



# THE RAY

*The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center*

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Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center  
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*From the desk of Mary...* 

Warm greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center where we are privileged to continue the sacred work of spiritual direction and vocational discernment during these beautiful summer months.

I had planned to devote this issue to native Wisconsinite, Blessed Solanus Casey, but since our last newsletter another 20<sup>th</sup> century saint in the making has come to my attention. Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, who entered the seminary at the University of Notre Dame in 1929, is one step closer to becoming a saint. Venerable Patrick Peyton promoted the recitation of the Holy Rosary throughout the world with his Family Rosary Crusade. In Hollywood he recruited some of the most beloved screen artists of all time including Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby and Gregory Peck to participate in his mission through radio, television and film.

Monsignor Charles Mangan (Diocese of Sioux Falls, SD) in his kindness and continued support of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center, has written an inspiring article for us on Venerable Patrick Peyton entitled "The Family that Prays Together Stays Together". This wonderful piece which we've included in this issue gives us much to ponder. It merits a careful read and re-read. Thank you, Monsignor, for your very generous sharing.

To grow in sanctity, we must grow in virtue. Twelfth century Saint Bernard of Clairvoux, to whom is traditionally attributed the beloved Marian prayer, *The Memorare*, described humility in a Christmas homily as the "foundation and guardian of all virtues"<sup>1</sup>. As we strive to grow in holiness, the Blessed Mother, as a model of humility, stands ready to help us.

We are delighted to have received permission from the Carmelite Nuns in Pewaukee, Wisconsin to print in this issue a great poem for you to read and contemplate penned by the late Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers) entitled "Humility". Born in Mauston, WI in 1905, Jessica entered the Carmel of the Mother of God in Milwaukee as a postulant in 1941 and a year later received the habit and religious name, Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit. Already an accomplished poet on the outside, with the support of her religious superiors in the cloister she continued to publish under her family name until shortly before her death in 1988. She is one of our country's finest Catholic poets, and "Humility" is perhaps her greatest poem. I hope you enjoy this literary treat!

As always, we thank you most sincerely for your

continued prayers and generous support of the Center. This is a mission that we share with you for the greatest possible Glory of God and in honor of Our Lady of Grace. Truly, we couldn't do it without you.

Finally, I wish you a summer filled with peace and gentle breezes that remind you of God's tender love for you and those you love.

[https://archive.org/stream/sermonsofstberna00bernuoft/sermonsofstberna00bernuoft\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/sermonsofstberna00bernuoft/sermonsofstberna00bernuoft_djvu.txt)

("Fountains of the Savior", p.101)

## Humility

Humility is to be still  
under the weathers of God's will.

It is to have no hurt surprise  
when morning's ruddy promise dies,  
when wind and drought destroy, or sweet  
spring rains apostatize in sleet,  
or when the mind and month remark  
a superfluity of dark.

It is to have no troubled care  
for human weathers anywhere.

And yet it is to take the good  
with the warm hands of gratitude.

Humility is to have a place  
deep in the secret of God's face  
where one can know, past all surmise,  
that God's great will alone is wise,  
where one is loved, where one can trust  
a strength not circumscribed by dust.

It is to have a place to hide  
when all is hurricane outside.

From *The Selected Poetry of Jessica Powers*, published by ICS Publications, Washington, D.C. All copyrights, Carmelite Monastery, Pewaukee, WI. Used with permission.



We have been blessed throughout the years with many gifts of flowers. Here is a small sampling of the flowers of Our Lady of Grace.

As Always... 

This newsletter is made possible through the generosity and skills of Miss Nicolette Bardele.

# *The Family that Prays Together Stays Together*

*Monsignor Charles M. Mangan*

On December 18, 2017, Pope Francis declared the Reverend Father Patrick Joseph Peyton, C.S.C., (1909-1992) to be “Venerable,” meaning that the virtues he practiced are considered to be heroic. Who is this Irish-born priest who is recalled for his dedication to Christ and his love for Our Blessed Lady and her Holy Rosary?

County Mayo was the home of this priest, who was the sixth in a poor family of four girls and five boys. Patrick would drop out of school as a young man but, as an adolescent, he sensed that God was calling him to the Holy Priesthood.

The nineteen year-old Patrick and his brother, Thomas, decided to immigrate to the United States and settled in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1932, both men entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Notre Dame, Indiana.

Despite experiencing a serious health problem in October 1938, which was determined to be tuberculosis, Patrick eventually entered Holy Cross College in Washington, D.C. to prepare for Final Vows and was ordained, with his brother Thomas, to the Holy Priesthood on June 15, 1941 in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend.

It was not long before his well-known work of promoting devotion to Our Lady and her Holy Rosary began to span many miles.

A reflection on Father Peyton’s efforts offers the following points for our reflection and application.

1. His labors always adhered to the will of his Superiors. He lived his Vow of Obedience, imitating Christ in His submission to His Father.

2. “From the Cross to Life.” The cross of physical maladies is a heavy one. But joy results when it is embraced! Father Peyton’s grave bodily trials did not stop him from giving himself completely to God’s plan. And whenever the Will of the Lord is accepted, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is made manifest in that person’s life.

3. Father Peyton shunned not the economically destitute, the wealthy, the unlettered or Hollywood luminaries. He neither feared the famous nor was enamored by the jet-setting way of existence. He invited all to participate in the building of the Kingdom of God by honoring His Ever-Virgin Mother.

4. Father Peyton did not shy away from doing the “big things” for God, like the Rosary Crusades and Rallies, the intercontinental travel and the making of movies. Precisely during the frightening period of the “Cold War,” he exhorted all to travel the path of peace.

5. “The Rosary priest” did not allow his spiritual life to take a back seat to his prodigious work. He did not forget that, first and foremost, he was a Religious and a Priest, notwithstanding his prestige and authority. In 1962, Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart of the Knights of Columbus wrote about his time with Father Peyton: “His great piety, his unflagging

zeal and his intense earnestness carry you away. You feel that you are in the presence of a saint and you want to share with him his hopes and aspirations and contribute what you can to the success of his efforts.”

Father Peyton is remembered, too, for his oft-quoted saying, “The family that prays together stays together.”

He was concerned about the welfare of the family. During a Rosary Crusade, he said: “The restoration of family prayer is a basic need, and if it is given the chance it will prove itself to be the most efficacious and powerful protection against the dangers of our age.”

How apt his words are in our twenty-first century: “The person with the Rosary in hand has the key to learning the most important of all lessons: the love of God for us, the destiny He has in store for us and the way he is helping us to reach that destiny.”

On June 3, 1992, Father Peyton, with Rosary in hand, died in San Pedro, California and was buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery located at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts.

(With gratitude to: [www.holycrosscongregation.org](http://www.holycrosscongregation.org); [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org); “The Rosary Priest” by Father Richard Gribble, C.S.C., in *Columbia* (March 2018), pages 22-25.)



Fr. Peyton greeting Princess Grace of Monaco at the start of a Rosary recitation for a television production of *Family Theater*. Photo courtesy of Family Rosary.



## **A Winning Ticket**



We are delighted to report that Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center won the third place raffle ticket prize of \$500 at the Christ King Parish Auction on Saturday, February 24, 2018. It was a wonderful surprise to learn that a dear friend of the Center, the Honorable Beth E. Hanan, had purchased the ticket and had written “Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center” on it. That ticket was a winner! Thank you, Beth, for your thoughtfulness and continued generous support of our mission. Prior to her Federal appointment, Mrs. Hanan served on our Board of Directors as Secretary/Treasurer from 2010-2014.

We are so grateful for any donation to the Center. All donations are tax-deductible and may be made payable to **Our Lady of Grace.**