

JOYOUS TIDINGS

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Joyful Servants of the Cross

The congregation of the Joyful Servants of the Cross publishes this newsletter as a way to document its own journey in history, and as a means to communicate to any who would be interested the activities of our group. We hope that reading this may be a source of blessing and peace in your life.

*Spreading Joy, Hope and
Peace to the waiting world.*

WELCOME ONCE AGAIN

Somehow time slips by so quickly and it is already over a year since the last newsletter—that was supposed to be a monthly publication in the first place! O well, God's plans are usually different than man's!!

The emphasis of this latest newsletter will be both informational, and invitational: giving you information about the congregation as it activities; and also, as always, to extend a heartfelt invitation to any who might like to further investigate the inner workings of what is means to be a Joyful Servant

of the Cross—with the purpose of maybe connecting with us in some way.

Just to be enrolled on an emailing list—would be a first step so that newsletters, announcements, Superior's Conferences, prayer aids and the like could be sent to you as they are published.

Again, welcome and may the fruits of renewed and strengthened joy, hope and peace be a result of your visit here.

God's abundant blessing be with you!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **JSC** is for real people, leading real lives
- **JSC** prayer commitment is minimal with maximal results
- **JSC** needs ordinary people like you — to be a part of our extraordinary group



SPRING IS IN THE AIR—

It is always such a hope-filled time of year— Springtime. Even though as winter descends upon us each year we promise ourselves not to be taken in by its lack of light and warmth, its lack of comfort and caresses of soothing breezes upon the cheek. In short—we oftentimes get “depressed” in spite of our best intentions—but then comes the first crocus, the first burst of warm sunshine, and gentle refreshing rain, longer days, shorter nights—and all of a sudden everything is OK now—everything is brighter, newer, more palatable.

It happens every year—and it is beginning to happen again now—in the Northern Hemisphere.

This of course is the perfect venue, environment and setting to contemplate the events of, the glory of the Passion of Christ—leading through his Bitter Death, to the magnificent radiance of Easter Sunday.

This very cycle proves that the RESURRECTION INDEED DID HAPPEN!

In This Issue

- Our Rule Explained
- Spiritual Warfare Prayers
- Favors Granted
- Marian Devotion
- Fr. Superior's Msg
- “Jacob's Ladder”

THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT—OUR GROUND

St. Benedict of Nursia—b. 480. d. 534 at Monte Cassino in a monastery that he founded. St. Benedict is considered the **Father of Western Monasticism**. Men have always had a thirst *to seek and find* God, and they were willing to follow the lead of any who seemed to know what they were doing in this regard. St. Benedict was such a leader who was willing to share his insights with those who would listen and let what they heard make a difference in their way of life.

He, of course, wrote his famed “Rule” as a guide to be adhered to by those who came to the houses that he set up.

He called it a “little course” that hopefully

was not too irksome or burdensome. His chief desire was for men to live together, for life, bound by a vow of “stability” so that they could work out the natural tensions and strains that come from such a decision—with the grace of the Holy Spirit that would work everything out for everyone who trusted in Him and totally detached themselves from their own will, wishes and ways.

Mutual obedience and respect were the hallmarks of monastic life. Humility was a virtue to be sought and practiced as soon as possible. He talked about real humility and holiness as opposed to the kind that is easily talked about but never really out into practice. It is much better to actually be humble and holy, than to

merely talk about it.

The obedience talked about by St. Benedict of course is always modeled after the very obedience of Christ himself, who always listened for his Father’s voice in all circumstances and then immediately went about fulfilling the Father’s wishes pronto. A monk was to do the same at the bidding of the Father Superior who represented Christ Himself and His Father in the monastery. This is a foreign idea in our modern world—a seeming “blind obedience” - but it is actually blind at all—the version vision of God is in charge!

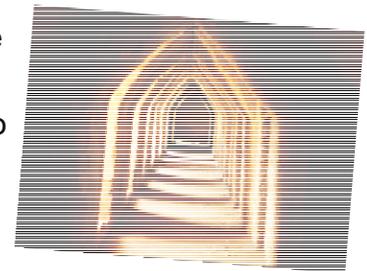
See our Modified Rule here
www.rjoy4u.org/CONSTRULE15.pdf



SELECTION FROM OUR COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Prayer for a Spiritual Canopy

Dear Lord Jesus, please forgive us for all the times we have not submitted to You. Forgive us for all sinfulness, and for agreeing with the enemy and his lies. We submit to you as our Lord, and break every agreement we have made with the enemy.



We now ask You to establish a hedge of protection around us, over us, and under us, sealing it with Your blood.

We choose, then, to put on the full armor of God, and ask that You cleanse us and seal us—body, mind, soul and spirit—with Your blood. And, finally, we ask You to be our constant guide, defender, and friend this whole day long!



All who are reading this are in our prayers daily—with the intention that your life may be transformed by the merciful, loving, healing Presence of your Redeemer, your Savior and your Friend!: Jesus!



PRAYER FAVORS GRANTED—"The Power of Prayer"

I have asked Brother Superior, who is in charge of "prayer-lists and intentions" to document for us some petitions sent out to God, and answers obtained. He has told me that he would like to begin this new column with the following information concerning St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina.



Padre Pio's Prayer for Trust and Confidence

O Lord we ask for a boundless confidence and trust in Your Divine

Mercy, and the courage to accept the crosses and sufferings which bring immense goodness to our souls and that of Your Church

Help us to love you with a pure and contrite heart, and to humble ourselves beneath Your Cross. As we climb the mountain of holiness, carrying our cross that leads to Heavenly glory.

May we receive you with great faith and love in Holy Communion, and allow you to act in us your desire, for your greater Glory.

O Jesus, most adorable heart and eternal fountain of Divine Love, may our prayer find favor before the Divine Majesty

PADRE PIO COUNSELS ON PRAYER

"Pray with perseverance, trust and a serene and calm mind"

"Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless; God is merciful and will hear your prayer."

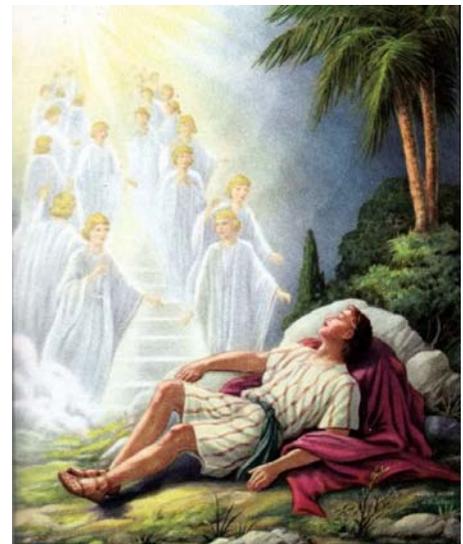
"Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key that opens God's Heart."

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER WITH US?

From our Modified Rule, the levels of membership begins:

The reception of members begins at the INQUIRER-SEEKER LEVEL. This level is open to anyone at all who wants to find out about us, learn our ways and to try implementing some of them into their lives – to see if it in any way "fits."

The duties of an "inquirer-seeker" is to examine printed and online information about our group and then to begin to experiment with putting into practice some of the spiritual principles found in the material. Also, a good way is to talk with one of us about how it is that we live out the Rule—what is it that keeps us united and going as a congregation!



A MONK IS ALWAYS SEEKING WHAT PERTAINS TO HEAVENLY REALITIES.....



As Joyful Servants of the Cross, we have a genuine, filial devotion to the Blessed Mother of God. We know that she cares about not only us, but for those for whom we intercede and pray for as a part of our apostolic work. She is ever ready to offer a mother's tenderness and sweetness to any who are ill, wounded, or suffering in any way. Mary stood by the Cross of Jesus her Son, and watched such untold agony; she is happy to do the same for us whole

are members of the real and Mystical Body of His Son as members of his Church.

"Hail, Mary! The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among all women. Pray for us now—and at the hour of our death. Amen."

This story from the Bible is about Jacob. If you don't remember he had a twin brother named Esau who he tricked out of his blessing from his father Isaac. Even though they were twins, Esau was born first so he should've received the special blessing from his father, not Jacob.



*Spreading
Joy, Hope and
Peace where it is
most needed...*

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...and it is up to us to accomplish them, say them, do them, cheerfully, joyfully and sincerely.

The fruits of the graces bestowed from this year—especially on the repentant sinner—can alter the course of history not only for the penitent but also for all those he touches and relates to—and ripplingly—to the whole world!

TELL THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL THE WORLD!

FATHER SUPERIOR'S MONTHLY MESSAGE—3/5

The urgency and joy that abound is this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy! We are deeply involved at this point in Pope Francis' declared Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Church. It is "extraordinary" in that it falls out of the "usual cycle" of Holy Years. It is also extraordinary in its most timely content: mercy!

As Pope Francis tells us in the bull of indiction: "the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality through which is revealed his love as that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depth out of love for their child."

Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love."

THE MOTTO TO THE HOLY YEAR IS: "MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER!"

We then have as our task, as members of the Body of Christ, the Church, to reflect the merciful face of the Father to all we meet. If anyone does see the Father of Mercies in our faces, in our gestures, in our words, then where will they see them.

WE ARE TO BE AMBASSADORS OF GOD'S MERCY—and examples of what it means to be LOVED, FORGIVEN and COMMISSIONED!

Spiritual and corporal works of mercy must abound in this year—which will conclude on the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe in November,

Jacob and Esau

Do you remember the story of Abraham and Sarah? One thing you should know about Abraham is that God made a covenant (or a promise) that he would have many children, that he would start many nations, and most importantly God would be with him and with all these nations. This promise would be passed down to every first born child for many years.

God did what he said and Abraham had a boy named Isaac. The neat thing is that this story is about Isaac, and he's all grown up and married to a lady named Rebekah.

Rebekah couldn't have children either but Isaac had learned from his dad that if he prayed to God, He might answer his prayer. Sure enough, God answered Isaac's prayer and his wife became pregnant, and not just with one baby but with twins!

Do you remember your mommy ever having a big tummy because there was a baby growing inside? A neat thing can happen while the baby is growing - it moves! Babies move all around while they're in the tummy and sometimes you can feel or see the baby moving around.

Rebekah had this same feeling as all moms do when they're going to have a baby. It's just that she felt her babies moving around so much that she asked God, "Why is this happening to me?"

She was worried about how they were moving inside her. God answered her saying, "Your children are very different from one another, one of your children will lead a group of people that is stronger than the other and the oldest child will serve the younger one."

This was strange because usually if you're the oldest child in the family the younger brothers or sister look up to them and want to do what the oldest is doing. But in this case the older brother would work for the younger brother.

When the twins were born the first and oldest boy to be born was named Esau. He is easy to remember because he was red and hairy all over. Right behind him came his younger brother Jacob.



TO BE CONTINUED.....