York honored Pope Francis April 21 by shining its tower lights in the papal colors of white and gold in memory of his life and legacy.



A balanced diet simply means having cupcakes in each hand.

Being an adult is like folding a sheet. No one really knows how to do it.

There are three different types of people. Those who can count, and those who can't.

You have to love your siblings, even when they borrow your stuff and never give it back.

Is cardboard more board than card or more card than board?

I'm not always hungry; sometimes I'm sleepy, too.

Running in place will get you nowhere fast.

People are like refrigerators: it's what's inside that matters.

Sometimes I just wish aliens would abduct me and crown me their leader.

Here I am! What are your other 2 wishes?

Never underestimate your child's ability to embarrass you.

Patience is a virtue, but I don't want to wait that long.

You guys are the only people who roast me at dinner and still expect me to do the dishes.

We place too much emphasis on the early bird's good luck and not enough on the early worm's bad luck.

Hello from the other side of the couch because I'm not getting up.

I'm currently unsupervised. I know, it freaks me out, too, but the possibilities are endless.

Why is there a light in the fridge if we're not meant to have midnight snacks?
I'm not mad. I'm just disappointed.

You've always taught me to be independent. Thank you for giving me enough of your hard-earned money so I can be.

Teen's Tumors Vanish after Prayers to Blessed Solanus Casey: A Possible Final Miracle for Canonization

A Michigan teenager's unexplained healing after prayers to Blessed Solanus Casey could become the miracle the Church needs to declare the beloved Capuchin friar a saint.

Sixteen-year-old Mary Bartold was facing surgery after doctors discovered tumors on both her ovaries. As she prepared for what could have been a life-changing operation, her parents, Susan and Rick Bartold, turned to prayer, making a pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit and initiating a novena. Mary, a sophomore at Lansing Catholic High School, had first experienced sharp abdominal pain during school.

"I was toppled over," she recalled. "I couldn't move at all, because it hurt so bad."

When the pain persisted, concern deepened. A CT scan and ultrasound revealed alarming results: there was a 7.3 cm mass on Mary's left ovary and a 1.5 cm mass on the right. Doctors feared ovarian torsion — an emergency that could result in the loss of her reproductive organs. The possibility devastated Mary.

"All she could say to us was, 'I want to be a mom,'" Susan remembered. "And even though we understand that there are other ways to be a beautiful mother, for a 16-year-old, it was really, really hard."

Physicians at the University of Michigan determined the masses were teratomas — tumors typically benign

but still requiring surgical removal. The procedure was scheduled.

Trusting in the power of prayer, the Bartolds visited the Solanus Casey Center, asking not only for Mary's healing, but also that she be granted the grace "to travel this road that the Lord had put before her," Susan said.

Then came Blessed Solanus' feast day. Mary underwent an MRI early that morning. As Susan drove her to the appointment, she prayed aloud: "Solanus, this is your feast day. I know you have news."

That evening, Susan saw the results in Mary's patient portal. It appeared that the tumors were gone.

The next day, Mary's doctor called and confirmed it. "She was just like, 'There's nothing there. It's all gone,'" Susan recalled. The doctor apologized for the delay in calling, explaining she had consulted with multiple radiologists to be absolutely certain before sharing the news.

"I really wanted to make sure that I was telling you the correct news," Mary's doctor had said. "We are going to cancel the surgery."

"I thought it was a mistake," Mary



said. But when the reality sank in, her response was simple: "I was just grateful. I didn't have to get the surgery."

On the day Mary was originally scheduled for surgery, the family returned to Casey's tomb in thanks-giving and submitted documentation of her healing to the Solanus Casey Center for possible consideration by the Vatican.

If the Vatican recognizes Mary's healing as a miracle, it could fulfill the final requirement for canonization. Solanus, who died in 1957, was beatified in 2017.

Brothers: Here are some events to put on your calendar for May:

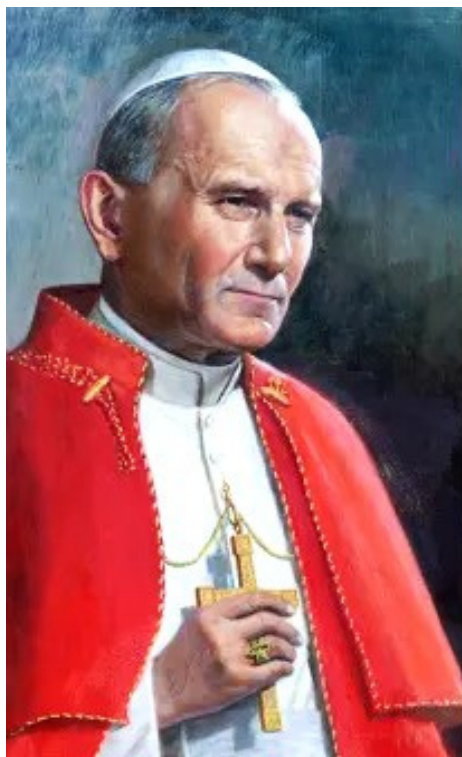
- May 1: Bingo (Team A), 11 am, Parish Center
- May 3: Grotto/ECC Cleanup, 9 am
- May 7: Officers' meeting, 7 pm, Parish Center
- May 8: Bingo (Team B), 11 am, Parish Center
- May 10: Mass at Grotto, 8:30 am
- May 10/11: Baby Bottle event at each Mass, wear your blue shirt
- May 14: General meeting, 7 pm, Parish Center
- May 15: Bingo (Team A), 11 am, Parish Center
- May 17: Walk for Life, 10 am, Crest Lake Park
- May 17/18: Collect Baby Bottles at each Mass, wear your blue shirt
- May 18: Sr. Lucia reception, 11:45 am Parish Center
- May 21: Reset PC for Bingo, 4 pm
- May 22: Bingo (Team B), 11 am, Parish Center
- May 28: Reset Parish Center for Bingo, 4 pm
- May 29: Bingo (Team A), 11 am, Parish Center

The Common Ingredient the Fathers of These Three Saints Used



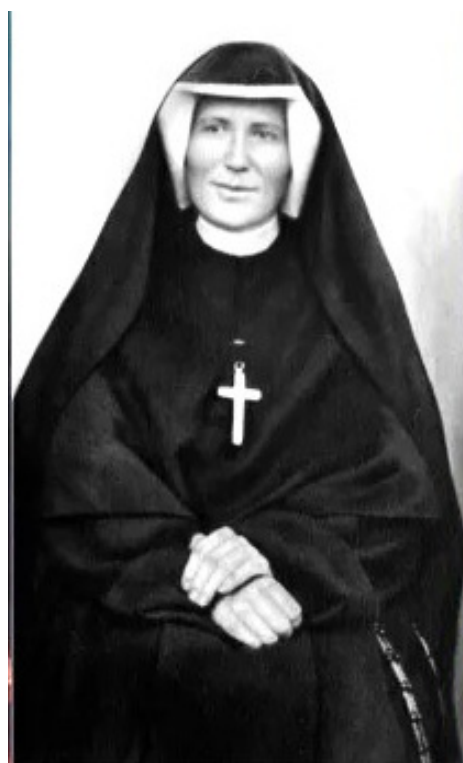
**The Father of
St. Alphonsus Liguori**

Born into a noble — but stern — family near Naples, Alphonsus Liguori's early life was shaped by the firm hand of his father, Don Joseph de Liguori. Though strict and demanding, his father instilled in young Alphonsus a discipline that was not merely about social or legal excellence but also about cultivating the inner life. In a household where prayer and catechesis were as routine as meals, the father's insistence on order and reflection created the fertile ground for a spiritual awakening. Even as Alphonsus chose a path that defied his father's worldly ambitions for him, the disciplined solitude of his early years — marked by quiet reflection and personal prayer — remained a defining legacy. This atmosphere of deliberate silence and attentive listening to God would later enable Alphonsus to respond to that inner call, transforming personal despair into a ministry of mercy and moral theology.



**The Father of
Pope St. John Paul II**

Karol Józef Wojtyła — later known as Pope John Paul II — grew up in a home that was, in many respects, a domestic seminary. After the loss of his mother and later his brother, his father became his principal guide, modeling for him a life steeped in prayer, simplicity, and a quiet dignity that spoke volumes in the silence of the family home. His father's gentle but firm example of how to find God in the everyday — whether in moments of stillness or in the measured rhythms of daily routine — taught young Karol that true strength is born of an inner life nurtured in solitude. This legacy of attentive listening and heartfelt prayer became the cornerstone of John Paul II's own spirituality, enabling him later to lead a pontificate that resonated with millions around the globe.



**The Father of
St. Faustina Kowalska**

While detailed records of St. Faustina's paternal influence are less documented, traditional hagiographies tell of a home steeped in devout piety and gentle, loving guidance. Faustina's father is remembered as a man who, through his own quiet commitment to prayer and a humble reliance on God, helped create a nurturing environment where sacred silence was not an abstract ideal but a lived reality. In that sacred atmosphere — where moments of solitary reflection were interwoven with familial love — the seeds of divine mercy took root in Faustina's heart. Her later revelations of God's unfathomable mercy echo the timeless influence of a father who modeled how to seek and trust God amid the trials of everyday life.

Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.

The first step in receiving God's forgiveness is admitting that we need it.

If you're too busy to pray, you're too busy.

The Miracle Attributed to Carlo Acutis' Prayers



The beatification of Carlo Acutis took place Oct. 10, 2020, after a miracle attributed to his prayers and the grace of God. In Brazil, a boy named Mattheus was healed from a serious birth defect called an annular pancreas after he and his mother asked Acutis to pray for his healing. Mattheus was born in 2009 with a serious condition that caused him difficulty eating and serious abdominal

pain. He was unable to keep any food in his stomach and vomited constantly.

By the time Mattheus was nearly four years old, he weighed only 20 pounds, and lived on a vitamin and protein shake, one of the few things his body could tolerate. He was not expected to live long.

His mother, Luciana Vianna, had spent years praying for his healing.

At the same time, a priest friend of the family, Fr. Marcelo Tenorio, learned online about the life of Carlo Acutis, and began praying for his beatification. In 2013 he obtained a relic from Carlo's mother, and he invited Catholics to a Mass and prayer service in his parish, encouraging them to ask Mattheus'

mother if she heard about the prayer service. She decided she would ask Acutis to intercede for her son. In fact, in the days before the prayer service, Vianna made a novena for Acutis' intercession, and explained to her son that they could ask Acutis to pray for his healing.

On the day of the prayer service, she took Mattheus and other family members to the parish.

Fr. Nicola Gori, the priest responsible for promoting Acutis' sainthood cause, told Italian media what happened next:

"On October 12, 2013, seven years after Carlo's death, a child, affected by a congenital malformation (annular pancreas), when it was his turn to touch the picture of the future blessed, expressed a singular wish, like a prayer: 'I wish I could stop vomiting so much.' Healing began immediately, to the point that the physiology of the organ in question changed," Fr. Gori said.

On the way home from the Mass, Mattheus told his mother that he was already cured. At home, he asked for French fries, rice, beans, and steak - the favorite foods of his brothers. He ate everything on his plate. He didn't vomit. He ate normally the next day, and the next. Vianna took Mattheus to physicians, who were mystified by Mattheus' healing.

Mattheus' mother told Brazilian media she sees in the miracle an opportunity to evangelize.

"Before, I didn't even use my cell phone, I was averse to technology. Carlo changed my way of thinking, he was known for talking about Jesus on the Internet, and I realized that my testimony would be a way to evangelize and give hope to other families. I understand that everything new can be good, if we use it for good."

Editor's Note: Carlos will not be canonized until a new pope has been selected.

Actress Nicole Kidman Considered Religious Life as a Catholic Nun Before Big Hollywood Break

Did you know actress Nicole Kidman once considered religious life?

The Australian-American actress, wife, and mother was raised in an Irish Catholic family and considers the faith an integral part of her life. The Sisters of Mercy taught Kidman as a child. She fell away from the church for several years but returned before marrying singer and musician Keith Urban.

Over the years, she openly discussed her faith in various interviews. She said she attends Mass regularly, goes to confession, and raises her children in the Catholic Church.

Kidman, who married Urban in a Catholic ceremony in 2006, says their family attends Mass together.

"That's how we are raising our children. Keith has his own beliefs, but

he comes, too," the actress said. "I had a very Catholic grandmother, and I was raised praying, so that had a massive impact."

Kidman said she wears a crucifix her grandmother gave her. She also considered the religious life before making it in Hollywood.

"I'm spiritual in the sense that I absolutely believe in God," she said. "I loved the idea of being a nun. Obviously, I did not choose to go that path, but I was very drawn to it."

Kidman said her friends ridicule her for practicing her faith.

"A lot of my friends tease me," she said.

"Catholicism guides me," she said. "I certainly have a strong belief. I try to go to church regularly, and I try to go to confession."



Lourdes Medical Committee Approves 72nd Official Healing

The healing of an Italian woman's multiple debilitating symptoms due to primary lateral sclerosis (PLS) became the 72nd official miracle of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes April 16 when her home diocese proclaimed that she was miraculously cured.

The sanctuary's website states that Antonietta Raco's symptoms began in 2004 when she started experiencing severe migraines, weakness, and difficulty walking. The next year, she started struggling to swallow and speak, leading to her PLS diagnosis in 2006. By the following year, she was partially paralyzed.

In August 2009, she went on a pilgrimage from her home in Basilicata, Italy, to Lourdes, France. When she was immersed in the baths, she reported feeling an unusual sense of well-being and being able to walk again. She did not speak about it until

she returned home.

A later appointment confirmed her PLS diagnosis, but all of her symptoms had disappeared. She declared her cure to the Lourdes Office of Medical Observations in July 2010, prompting the sanctuary's medical bureau to immediately open an investigation.

In 2013, the Neurology Department of the University of Milan confirmed Raco's diagnosis.

In 2017, the Lourdes Office of Medical Observations met for their final meeting regarding Raco's healing.

The sanctuary's website stated, "The members of the Bureau collectively observed that Antonietta Raco's cure qualified as unexplained according to medical knowledge."

The International Medical Committee of Lourdes voted in November 2024 that Raco had been cured of Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS), in

an unexpected, complete, lasting and unexplained manner according to medical knowledge."

April 16, 2025, on the feast of St. Bernadette of Lourdes, Bishop Orofino announced Raco's miraculous healing.



Pascal's Wager

Editor's note: I had never heard of Pascal's Wager. Perhaps you haven't either. Here's what it means: Pascal's Wager is a philosophical argument that suggests that believing in God is in a person's best interest.

In 1930, a 26-year-old John Von Neumann met and fell in love with Mariette Kôvesi. Von Neumann was an agnostic Jew, born, raised, and educated in Hungary. Mariette was a German Catholic. If Von Neumann wanted to marry her, he needed to convert. He was baptized shortly before their wedding day.

Von Neumann's conversion, however, was in name only.

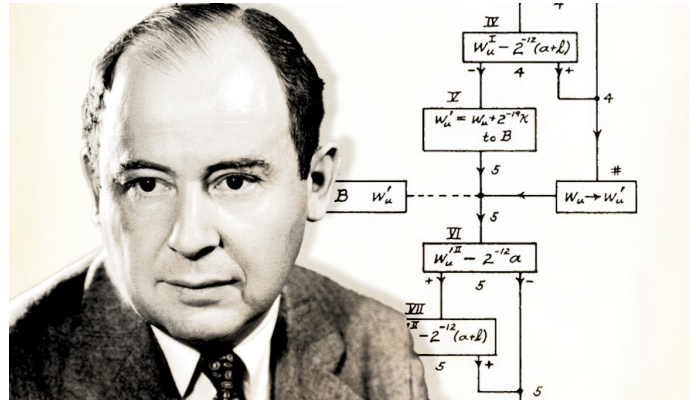
He rarely went to Mass after their marriage (and never after their 1938 divorce). Publicly and professionally, he continued to profess agnosticism. Von Neumann moved to the United States in the fall of 1930 to teach at Princeton University.

Three years later, he received one of the first two faculty positions at Princeton's Institute of Advanced Study. The other went to Albert Einstein. There, Von Neumann made landmark contributions to quantum mechanics, game theory, computer science, and mathematics. He eventually joined the Manhattan Project—helping

develop, test, and launch the world's first nuclear bombs. Later, he led the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and helped devise the Cold War "peace-keeping" strategy of Mutually Assured Destruction. For his work, Von Neumann received numerous awards and honors, including the U.S. Navy's Distinguished Civilian Service Award and the Medal of Freedom.

In 1955, however, when cancer appeared in his bones, Von Neumann began rethinking both his agnosticism and his life. One year later, shortly before he died, he summoned a priest to his bedside.

Invoking *Pascal's Wager*, Von Neumann explained to the priest that, in



the time that remained to him, he'd rather run the risk of believing in God than run the risk of not believing in God.

Von Neumann then confessed his sins and received Last Rites.

Although many of his colleagues doubted the sincerity of his conversion, Von Neumann remained in good standing with the Church until his death on February 8, 1957.

100 Movies Every Catholic Should See

Three Catholic men behind an online movie review project recently released their "Official List of 100 Catholic Movies Every Catholic Should See." Here is the website to use to see the list: <https://100catholicmovies.substack.com/p/the-official-list-of-100-movies-every...>

You can go to this website and just scan the titles or read the comments that the men leave for your pleasure to read.

The Official List of 100 Movies Every Catholic Should See was released Feb. 28, and it was compiled over two years.

"The goal of our project since the beginning has been to educate people on the Catholic aspects of the art of cinema," the authors explained.

They added that cinema is often seen as a second-tier art form, and their list highlights films that go above and beyond that stereotype.

From Witchcraft to the Latin Mass: How I Returned to the Catholic Church After Years in the Occult

When I was between the ages of 11 and 15 years old, I tried the occult magic practices of Wicca and paganism. Coming from a Dominican Republic background - and a Catholic family - I despised the Catholic Church. So by age 23, I was a high priestess of paganism.

While working in the fashion industry for top fashion companies and fashion couture houses, I always wondered if there was a higher power. I learned quickly that God can be within the material but cannot be in the world.

My conversion story has a bit of a twist, where I fell in love with Christ through the work of a major celebrity music producer.

During the pandemic, I went to Los Angeles and I found myself very lost and confused. I found solace in the Lord's Holy Grace at a Dominican Monastery in the Hollywood Hills.

While there, I got on my knees and prayed to Our Blessed Lady to relieve me of my suffering and aid the world back into peace, since we were going through the pandemic's darkness. Being a person that never prayed like this before, I knew a major shift in my life would change and that the world would change.

When I reverted to Catholicism on Sept. 22, 2022, in my first ever Latin

Mass, I felt His embrace in every cell of my being. I knew the Lord was present in the Tabernacle. I attended Mass every single day and frequented the sacrament of confession and the Holy Eucharist as often as I could.

I realized that through the Holy Eucharist, we convert each and every time we receive Jesus' Body and Blood.

He brought me to this place in my heart where I knew love, and the Lord truly does exist! All this love from the Lord is what moved me into action to revert back to Catholicism - all of the deepest love I've ever felt for the Lord was because of this superstar musician in the secular world. I truly got to experience how the Lord can use each one of us as his imperfect vessels to build the Glory of His Kingdom- even me!

The Lord unconditionally loves us and forgives us of our mistakes and sins through true repentance and right action.

With this story, I hope to extend an invitation to other pagans to embrace the Catholic Church as a home for peace of mind, that the Lord's love for them is huge and unconditional.



Amy Javier

I plan to open a Catholic ministry to aid the Lord in helping others in a Holy Year of Conversion- just like I did- where for one year, it is all about Him.

This is a story that in a miraculous way, the Lord brought me from the madness of heresy to universal love through Jesus Christ and through Mary.

His love took me out of the fear, the mud, the party, and spiritual poverty, to His strong and loving embrace.

Mel Gibson to Begin Shooting *The Resurrection of Christ* This August

Mel Gibson's sequel to *The Passion of the Christ* — *The Resurrection of the Christ* — is set to begin production in Italy this August, according to Manuela Cacciamani, CEO of Rome's Cinecittà Studios.

"I can confirm that the next film directed by Mel Gibson, produced by Icon Productions, *The Resurrection of Christ*, will be shot entirely in Cinecittà starting in August and requires many theaters and stage constructions," she said.

Gibson said the film is very ambitious and that the story follows the fall of the angels to the death of the last apostle. "I think in order to really tell the story properly you have to really start with the fall of the angels, which means you're in another place, you're in another realm. You need to go to hell. You need to go to Sheol," he added.

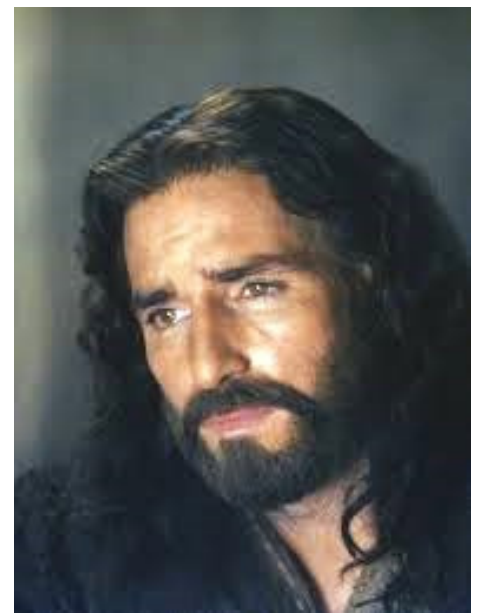
"It's about finding the way in that's not cheesy or too obvious. I think I

have ideas about how to do that and how to evoke things and emotions in people from the way you depict it and the way you shoot it. So I've been thinking about it for a long time."

"It's not going to be easy, and it's going to require a lot of planning and I'm not wholly sure I can pull it off; to tell you the truth, it's super ambitious. But I'll take a crack at it because that's what you've got to do, right, walk up to the plate, right?"

Gibson shared that he plans to recast Jim Caviezel as Jesus and will have to use a few techniques, such as CGI de-aging, on Caviezel due to the fact that over 20 years have passed since the first movie was released.

The Passion of the Christ was released in 2004 and, despite controversies surrounding the film, it garnered a profit of \$370 million domestically with many crediting it as the movie that opened the door to faith-based media in Hollywood.



Jim Caviezel as Jesus

Meet President Trump's New Press Secretary

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, a 27-year-old devout Catholic, recently spoke at President Trump's first press conference.

Leavitt, a mother and wife, is the youngest presidential press secretary in U.S. history. "It's an honor to be here with all of you," she said. "President Trump is back and the Golden Age of America has most definitely begun."

Leavitt first served as an assistant press secretary in President Donald Trump's first administration, taking on the role in 2019 just after graduating college.

She later served as the communications director for Elise Stefanik. Two years ago, Leavitt was the Republican nominee for the U.S. House district in New Hampshire from which she hails.

She returned to Trump's team in 2024 as press secretary for his presidential campaign.

Leavitt's Catholic faith has always been central to her life and work.

Born and raised in New Hampshire, she grew up in a devout Catholic family and attended Catholic educational institutions throughout both high school and college.

"My family is the bedrock of my life, as all families should continue to be the bedrock of society. And my faith in God carries me through," she said. As a young girl, Leavitt worked at her family's business, an ice cream shop in her hometown of Atkinson, New Hampshire. The experience taught her the value of hard work. "Everything needs to be earned. I was taught that very young and those values were really ingrained in me," she said.

She also spoke fondly of her Catholic high school experience. "It taught me discipline," she recalled. "It brought me closer in my own relationship with God, and it also taught me about the importance of public service and giving back to your community."

"Having a Catholic education really formed who I am," she continued.



In July 2024, while working as Trump's press secretary during the presidential campaign, Leavitt and her husband welcomed their first child, Nicholas, who is now six months old.

Canadian Speaks about Effect of Euthanasia on Family

A Canadian who lost his father to "medical assistance in dying" (MAiD) recently shared the devastating effects that legalized euthanasia has on both the person who dies and the family left behind.

"My opposition to euthanasia is not speculative, it's not abstract," Christopher Lyons said. "It is real, because I watched doctors kill my father in front of my family, on a family member's birthday."

Lyons said his father was an affectionate, jovial, and loving parent who also struggled in some ways. When Lyons was a teenager, he heard his father make comments about "drifting off" in a canoe and never returning. His father also spoke about deaths he had seen when he served as a policeman.

Lyons said, "It wasn't until years later that I saw that as indicative of somebody who's deeply traumatized or deeply depressed." Even before Canada legalized euthanasia in 2016, Lyons said he was worried that his father would commit suicide. "And so when MAiD came along, it was the perfect flattery. It told him that suicide is okay. It told him it's dignified, somehow even beautiful."

Canada expanded MAiD eligibility to people with non-terminal illnesses

in 2021. Lyons' father, who suffered from chronic conditions including arthritis and diabetes, applied.

Lyons said his father's MAiD assessor called the family just two days before he was scheduled to die, so they needed to act fast if they wanted to see him.

Lyons said he tried to help and worked to get an emergency psychiatric evaluation for his father. A copy of that evaluation, which he obtained after his father's death, was error-ridden, Lyons said. It listed that his father was not suicidal, and that his father didn't think he was depressed, and yet it was documented that he was on antidepressants.

Lyons was in the room when the doctor euthanized his father. He said he was sitting beside the doctor when his father received the lethal drugs. "A few seconds before, he'd been animated, and then he was a corpse."



Lyons said it was the worst day of his life.

Lyons said that he is moved to speak out about his loss, and that sharing experiences can help support others in a society that has normalized euthanasia. Besides the person who dies from MAiD, family members are affected the most by euthanasia, as they have to live with the grief.

He said that he is now a part of a suicide support group and people in this type of group recognize MAiD as suicide.

MAiD is the fifth leading cause of death in Canada.

How Gregorian Chants Benefit the Body and Soul

One longstanding Church practice oriented to the worship of God has been the chanting of psalms and hymns. From the earliest times, monks engaged in liturgical chanting that complemented their often grueling lives. These monks managed to accommodate hours spent in chanting while providing for their material needs.

In his French-language book, author Dr. Alftred Tomatis tells the fascinating story of how he discovered the "secret" of the monks' vigor amid their rigorous schedule.

Dr. Tomatis, an ear specialist, recounts how a particular French monastery had followed St. Benedict's rule for centuries, which entailed several hours of chanting a day.

After the Second Vatican Council in the sixties, the monks changed their centuries-old practices. They stopped chanting in Latin and explored the possibility of continuing their chant in the vernacular. When no agreement was reached on how to do this, they decided to stop chanting altogether and replace it with more updated and perhaps more "pastoral" ministries in line with the reforms.

The new schedule had major consequences on the lives of the monks. For centuries, Benedictines have thrived with little sleep. These monks now became fatigued and listless. Even when given more hours of sleep, they continued to be constantly tired.

A decision was made to change the

centuries-old vegetarian diet to include meat in the hopes of giving the monks more energy. However, their health did not improve. There seemed to be no way to find the cause of their problems, and the proposed solutions only seemed to make matters worse.

At this point, Dr. Tomatis visited the monastery to test the monks' hearing. He was surprised to see that many of them suffered from hearing impediments. Upon examining the sequence of changes, he determined the only change related to hearing was the cessation of chanting the psalms together in choir.

He recommended that the chanting resume to see if their conditions might change.

When the monks returned to their old routine of chanting the hours of the office, they experienced an amazing transformation. Most of them became energized and could function again with little sleep. They did not need the new diet. Gregorian chant sufficed to fix their health problems. Dr. Tomatis has explained what had happened from his professional perspective. He has long studied the effects of sounds and frequencies on a person. He said the cerebral cortex can become "charged" or positively stimulated by sounds like Gregorian chant.

Thus, he held that the daily chanting sessions brought energy to the monks' bodies and minds. The regu-

larity and rhythms of the chants have an impact on the monks and allows them to do extraordinary things. Of course, the physical effects of the music are only part of the story. However, it is a fascinating part in an unbelieving world that values only material benefits. Other experts have also studied the effects of chanting and found that it can lower blood pressure and help reduce anxiety and depression.

However, the real story is the spiritual impact of the chanting upon the soul. Such music is supernatural in that it lifts the person up toward heaven and the things of God. Its beauty fills the souls with admiration and love of God. When the practices of faith put the soul in order, the body naturally becomes ordered.

The real conclusion from this story is not how Gregorian chant can serve as a health aide. It is that putting the soul in order should be the first priority. Afterward, everything falls into place.



Baby Girl Born with Fatal Brain Condition Now Toddler Defying the Odds

Her devoted Christian parents, a neurologist team, and an anonymous donor who covered her \$47,000 medical bill just as her family faced a drastic financial situation have helped make the impossible possible. Millie Longhenry was born in Florida to parents Bill and Meg in 2023.

Diagnosed with alobar holoprosencephaly (HPE), a rare congenital brain disorder, she wasn't expected to live more than a few weeks. "God had something else in mind," Bill said. Due to HPE, Meg said one part of Millie's brain did not develop, and the other part developed incorrectly.

"There's no division between the two hemispheres; the middle is hollow," Millie spent two months in the hospital before hospice care at home.

That's when Texas-based neurologist Dr. Brandon Crawford became part of Millie's story. He reviewed Millie's MRIs and saw a way forward.

Crawford developed Millie's treatment. That treatment has included

laser light therapies, acoustic wave therapy, and reflex treatment that helps heal brain-body communication.

Over time, Millie has begun saying words, including "Mom" and "Dad." She speaks to her older brother and responds to her name.

Millie is also learning how to crawl, which is unheard of for children with HPE.

However, the financial hardship that was involved in Millie's medical needs became insurmountable. The family anticipated that they would lose the ability to afford to continue Millie's neurological therapy, which insurance didn't cover. Before the next round of treatment, his team prayed for God to help them.

Shortly after, Crawford received a phone call from a former patient of his who was moved by Millie's story and wanted to donate an amount that was enough to cover the family's out-



standing balance for her treatment: \$47,000.

Though the donation was initially anonymous, the family eventually was able to connect with the donor.

The Longhenrys told Fox that Millie still has quite an uphill battle, with more therapy needed.. Millie's mom said that while the financial aspect is daunting, "There's not a price that I could put on her life."

"I'll continue to fight and do what I need to do to bless her life."

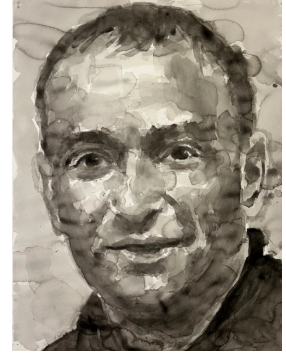
Vatican to Project Chinese Artist's Portraits of Inmates on Prison Exterior

A Chinese artist's paintings of inmates living inside one of Rome's most well-known prisons will be projected on the prison building's exterior and displayed in a new exhibit space near the Vatican as part of 2025 Jubilee initiatives.

The 64-year-old Yan Pei-Ming is a contemporary artist who has been living in France since 1981. He is known for his epic-sized portraits of figures such as Chairman Mao, St. Pope John Paul II, Bruce Lee, and Barack Obama.

Pei-Ming's latest portrait series, 27 prisoners living inside Regina Coeli Prison, will be displayed on the side of the prison building. The works, created at the request of the Vatican's education and culture dicastery, will be the inaugural exhibit of a new art space on Via della Conciliazione, the main street leading to St. Peter's Basilica.

The Vatican will highlight the work of contemporary artists during the 2025 Jubilee Year and beyond with the new exhibit space, called "Conciliazione 5," to be inaugurated Feb. 15, during the Jubilee of Artists and the World of Culture.



One of the portraits from a collection by Yan Pei-Ming depicting 27 prisoners living inside Regina Coeli Prison, which was displayed on the prison's facade Feb. 15, 2025.



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