

The Collection Basket



APRIL 2022

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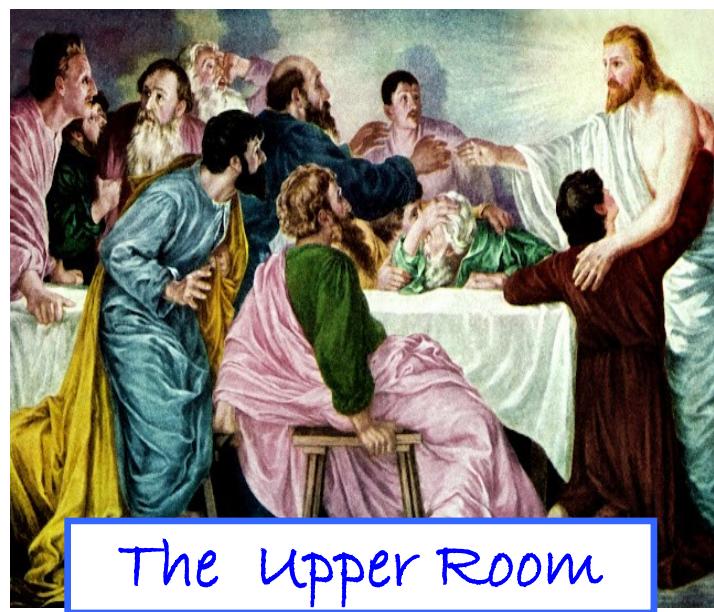
IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE



Family Ritual

There is so much going on in the world. Our children will be aware of it, even if they may not understand it completely. Be careful about watching or looking up news around your children, as too much of this may cause anxiety. When they do express concerns, listen and respond compassionately, and make sure to pray with your children about them. Like St. Therese, teach them to make little acts of love to improve the world to surmount the problems we face. Make time to play with your children, as they need this. And as the celebration of the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord draws near, remind your children that our Christian faith shows that there is hope no matter what happens.

In Christ, Andre McCarville
Director, Family Life Office
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown



The Upper Room

There's a bit of nobility in the worst of human beings because all are made in God's image and that image can never be completely effaced or lost. Even the man who has decided to have nothing whatsoever to do with God isn't frozen in that state of mind. Deep in the roots of his being — just because he is created in the Divine Image — there is an ever-present tug toward his Maker.

It is the privilege of Christophers to help him become aware of this tremendous attraction. They can honestly say to anyone, with little danger of hurting his feelings: **"There's a lot of good in you!"** With a kind word or a friendly glance they can do much to inspire confidence. They never write anybody off!

No matter how desperate the case, no matter how ignoble the character, theirs is the unshakable conviction that there is always hope!

**"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another."**

(John 13:35)

O Lord, help us to see Thy image in each human being and to love him because he was made by Thee and for Thee.

"Three Minutes A Day:
"Christopher Thoughts for Daily Living"
Fr. James Keller, M.M.
© 1949



Families and the Gospel

April 3, 2022: Fifth Sunday of Lent

(JOHN 8:1-11)

Stoning is not just an ancient act of violence. Each day in our homes we throw stones of ridicule, criticism, name-calling and put-downs. All of it is deadly. Hear Jesus in today's gospel: "Whoever is without sin can throw the first stone." Rid your home of violence. Stop verbal stoning!

April 10, 2022: Passion (Palm) Sunday (LUKE 22:14-23:56)

Today Jesus tells us "I am among you as one who serves." In accepting the palm branch today you publicly confirm your baptismal promise to follow Jesus as "one who serves." Selfless service defines a family as Christian.

EASTER TIME

April 17, 2022: Easter Sunday

(JOHN 20:1-9)

Millions of Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection today. It all began simply on the first Easter with one person telling another: "Mary told Peter" and "they believed." Faith is passed one person to another; it is caught, not taught and parents are the most effective persons to pass faith to their children.

April 24, 2022: Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

(JN 20:19-31)

Jesus connects PEACE and FORGIVENESS in today's gospel. In our families we will only experience peace to the extent we forgive one another. Peace is purchased with the currency of forgiveness. When we allow our anger and pride to lock out others, we also lock out peace and harmony.

(Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar)



Ukraine Relief



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) our connection to Ukraine

In Ukraine and the surrounding countries there are currently over 3.3 million people in need of immediate assistance. CRS and our partners on the ground are providing things like safe shelter, hot meals, cash for travel, transportation, counseling support and much more.

There is great risk of additional suffering both within Ukraine and for those who are fleeing to neighboring countries for safety. CRS and our partners need immediate support to meet both ongoing needs as the situation intensifies.

Years of conflict along the eastern border have already displaced 1.3 million people from their homes and claimed 14,000 lives and now 2.3 million people have fled Ukraine. Almost ninety percent of the refugees are women and children. Throughout this time, Caritas Ukraine, with support from CRS, has been providing emergency relief and recovery.

All collections made in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will go to CRS towards their assistance to Ukraine.

Please contact the Missions Office of the Diocese, if you have any questions. (814) 317-2643

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Thank you!

