



# EPHPHATHA

September is dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary

SEPTEMBER 2011

ISSUE 9



*September Reflections of Eternity*

## The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1. The Prophecy of Simeon
2. The Flight into Egypt
3. The Loss of the Child Jesus  
In the Temple
4. Mary Meets Jesus on the  
Way to Calvary
5. Jesus Dies on the Cross
6. Mary Receives the Body of  
Jesus in Her Arms
7. the Body of Jesus is Placed  
In the Tomb

Dear Friends,

The walk was very long! I had ventured well beyond the safety of home and was worried that I might not find my way back. The irises were no longer blooming but the long slender leaves were still protruding from the dark soil of the neighbor's garden. I wondered if where I was going, would there be gardens like my neighbors.

I did make it back home. Embraced by the warmth of family and friends. It was a long journey. One filled with newness, excitement and fear. Not knowing what would happen next caused much angst and by the time I reached my home again, I was exhausted. Lying down on my bed, I fell fast asleep, dreaming about all that happened: what I said, what others said to me, wondering if I could do it all again, wondering about the purpose of it all

Awaking, refreshed and ready to begin anew, I stumbled into the kitchen for a bite to eat. Still unsure about the journey I had just accomplished I was immediately faced with the question:

"So honey, how was your first day at school?"

In our life on earth, we undergo many changes and new journeys. Looking back on them we might feel silly for having worried so much about them, like my reflections of the three blocks I walked to my first day at school. The same is with our journey to heaven. It too is unexplored country and a journey in which we have never seen or experienced: like our first day at school. It too will become familiar and comfortable and we will wonder why we were so worried.

(Continue in the box at the left)

Someday we will awaken from what seems like a nap, we will stumble to a table for a snack and Jesus will ask, "So, how was your journey? I am so glad you are home now!"

Father Ken

## A LIST TO LIVE BY



- The most useless thing to do.....Worry
- The Greatest Joy.....Giving
- The greatest loss.....Loss of respect
- The most satisfying work.....Helping others
- The ugliest personality trait.....Selfishness
- The most endangered species.....Dedicated leaders
- The greatest “shot in the arm”.....Encouragement
- The greatest problem to overcome.....Fear
- Most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of mind
- The most crippling failure disease.....Excuses
- The most powerful force in life.....Love
- The most dangerous pariah.....A gossiper
- The world’s most incredible computer.....The brain!
- The worst thing to be without..... Hope
- The deadliest weapon.....The tongue
- The two most power-filled words.....”I Can”
- The greatest asset.....Faith
- The most worthless emotion.....Self-pity
- The most prized possession.....Integrity
- The most beautiful attire.....A SMILE!
- The most powerful channel of communication....Prayer
- The most contagious spirit.....Enthusiasm
- The most important thing in life.....GOD

- 01-Lynn Penick
- 02-Steve Ribaud
- 02-Mary Schmidt
- 05-Joseph Clark
- 05-Fr. Ken VanHaverbeke
- 07-Alina Schwebke
- 08-Bette Jo Wenzel
- 11-Gianna Weber
- 17-Kathryn Starks
- 20-Mark Severs
- 27-Dakota Cowherd
- 27-Michael Cowherd
- 28-Tom Racunas
- 28-Christopher Frambers
- 30-Danny Scott

There were no wedding anniversaries listed for this month.

If anyone’s birthday or anniversary has been missed please let Sr. Eula know.

### IMPORTANT DATE WITH OUR GOD

**REMEMBER TO KEEP OCTOBER 22ND AS THE DAY TO SPEND WITH GOD AND OTHERS IN THE DEAF COMMUNITY. THIS IS THE DAY RESERVED AND PLANNED ESPECIALLY FOR ALL OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY : ADULTS AND CHILDREN FROM 5TH GRADE AND UP.**

**GOD IS WAITING FOR YOU TO SHOW UP!!**

*Prayer should be the key  
of the morning.....*



*The lock of the  
Evening*

## SPECIAL DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

03-Pope St Gregory the Great

05-Labor Day

05-Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

09-St Peter Claver

12-Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

13-St. John Chrysostom

14-Exaltation of the Holy Cross

15-Our Lady of Sorrows

16-Pope St Cornelius & St. Cyprian

17-St Robert Bellarmine

19-St Januarius

20-Sts Andrew Kim Taegōn, Paul Chōng Hasang  
and their Companions

21-St Matthew, Apostle

23-St. Pio of Pietrelcina

### **First Day of Autumn**

26-Sts Cosmas & Damian

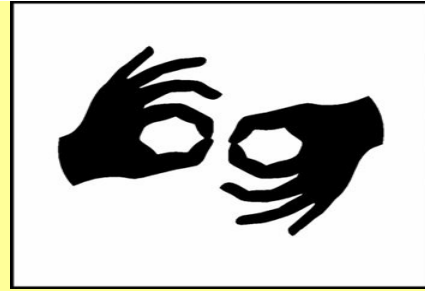
27-St. Vincent de Paul

28-St Wenceslaus

St Lawrence Ruiz & his Companions

29-Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

30-St Jerome



## INTERPRETERS' WORKSHOP

In preparation for the change to the new Roman Missal on the First Sunday of Advent our interpreters have generously given up a Saturday morning to attend a workshop to better interpret the Mass for the Deaf.

The workshop will explain the history and reasons for the changes in the language of the Mass as well as teach proper ways to sign the new language.

The workshop will be led by Mary Ann Barlett, Peg Richey and Marcia Hurd from the Kansas City Archdiocese. This workshop will be held on Sept 24th. From 8:30 until 12:00 noon at the Magnificat Center located at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph located at 3700 East Lincoln in Wichita.

We thank these interpreters for their time and effort to give their best to this ministry.

*I've never known anyone yet who doesn't suffer a certain restlessness when autumn rolls around...We're all eight years old again and any thing is possible. Sue Grafton*



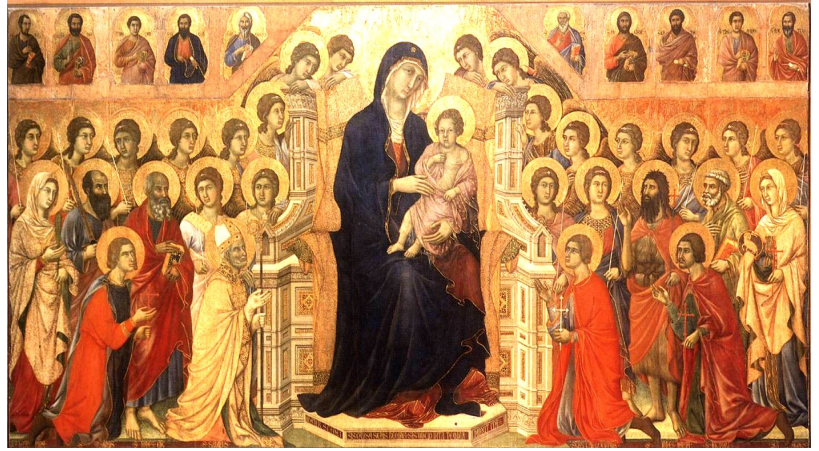
*Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns. George Eliot*

As we watch leaves fluttering to the ground in the Fall, we are reminded that nature's cycles are mirrored in our lives. Autumn is a time for letting go and releasing things that have been a burden. All the religious traditions pay tribute to such acts of relinquishment. Fall is the right time to practice getting out of the way and letting God take charge of our lives.

Buddhist Gary Thorp in "Caught in Fading Light"

In the newsletter each month the saints for that month have been featured. This month you will find an explanation about saints and how they come to be.

Canonization, the process the church uses to name a saint, has only been used since the 10th century. For many years prior to that they were chosen by public acclaim. Some saints' stories were distorted by legend and some never existed. Gradually the bishops and finally the Vatican took over authority for approving saints. In 1983 Pope John Paul II made some sweeping changes in the canonization procedure. The process begins after the death of a Catholic whom people regard as holy. Often



the process starts many years after death in order to give perspective on the candidate. The local bishop investigates the candidate's life and writings for heroic virtue and orthodoxy of doctrine then a panel of theologians at the Vatican evaluates the candidate. After being approved by the panel and cardinals of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the pope proclaims the candidate "venerable".

The next step, beatification requires evidence of one miracle. Since miracles are considered proof that the person is in heaven and can intercede for us, the miracle must take place after the candidate's death and as a result of a specific petition to the candidate. Only after one more miracle will the pope canonize the saint. The title of saint tells us that the person lived a holy life, is in heaven and is to be honored by the universal Church. Canonization does not "make" a person a saint, it recognizes what God has already done.

Canonization takes a long time and a lot of effort. So while every person who is canonized is a saint, not every holy person has been canonized. You probably have known many "saints" in your life and we are called by God to be one ourselves.

By the year 100 A.D. Christians were honoring other Christians who had died, and asking for their intercession. Honoring saints was a part of Christianity from the very beginning. Even in the Jewish faith there was the long-standing tradition of honoring the prophets and holy people with shrines.

Think of pictures you have of your loved ones. Why do you keep these particular pictures? Because they remind you of people you love, it helps you feel close to them when you are not together. You don't say that you worship them. Those are the same reasons we have statues and pictures of saints. Since saints led holy lives and are close to God we feel that their prayers are particularly effective. We may ask one saint to help us find something (St. Anthony), hopeless cases (St. Jude) people with cancer (St. Peregrine), to make us aware of God's creation and make us more aware of our environment (St. Francis of Assisi).

The official Roman calendar of feast days for celebration by the Universal Church does not have a saint's feast day every day. The Church chooses saints to be celebrated worldwide very carefully—they must have a strong message for the church as a whole. That doesn't mean that others saints are less holy. Some of the saints have been dropped were legendary and little evidence they existed. Before the formal canonization process many saints were proclaimed by popular approval. Unfortunately many were based on legends, pagan mythology or even other religions. There are enough saints to celebrate one of their feasts every day. Just take a look at this month's calendar. There are many feasts of Our Lord and the Blessed Mother that are not even listed on the calendar. **It would be a good exercise for each one in the family to look up their own particular patron saint to see what day it is celebrated.**

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church at least since the 18th. Century. The Church's calendar observes the birthdays of only two saints: St. John the Baptist (June 24) and Mary, Mother of Jesus (Sept. 8th.) In celebrating the nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and birth of her Divine Son, and give honor to the mother of Our Lord and Savior. The Nativity of Mary is an important date in our salvation history. The source for the story of Mary's birth is the Protoevangelium of James where we learn the names of Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna. The traditional date of the feast falls exactly 9 months after the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is an important feast because it prepares the way for the birth of Christ.

