

April 2023

In Touch



***Christ led,
Christ fed,
Hope filled!***

Priority One
Creating a Culture of
Vocations

Priority Two
Strengthening Faith
Formation in Family Life

Priority Three
Building Parishes with Living
Stones

**Renew Faith,
Nurture Hope,
Discover Love**



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**Diocese
of
Ogdensburg**

A Psalm says, "My heart and my flesh thirst for the living God" (Ps. 63:1). Have you really, honestly, been thirsting for the living God? So that there's nothing left, only emptiness? Only when our whole being is joined to his shall we be at rest.

But the question is, have we got any longing? Are we really waking up in the morning and saying, "Today God and I will be one"? Is that love or longing also like a fire? We are looking for God, and his one desire is to become united with us.

-Catherine de Hueck Doherty

The above quote was taken from a reflection for today's reading in *Give Us This Day*. I was particularly struck by the question posed about waking up in the morning and saying "Today God and I will be one." To be honest, I don't think I have ever thought about this upon waking. It may come into my mind at Mass in one form or another... if I'm not too distracted.

But, it is a pretty awesome reality, isn't it? It certainly is worth more than a passing thought. Perhaps, I will make myself a little reminder so that I will think of it upon waking. How about you?

I hope that you are all enjoying this Easter season along with the return of daffodils, tulips and the greening of the land! Know that you are remembered in my prayers daily.



A Touch of Inspiration...A Bit of Humor

Attitude of Gratitude

I am grateful for having the opportunity to attend the day of reflection held at Wadhams Hall April first. It was not an April Fool's joke...it was real. Sr. Michael invited us to reflect on the theme "Blessed, Broken, Gift: Living the Eucharist! At the Last Supper Jesus first gave thanks, blessed the bread, broke the bread and gave the bread. We are bombarded each day by bad news, shootings, accidents, angry mobs, tragedies abound. We were invited to try to focus on the Blessings we each receive daily. Finding "good", in our daily routines and looking at our challenges as Blessings. Then we looked at our brokenness compared to Jesus' brokenness. Jesus suffered greatly for each one of us. Suffering is a part of our lives. We all struggle. We cannot make sense out of much of the suffering we endure or witness. We can choose to see that our suffering is a chance to participate in the redemption of the world with Christ. It all depends on if we see we are participating with our Savior by offering up our suffering for others. So the "Attitude of Gratitude" can be difficult, unless, we open our hearts and ask the spirit for the Grace to be a people conscious of being Blessed, Broken and Gift for others.

-Sr. Cindy

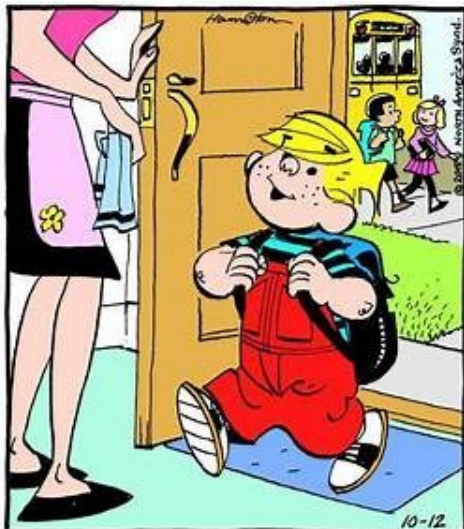
Risen Christ

No one expected your return.
You astonished your disciples
when you slipped from the tomb.
You came extending peace,
offering forgiveness for denial,
extending faith to the doubtful.
You met them at the seashore
and on the road toward home.
Everyone's grieving heart overjoyed.
Each one's closed mind opened wide.

-Joyce Rupp in

Fragments of Your Ancient Name

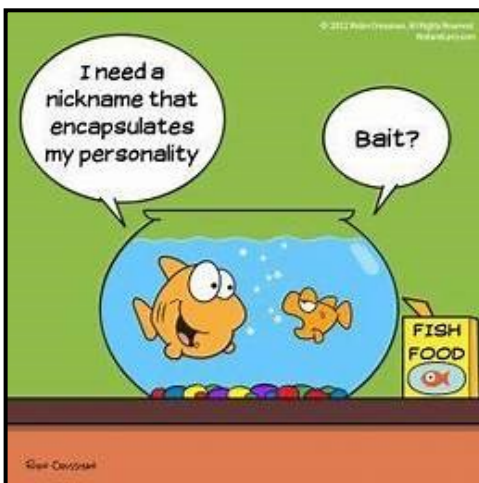
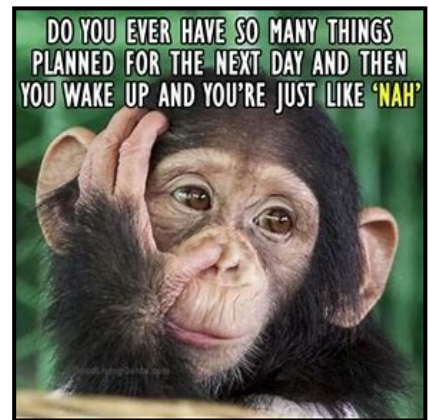




"I MET A NEW FRIEND TODAY AT THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. HE WAS JUST LIKE ME!"



"WELL, IF YOU'D LET ME STAY UP LATER... I'D STILL BE ASLEEP RIGHT NOW!"





Lord, help us to run to meet you! Help us to open our hearts!

Help the beloved **Ukrainian people** on their journey towards peace, and shed the light of Easter upon **the people of Russia**. Comfort the wounded and all those who have lost loved ones because of the war, and grant that prisoners may return safe and sound to their families. Open the hearts of the entire international community to strive to end this war and all conflict and bloodshed in our world, beginning with Syria, which still awaits peace. Strengthen all those affected by the violent earthquake in **Turkey and in Syria** itself. Let us pray for all those who have lost family and friends, and for those left homeless. May they receive consolation from God and assistance from the family of nations.

On this day, Lord, we entrust to you the **city of Jerusalem**, the first witness of your resurrection. I express deep concern for the attacks in recent days that threaten the desired climate of trust and reciprocal respect necessary for the resumption of dialogue between **Israelis and Palestinians**, so that peace may reign in the Holy City and in the entire region.

Lord, aid **Lebanon**, which still seeks stability and unity, so that divisions may be overcome and all citizens cooperate for the common good of the country.

Be mindful of the beloved people of **Tunisia**, and in particular the young and those suffering from social and economic hardship, so that they may not lose hope and may work together to build a future of peace and fraternity.

Turn your gaze to **Haiti**, which has long experienced a grave social, economic and humanitarian crisis, and support the efforts of political actors and the international community to seek a definitive solution to the many problems that afflict that sorely tried people.

Consolidate the processes of peace and reconciliation undertaken in **Ethiopia and in South Sudan**, and grant an end to violence in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.

Sustain, Lord, the Christian communities that today celebrate Easter in particular circumstances, as in **Nicaragua and Eritrea**, and remember all who are prevented from freely and publicly professing their faith. Grant consolation to victims of international terrorism, especially in **Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique and Nigeria**.

Help **Myanmar** to pursue paths of peace, and enlighten the hearts of leaders, so that the deeply afflicted Rohingya may encounter justice.

Comfort **refugees, deportees, political prisoners and migrants**, especially those who are most vulnerable, as well as the **victims of hunger, poverty and the dire effects of the drug trade, human trafficking** and all other forms of slavery. Lord, inspire the **leaders of nations** to ensure that no man or woman may encounter discrimination and be violated in his or her dignity; that in full respect for human rights and democracy these social wounds may be healed; that the common good of the citizenry may be pursued always and solely; and that security and the conditions needed for dialogue and peaceful coexistence may be guaranteed.

- Pope Francis, **URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE** 2023