



Fresco of the Assumption of Mary
 Basílica de La Macarena - Seville, Spain

Stories of how Mary died and went to heaven have been circulating in the church since the second century. Around the year 600 Emperor Maurice set the feast day on August 15 in the Roman empire.

In 1950 Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption an article of faith. Here are a few lines from *A New Catechism* to help explain its significance: "Mary has already been raised from the dead, body and soul. Of the other dead we may only say that they will be made alive, they are about to arise, but we acknowledge that Mary is already glorified."

"Just as Christ's resurrection is effective among us through his forceful, vivid presence in the life of the world, so too, is the glory or the 'Assumption' of Mary...We can experience the presence of Christ and Mary by living on earth in the Spirit of Christ and by speaking to them in prayer. The same may be said of the other dead. Some great saints and good people are more powerfully present than others. Does this perhaps indicate that they are already further on the way of resurrection?"

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BRINGING RELIGION HOME
 Claretian Publications
 205 W. Monroe Street
 Chicago, IL 60606

August 2026 Collection Basket Pro-life Corner

Back To School

As the Summer Season comes to a close, the students in our lives are busy preparing to return to school. Please encourage the students you know to get involved in a Pro-life activity or group. There are several Gabriel Projects and pregnancy support centers in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese that would welcome volunteers. Another wonderful Pro-life organization to get involved with is Students For Life. Students For Life currently serves 1,500+ pro-life student groups on middle, high school, college, university, medical, and law school campuses in all 50 states.

For more information or to start a Students For Life group at your school or college, please contact:

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O: 540.834.4600 www.studentsforlife.org/called

For more information on the Gabriel Projects in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese and the Diocesan Respect Life Committee, please visit our website:

DAJProlife.org

Or contact: RespectLifegm@gmail.com

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

18th Sunday August 2nd Matthew 14:13-21

The apostles were just being practical when they asked Jesus to “dismiss the crowds to go buy food.” Jesus knew there is always enough when we place our trust in the Father, even with just 5 loaves and fishes. Trust is the bridge to miracles.

19th Sunday August 9th Matthew 14:22-33

The demands of family can be so overwhelming we feel walking on water would be easier. When Jesus was pressured, He dismissed everyone, so he could be “by himself and pray.” When overwhelmed and stressed, go to a quiet place and surrender your pressured feelings to the Lord using Peter’s prayer in today’s gospel: “Lord, save me.”

20th Sunday August 16th Matthew 15:21-28

The mother in today’s gospel persisted, even when she was ignored and insulted. She would do whatever was necessary to bring relief to her child. Parenting is more than bringing life into the world; it is also about sacrificing daily for your children.

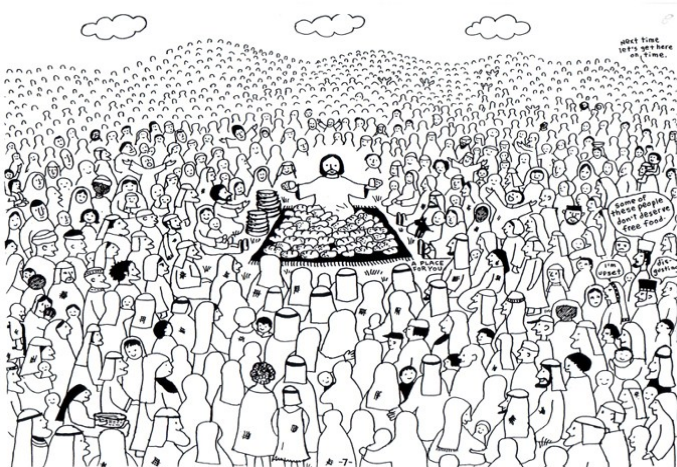
21st Sunday August 23rd Matthew 16:13-20

Like Jesus in today’s gospel, we are seen by others in different ways. Perhaps the name our family gives us is closest to our true identity. They know us best. Who do they say you are?

22nd Sunday August 30th Matthew 16:21-27

Relationships live in a careful balance. If a person changes, the balance is altered requiring a shift in the relationship. In today’s gospel Jesus announced a change and Peter resisted. Sometimes, those we count on for support may actually get in the way. Jesus told Peter: “You are an obstacle to me.”

Permission granted from A Family Perspective
By Bud Ozar



DIOCESAN FAMILY CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIOCESE

- ♦ The diocesan family conference will be held on **Saturday, September 19th** at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, **Ebensburg**.
- ♦ This conference has been designed for every generation, from young children and teens to parents, grandparents, clergy and parish leaders. This day includes the annual Men’s and Women’s Conferences, Shycon (also a discipleship event for Senior High Confirmation candidates) and Junior High Youth Day.
- ♦ This day-long event will offer inspiring keynote presentations, engaging break-out sessions, opportunities for prayer and fellowship, food and the Vigil Mass for Sunday.

You may also register online at:

www.dioceseaj.org/diocesan-family-

