

The Collection Basket

JULY 2022

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Volume XXXIX, Number 7

IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Family Ritual

Some people love the heat, and some people hate it, but in Pennsylvania, the warm days seem to come and go too quickly.

While many of our kids (and some parents as well) would prefer to stay indoors and play video games or watch shows, make sure you and your family get out to experience the sun on your face and the warm breezes while you have the opportunity.

Like St. Francis, praise God for the beauty of creation as found in his Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon, because in praising and worshiping God, all the trials and errands of life get put in their proper place. And while it is important to "get things done", don't forget to just **be**. Taking time to stop from all the busyness of life will open us to what is truly important.

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



ONE LAND, MANY PEOPLE

Bless our beautiful land, O Lord, with its wonderful variety of people, of races, cultures and languages.

May we be a nation of laughter and joy, of justice and reconciliation, of peace and unity, of compassion, caring and sharing.

We pray this prayer for true patriotism, in the powerful name of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.

-Desmond Tutu, *Everyday Prayers for Children*, St. Anthony Messenger Press



Give Life Your Best!

"Give life your best. At all times and in all circumstances, always give your best in whatever you do.

It does not matter in what place you finish if you gave life your best. Likewise, no matter in what place you do finish, it doesn't matter if it is not your best.

When you give life your best, there is no need for apologies or excuses, so go ahead—
give life your best!"

Reprinted with permission from: "Apple Seeds", Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.

Families and the Gospel

July 3, 2022: Fourteenth Sunday (LK 10:1-12, 17-20)

Just like the seventy two disciples sent out by Jesus in today's gospel, families are expected to be **MISSIONARIES**. By our lives, words and life style we proclaim peace, commitment, fidelity and respect to a culture caught up with violence and gratification.

July 10, 2022: Fifteenth Sunday (LK 10:25-37)

Children learn by watching us. Do they see you helping others like the Good Samaritan, or do they see you avoiding others like the Levite in today's gospel. Worry more about what your children see in YOUR LIFE than what they see on TV.

July 17, 2022: Sixteenth Sunday (LK 10:38-42)

Cell phones, emails, faxes, texts and voice mails can reduce our lives to a continual series of interrupted moments. Listen to Jesus in today's gospel: "You are anxious about many things" robbing us of the precious time needed to BE with others. Quality time is QUANTITY time.

July 24, 2022: Seventeenth Sunday (LK 11:1-13)

Today's gospel guarantees if we "ask" we will "receive," perhaps not what we wanted but what our Heavenly Father knows is best for us, His children. All the love we have for our children, God has for us and more. As our children trust us, we must trust "Our Father."

July 31, 2022: Eighteenth Sunday (LK 12:13-21)

In today's gospel Jesus teaches us: "One's life does not consist of possessions." We spend so much time working to obtain more stuff; we don't have time for the people in our lives. What is enough? Are the words of Jesus, "You fool", meant for us?

WITH PERMISSION OF A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar



Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, who bore the Creator of all things. You became the Mother of your Maker, and you remain for ever Virgin

Sacred Scripture celebrated the beauty of Carmel where the prophet Elijah defended the purity of Israel's faith in the living God. In the twelfth century, hermits withdrew to that mountain and later founded the Carmelite order devoted to the contemplative life under the patronage of Mary, the holy Mother of God. Devotion to **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** is worldwide, and most Catholics are familiar with the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular. The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was instituted for the Carmelites in 1332, and extended to the whole Church by Benedict XIII in 1726.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel July 16th is the principal feast day of the **Carmelite Order**.

Through the efforts of the crusader Berthold, a group of hermits living on Mount Carmel were organized into an Order after the traditional Western type about the



year 1150. Oppressed by the Saracens, the monks slowly emigrated to Europe. During the night preceding the sixteenth of July, 1225, the Blessed Virgin is said to have commanded Pope Honorius III to approve the foundation. Since the Carmelites were still under constant harassment, the sixth General of the Order, St. Simon Stock, pleaded with the Blessed Virgin for some special sign of her protection. On July 16, 1251, she designated the scapular as the special mark of her maternal love. That is why the present feast is also known as the feast of the Scapular. The scapular, as part of the habit, is common to many religious Orders, but it is a special feature of the Carmelites. A smaller form of the scapular is given to lay persons in order that they may share in the great graces associated with it.

—Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch