



# Awaken

the soul & let your spirit fly

A bimonthly publication of Good Shepherd Catholic Church ~ steadfast in awakening our true being in God.

*Missionary disciples* LIVE MERCIFULLY and become

## THE FACE OF MERCY

On some of the last pages of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, one finds authoritative teachings on **MERCY** (CCC 2835-2845) as part of the comprehensive and illuminating articles on the Lord's Prayer. Centering on the petition, "*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,*" the text describes the petition as "astonishing," and "daunting" precisely because Jesus shines a bright spotlight on **MERCY** as a non-negotiable... not optional for the baptized disciple.

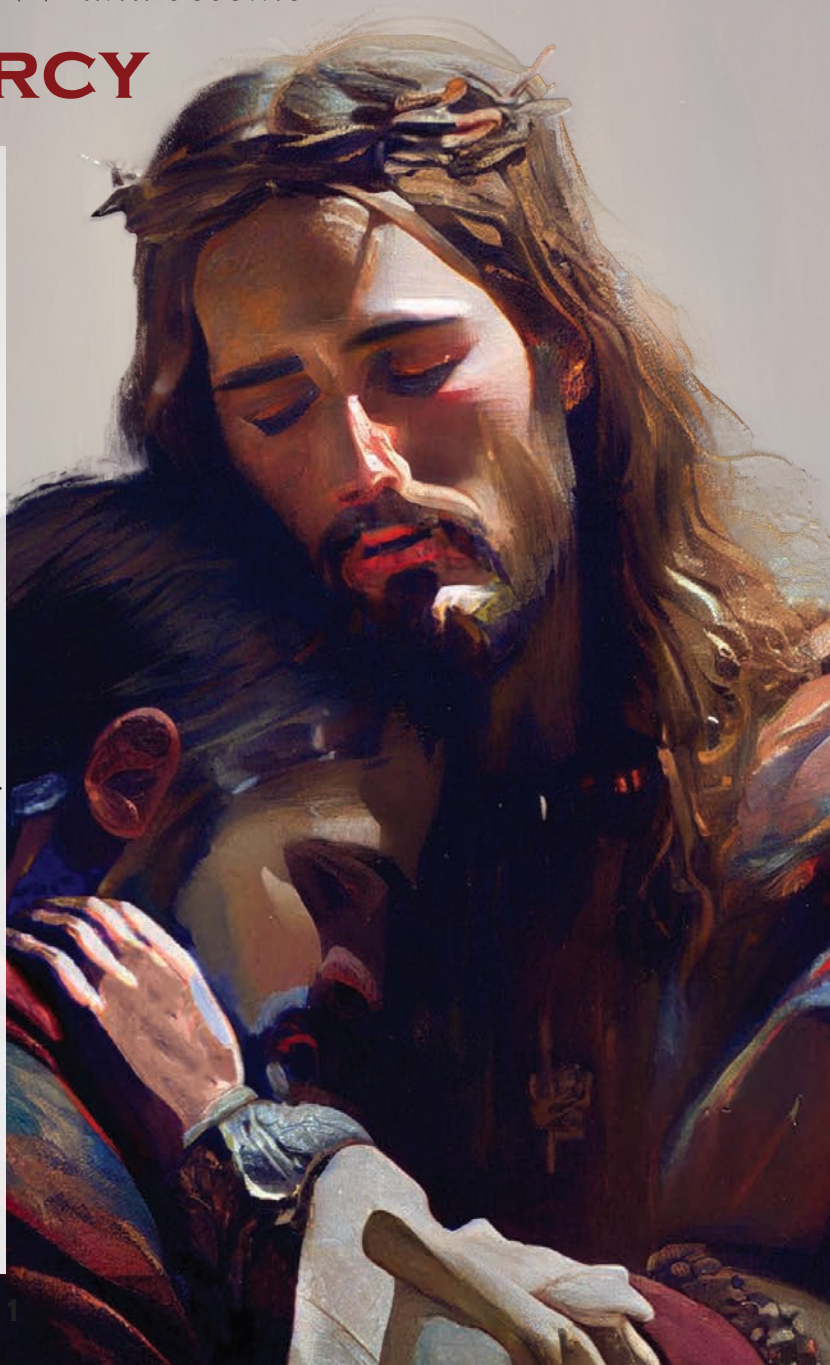
*"...this outpouring of mercy cannot penetrate our hearts as long as we have not forgiven those who have trespassed against us... we cannot love the God we cannot see if we do not love the brother or sister we do see. In refusing to forgive our brothers and sisters, our hearts are closed and their hardness makes them impervious to the Father's merciful love; but in confessing our sins, our hearts are opened to his grace."* (CCC 2840)

Disciples, then, are called in the daily praying of the Lord's Prayer to imitate Jesus Christ, the face of God and THE face of mercy, if they themselves hope for God's mercy.

Good Shepherd's *Pastor Emeritus* Father Leon Juchniewicz says, "We are Jesus' face, hands and feet," indeed.

We *must* be the face of mercy, present and non-judgmental, forgiving and loving to all because "we have been looked upon by the face of mercy," as Pope Francis is noted for saying. This is the only acceptable way to recognize, accept and grow in God's mercy, extending it forward and making it possible for humanity to share in the divine life.

(Continue on page 4)







Elsa Vega

perseveres with fortitude &amp; hope

“For me, loving Jesus and our Blessed Mother and honoring them with my actions and decisions are crucial to who I am,” Elsa Vega says of virtuous living and specifically, the cardinal virtue of fortitude. “I view it as vital to my spirituality,” she says indicating that fortitude ensures “firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good.”

“I did go back to the catechism,” Elsa says, confirming the definition of fortitude but more so validating what she knows to be true. “It gives me inner strength,” she says citing Mother Mary as her archetype, clearly – *beautifully* – enduring and persevering for Christ through countless and insurmountable struggles, all the way with Jesus to his cross.

“I believe every day we’re confronted with challenges and decisions,” Elsa explains suggesting that the virtue of fortitude empowers us to face obstacles and endure hardships with courage. Intentionally growing and striving in fortitude “can make it easier to live the Christian life,” she says aware that even upholding the simplest of Christian values in secular settings can sometimes be met with questions and discouragement from others.

Retired after 37 years with the state as a tax specialist, Elsa recalls an example from her workplace years ago.

“I remember a co-worker who would not talk to anyone in the office, except the boss,” Elsa conveys indicating the colleague had a very short temper often ending encounters with co-workers in arguments. Elsa describes how her work world changed when an office reorganization moved her station adjacent to his. Advised by peers to “not say a word to him,” Elsa admits her misery.

“I didn’t speak to him for a few days, but eventually I felt uneasy... it was not who I was as a person,” she says. “I had always gotten along with everyone around me, and I just felt so lousy.”

With fortitude, Elsa broke the ice saying, “Good morning.” At first, the daily greeting was met with grumbles but eventually a reply came and soon enough, warm conversation followed from the disgruntled man whom she now calls a friend. Elsa learned that he was going through a rough time in his life. Her instinct to display kindness, and her courage to engage him, opened his heart toward her and other co-workers.

“Most of us can relate to this situation when we encounter

people at work, school or even family members who are not the most pleasant, but our Lord doesn’t want us to judge, he wants us to be the leaven in the world that brings all people to him,” Elsa says summarizing how fortitude can be the *essence* of discipleship, serving as a catalyst for Christian virtues. “We have to have the courage to go out there in the world and our environment which is your workplace or your home,” she insists drawing a Gospel parallel to the parable of the yeast.

“...be the leaven in the world...”

Elsa expounds on several other examples and experiences of fortitude, patiently persevering amid challenge or hardship for the love of God and neighbor. She refers again to the Catechism (CCC 1810) as the guiding source to help disciples cultivate virtue.

“The moral virtues are cultivated by education, deliberate acts and perseverance in struggle which are elevated by divine grace,” she paraphrases aloud. The words resonate for her as she offers a list of imperatives for growth in virtue, including “Mass regularly on Sunday... the Blessed Sacrament... adoration... confession once a month... prayer every day... a daily examination of conscience... sacramentals.”

“I believe receiving our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is the most important thing we can do for our spiritual life,” Elsa says also noting consolation in the model of Mother Mary, who always “sends me back to the Lord, back to the Blessed Sacrament.”

Elsa shares about times in her youth when fear and anxiety subliminally plagued her courageous exterior. “I realize now I was courageous in the eyes of the world, but not in the Christian sense,” she discloses recognizing how today she feels Christ’s peace and love as the strength she needs to face challenges with fortitude.

“We need to fan the flame to make it grow like fire,” Elsa submits confident that with the virtue of fortitude, the faithful can persevere in hope. †

Exploring the cardinal virtues of

PRUDENCE, JUSTICE, FORTITUDE and TEMPERANCE

can form a greater understanding of all virtues and their interrelatedness. The word “cardinal” comes from the Latin word for “hinge.” Cardinal virtues are also referred to as human or moral virtues.





Lent begins on  
Ash Wednesday  
Feb. 14, 2024

Distribution of Ashes:

6:45 a.m. – Prayer service & ashes  
8:30 a.m. – Mass  
12:00 p.m. – Mass  
5:00 p.m. – Prayer service & ashes  
7:00 p.m. – Mass

Watch the bulletin for details on our  
Lenten tradition, *Soup for the Soul!*

Mark your calendars!

Jan. 3 – Feb. 7 – Stewardship book discussions  
Jan. 13 – Bingo  
February – Black History Month celebrations  
(watch bulletin and website for more details)  
Feb. 10 – Crab Feed  
Feb. 24 – Youth/Young Adult Talent Contest  
March 3/4 – Parish Renewal with Tim Glemkowski

Visit [GSCCEG.org](http://GSCCEG.org) to learn more about upcoming events.



Year of Parish Revival  
June 11, 2023—July 17, 2024

MARCH 3 & 4, 2024:  
LENTEN PARISH MISSION



## MADE FOR MISSION: TRANSFORMING OUR PARISH CULTURE

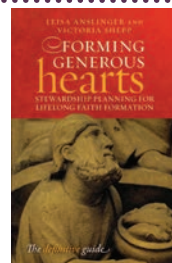
Be inspired and join us for this parish-wide Lenten mission with **Tim Glemkowski**, Chief Executive Officer of the National Eucharistic Revival. Understand and cast the vision of discipleship! An international speaker, author and co-founder of Revive Parishes (an online formation platform), Tim walks with us during this season of Lent, reflecting on the mission to which Christ calls each of us as the Body of Christ.

A special 2-day event presented by

**TIM GLEMKOWSKI**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Eucharistic Revival

Sunday, March 3 and  
Monday, March 4, 2024  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
in the church

This mission is a *spiritual* mission, a *practical* mission and a *radical* mission that beckons our hearts in a way the world cannot. It is a mission that makes bold sense in reviving our parish culture and the larger Catholic culture, inviting, evangelizing and helping others to find their faithful course in Christ. A master of theology and philosophy with degrees from Franciscan University at Steubenville and Augustine Institute, Tim brings us a transformational Lenten parish mission. **SAVE THE DATE!**



### Stewardship: Book Discussion series

Join the Stewardship Committee for six weeks of Wednesdays (**Jan. 3- Feb. 7**) discussing Leisa Anslinger & Victoria Shepp's *Forming Generous Hearts!* Limited

to 15 participants. Books provided. Understand the practice of true stewardship.



**Youth/Young Adult Talent Contest!** Are you between the ages of 14 to 25 years old? Please consider sharing your talents in this far-reaching talent showcase, *celebrating Black History Month* on **Saturday, February, 24, 2024.**

Hosted by the *St. Josephine Bakhita Ministry* and *The Grove Youth Ministry*, young talents throughout the region are invited to enter in the categories of music, visual/performing arts, and spoken and written word. **Watch for more information!**



## THE SUPERBOWL OF CRAB FEEDS!

Make plans to elevate Superbowl week-end by attending Good Shepherd's 27th Annual Crab Feed the night before! **Saturday, February 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m.** in the Father Philip Wells

Hall. Our quarterback (er uh, chef, that is)

has the winningest team when it comes to crab feasts! Delicious Dungeness Crab, antipasta, bread, salad, pasta and dessert served up with unmatched play by play action and exuberant smiles! **This event sells out fast! Tickets go on sale January 6/7 after all Masses. Be sure and SCORE yours!**



## BINGO is back!

Mark your calendars for this parish-favorite! A fun-filled evening of friendship and play. On **Saturday, January 13, 2024** following the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass,

grab a seat and a BINGO card as the Parish Life Ministry hosts this evening of chance and prizes! The first card is free. Additional cards are \$1 each. Winners claim gift card prizes with various denominations from various proprietors and restaurants. Held in the Father Philip Wells Hall, candy and pizza also will be available for \$1 each.



(Continues from page 1)

**“MERCY IS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE,”**

Father Leon Juchniewicz states simply as if delivering a homily once again from the steps of the altar sanctuary at Good Shepherd Church. The beloved *Pastor Emeritus*, who served the parish from July 2011 through August 2019, easily converses on the topic of mercy—the heart of his ministry for over 40 years.

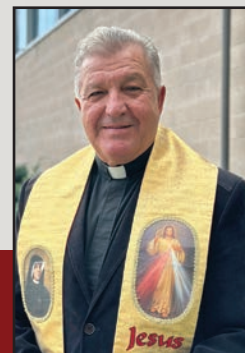
For Father Leon, the little word packs unfathomable meaning that is sometimes misunderstood, unrecognized or even overlooked altogether.

Here, Father Leon brings God’s **MERCY** to the forefront of daily life, encouraging every disciple’s deep consideration, and still deeper examination of God’s boundless love and grace. Only in this way can *real* transformation occur as God desires.

# Living Mercifully

## Fr. Leon Juchniewicz shares how mercy

# CHANGES US



Father Leon readily talks about mercy – *both the gift received, and the virtue to be given away* – because his own experiences magnify and package it in a personal and emotional retelling.

He conveys richly that mercy

*must be felt to truly understand and “get it.”* Otherwise, it is just a word devoid of the transformative makings that convert disciples into better versions of themselves who, in turn, develop the capacity to make everything around them better, too, with mercy.

“Don’t take it for granted,” Father Leon says of mercy stressing that as believers, the words and prayers of mercy are embedded in our faith practice but must also exude from who we *are* – that is, a people *saved* regardless of continuous offenses against God and each other.

“Turn to him with the simple message, ‘Lord, have mercy,’” Father Leon says offering a practice to remind oneself of God’s merciful landscape. He refers to God’s design from the beginning in Exodus when Moses learns how God is ‘a God of mercy and kindness.’ “Then, we learn that Jesus’ mission is a mission of mercy,” Father Leon says describing how Jesus insisted that John baptize him in what was a symbolic spirit of solidarity with humanity, demonstrating God’s love and mercy.

Turning to his favorite parable of the prodigal son, Father Leon shares, “This parable changed my spiritual life, for sure.” Visibly moved by the mention of the epic, multi-layered story from Luke’s Gospel, chapter 15, Father Leon reports, “Many theologians agree it is more



The Prodigal Son:  
Bartolomé Esteban  
Murillo

Jesus  
I trust  
in You



## Eucharistic people let "mercy" show

"We worship the God of mercy but we may not let it show," Father Leon observes citing how we cannot give what we do not have. So how do we let God change us? How do we joyously share God's mercy?

**1) Go to confession** — When we are spiritually weak and susceptible to temptation, confession "recharges our battery," Father Leon suggests knowing that as beneficiaries of God's mercy in this sacrament we become more capable of displaying mercy towards others.

**2) Pray** — "We won't feel God's mercy without a prayer life," Father Leon says stressing how through prayerful connection with God, we deepen our understanding of God's mercy.

**3) Receive the Eucharist** — Receiving the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ in the Eucharist, we immerse ourselves in the mystery of faith and strengthen our merciful resolve to be the face of Christ—the *face of mercy*—to each other in daily life, through corporal and spiritual works of mercy, forgiveness and love.

about the merciful father." He nods in agreement with this idea that profoundly highlights the mercy motif and the merciful father as *opening* the way for the prodigal son's response.

"I visualize how the father was coming out every day to look for his son, hoping he would come back," Father Leon says adding, "...Yes, God the Father is always *waiting for us*."

"We sin, we regret, and then comes repentance... but it is God's mercy that seals the day," Father Leon says, pointing to the proportion of the mercy extended, not the gravity of the sins. He references the adage he coined to teach this message – *forgiven, forgotten, forever* – to emphasize the "I get it," aha moment that must have crossed the mind of the prodigal son before it led him back home to the merciful embrace of his father. It is the same moment that leads the faithful to receive, and then give, mercy.

"People don't realize if you just turn to God with humility and surrender your feelings," Father Leon explains, "the sacrament of mercy" brings us to conversion. He offers the term synonymously with the "sacrament of reconciliation," with "penance," with "confession" because it is in this sacrament where God's mercy and grace abound.

"We must understand that when we experience this mercy, we are *more* merciful, *more* loving," Father Leon expounds. "We become equipped to show mercy," he says knowingly "as I am both minister and penitent." †

**"Through God's mercy we become his instrument of patience, forgiveness, mercy and love."**

Father Leon



Father Leon in Good Shepherd's Divine Mercy Chapel behind the altar sanctuary (behind the stained glass image of our Good Shepherd)

Polish religious sister who recorded her apparitions of Jesus from 1925 until her death in 1938 in her handwritten diary.

"I was introduced to the message, '*Jesus, I Trust in You*' while there," Father Leon imparts sharing the impact of the phrase on his priestly life. It would resonate and form his ministry, thereafter.

Decades later, while serving Good Shepherd Church, Father Leon perpetuated the Divine Mercy message by establishing a Divine Mercy chapel behind the altar sanctuary. A gift of the renowned image from parishioners Marbe and Pete Agmata graces the prayerful space.

Donning a stole that bears the image of St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy image of Jesus she made known to the world, Father Leon relates this message of trust to a particular diary entry.

"She mentions, 'God is hurt when people don't realize, or acknowledge his mercy,'" Father Leon says recognizing it *is* truly "beyond our comprehension." Still, God's consistent message of mercy beckons our trust and calls us to confession, conversion, gratitude and reciprocal mercy to others.



**Divine Mercy Devotion — atonement... indebtedness... gratitude for Jesus' infinite mercy and grace**

"No one knew of Sister Faustina, yet," recalls Father Leon of those days in 1981, then only two years into his priesthood. He had the honor of serving at the first chapel of Divine Mercy. The humble chapel later became the Basilica of Divine Mercy in Krakow, Poland with a capacity of 3,500 and upper and lower levels. It is also the final resting place for Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, the





## FRUITFUL DISCIPLESHIP

... blooms in every age,  
in every generation,  
in every movement.

Learn about how the parish seeks to inspire and bridge generations while sharing Jesus Christ in a personal and focused way.

*"Baby Boomers" reflect on*

*Moving along the generational continuum, stories from some of Good Shepherd's "Baby Boomers" show the bearing of their Catholic faith on various life experiences and ever-changing landscapes. Born between 1946 and 1964, baby boomers remain one of the largest generational groupings alive today and comparatively, higher numbers of these 60- and 70-somethings are sitting in the pews. They are working longer, living longer and extending love in every direction as steadfast, hopeful...fruitful disciples.*



Monica and Isabel Saragoza

# KEEPING THE FAITH THROUGH DECADES OF CHANGE

**Monica and Isabel Saragoza** – Monica and her family remember attending Good Shepherd's Masses at Foulks Ranch Elementary School's multi-purpose space in 1995. She laughs at the thought of noisy metal chairs being stacked on carts after Mass, rolling them away and converting the setting back to a school scene for Monday morning. That was nearly 30 years ago when she was a new mom.

Today, a mom of five, she looks back and relishes the years gone by but also *this* very moment. Her youngest daughter, Isabel, is a junior in high school. Never missing a beat, Monica drives Isabel to school and heads off to work balancing motherhood with various obligations.

"My ministry and Mass partner is my 16-year-old daughter," Monica says of the special faith bond she shares with Isabel whom she also describes as her "faithful rock." Citing the seven-year gap between Isabel and her older brother, Monica shares, "She's like an only child."

Monica believes her faith has grown so much over the years with Isabel in tow.

"I knew Jesus, but I didn't," she admits pointing to certain turning points along the way. "Father Wells drew me in more" she says describing how "every time he celebrated Mass, it was new." Going to Mass every Sunday changed her as did working in the religious education office from 2010 through 2013 and her involvement as a teacher for the faith formation program. "I was being catechized myself," she realizes.

Monica sees how blossoming faith allowed her to share "the fullness of faith" with Isabel. Their conversations provide opportunities to talk deeply, ask questions and take in and learn "so many things."

"She feels it the way I do," Monica says of Isabel's immersion into the Mass and Eucharist, imagining being present at the Last Supper.

Together mother and daughter attend Good Shepherd's programs like Advent by Candlelight, Lenten missions, and the Knights of Columbus craft fair. Last year, they both participated in the Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry.

"Just being so close to my mom has made me closer to my faith," Isabel shares. "I see how she interacts with it and grows with it and that allows me to grow with my faith as well," she observes grateful for the chance to witness community in action and authentic relationships.

"I get all the attention," Isabel relates quietly, appreciative and aware of her special experience as the "baby" of all the siblings.

Monica recalls the words of a religious sister spoken at a retreat years ago to a fellow mom who worried that the busyness of life meant less time for Jesus and limited her prayer. "The sister said 'Everything that you do – washing dishes, helping the kids get dressed, all the little things you do as a mom – shows your love for them but also your love for Jesus. You're taking care of what He's given you,'" Monica quotes.

"That's what carried me through all those years and brought me to where I am today," she adds with the wisdom that comes from decades of change. She knows that God makes everything appropriate to its time.

**Jeff Richard** – Jeff Richard seems to chuckle as he acknowledges his baby boomer status, and the truth of another applicable label – *empty nester*. He thinks back on the years that led to this apropos monicker signaling that the children, now adults, have flown onward and upward and no longer live at home.

"I was a Baptist when the kids first started going to Good Shepherd," he recalls indicating his desire to convert and "go to the same church" as his children. As his daughter and son ventured off to school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Jeff entered the RCIA program, becoming Catholic 20 years ago.

"I find faith to be grounding," Jeff says imparting a belief etched since his youth. "Faith was always important," he recalls yet he also reflects on busier seasons when faith seemed "out on the periphery." Still, it was always there, and "it is something one should never go away from, it is always there to help you come back," he posits bringing new insights to the "nest" metaphor.

From the vantage point of baby boomer-dom, Jeff says, "I think that as one gets older, you realize you go through stages in

## BABY BOOMERS

Lost Generation

Greatest Generation

Silent Generation

Baby Boomers

1883-1900

1901-1927

1928-1945

1946-1964





Jeff Richard



Elia Hecimovich, Carlos and Isabel Llarena

NGE

life.” He mentions the timeless movie, *The Lion King*, and its “circle of life” theme as apt imagery to make his point.

“In your 30s you have all your hair and you’re thinking about the kids growing up,” he explains continuing to elaborate on later phases when parents and friends start to pass away. “You see yourself moving into another slice of that circle of life and you do whatever you can to help people that are coming up after you,” he says with his kids and a granddaughter on his mind.

“I’m focused on helping my kids,” Jeff says hinting that “helping” takes on new dimensions for empty nesters. Daily text messaging represents the nature of Jeff’s most frequent contact, sending caring messages, and always his love. They talk on the phone, too, bridging the distance between Los Angeles and Elk Grove. He visits when he can, eager to hug his grandbaby and impart stories and meaning someday, “when she learns how to talk.”

“We talk about faith,” Jeff notes of subtle conversations with his kids to encourage participation in church. “It’s worthy of continued conversation,” he adds wanting to emphasize the “groundlessness” he has seen among those without church connections. Yet, he is mindful not to criticize voicing, “You will seldom turn a person’s heart with criticism.”

On the contrary, exhibiting a living faith speaks volumes. Retired from the Air National Guard and now employed with the Employment Development Depart-

ment, Jeff sees church and community as a place where people grow, soar, and develop God-given gifts and virtues like understanding, inclusiveness, patience and helpfulness.

When Jeff holds his granddaughter, he knows, “God put us all here,” everyone with a purpose. He makes a point of reinforcing this truth as a devoted parent committed to fostering faith. “We’re here for a reason and it is not to accumulate,” he stresses but rather “to keep passing on that spark of life and faith.”

**Carlos and Isabel Llarena with mom, Elia Hecimovich** – Carlos and Isabel Llarena have built their lives around caring for others.

“We have always taken care of friends and family,” Isabel says describing a way of life engrained from her earliest days. She remembers her childhood in Cuba, under communist regimes, and her family’s commitment to make room for and care for others. “I grew up that way,” she comments.

That “way” remained the essence of Carlos and Isabel’s life even as young newlyweds. Carlos, on active duty in the army, took in two Vietnamese families for three years after the fall of Vietnam in 1975. Carlos’ Vietnamese language skills, acquired during his military service, prompted an immediate smile and indelible bond with the refugee father, Carlos remembers. At a dire time of humanitarian crisis, Carlos

became known as his “big bro” and the namesake of his new friend’s son.

Years later, Carlos and Isabel cared for for Isabel’s grandmother in Los Angeles while they raised two daughters and one son. Balancing interstate moves back and forth from Illinois to California to Indiana and back to California for work did not disrupt their quiet, unchanging mission of love.

Considering their caregiving in the context of their faith, Carlos says simply, “Living the corporal works

of mercy. Caring for people.” How beautifully the works of mercy, indeed, give form and function to the expansive concern of caregiving.

They would extend their same agape love many times over as Isabel’s parents moved in and lived with them until their passing. Throughout those years, their outreach and presence showed no boundaries. The pastor at their Chicago parish conveyed to them, “You’re showing other people the face of Christ.”

Of late, Carlos and Isabel have cared for Carlos’ mother, Elia Hecimovich. Elia celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last July with many parishioners witnessing a memorable blessing at Mass honoring her faith and longevity.

“We always would take her wherever we went,” Carlos says describing a centenarian who welcomes activity. “She loves the Swahili Mass,” he adds noting their regular attendance at the monthly Mass and how others endearingly called Elia “grandma.”

Reflecting on the two great commandments to love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself, Carlos suggests, “God loves us *through* people.” And for these baby boomers, they feel it. They feel God’s love.

Isabel senses joy and Carlos concludes, “God made us to love people and use things. Society flips it around to love things, and use people. Faith brings us back. To loving people.”

Generation x

Millennials (Gen Y)

Zoomers (Gen Z)

Generation Alpha

1965-1980

1981-1996

1997-2012

2010-2021





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## *Awaken* Practice the faith ... THE SOUL

### "SUPER-COMMUTER" JUAN RIOS DEVOTES HIS DRIVE-TIME TO THE LORD

"I need to have time for prayers," says Juan Rios of his valued morning commute time. As a construction supervisor, he oversees projects in Napa, American Canyon and Pinole. The drive can be tiring, but for Juan, the time is well-spent as a faith-filled complement to Sunday Mass.

"I'm part of a morning prayer group," he explains describing how he mostly listens to other participants to avoid the distraction of switching his microphone on and off while driving. A lifelong Catholic, he savors what he hears as he moves west along Interstate 80. The group is devoted to starting the day with the Liturgy of the Hours before continuing with Lectio Divina.

"A passage is read, and they discuss it," Juan shares grateful and inspired to hear "what they think about it." He knows his faith grows and deepens as traffic flows and quickens.

"I get to hear a lot," he says of a commute transformed daily to new spiritual heights.

A native of Mexico, having attended seminary there for a time before moving to the United States, Juan thinks back on his early years that were steeped in the Catholic faith.

"I know how important this is," he stresses of making time for prayer and opening his mind. "Whatever I can do, I do."

"I listen to Catholic radio all day," Juan says recalling his initial introduction to a new Spanish Catholic station in LA decades ago. Juan's cousin, a priest, urged Juan to listen. He did and still does, captivated ever since.

Committed to Relevant Radio, he absorbs all its offerings from Mass to rosaries, to prayers, "to whatever is on." He quips about passing through Fairfield and having to switch

from the Sacramento station to San Francisco's station to solve the static. The drive home means more traffic, but more time to listen.

"I'm listening and I start reflecting on how things apply to me... how I can do better," Juan mentions of his super-commute time. He regrets he can't take notes but he knows that the audio replays in his mind and his prayers reach God across miles and miles of spiritual wavelengths.

Juan moved his wife and three children from Los Angeles about 7 years ago to the San Francisco Bay Area before moving again to Elk Grove. He has been a Good Shepherd parishioner for about five years and is active in the Knights of Columbus.

