



CHURCH of the HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmmarydel.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

holycross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am

Wednesday – 8:15 am

Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATION

What kinds of people become priests, deacons, or religious?

What kind of people enter into sacramental marriage?

They are people who love others. They are people with the courage to touch lives, hearts and souls in a high-tech, un-churched world.

Are you that kind of person?



Listen to God's call. What is God calling you to be?

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending April 16, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$21,134	\$27,500	(\$6,366)
YTD	\$1,114,637	\$1,152,400	(\$37,763)
Needs	\$1,122	\$1,604	(\$482)
Easter	\$17,554	\$18,000	(\$446)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC) Ending April 16, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,339
Second Collection	\$878

New figures for the week ending April 23 were not available at the time this bulletin was published. New figures for HC and ICC will be in the next bulletin.

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.
We appreciate your support!
If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Dear Parishioners,

Back in Brooklyn, around the corner from my family's house, was a bustling main street called 18th Avenue (now called Christopher Columbus Blvd.). Eighteenth Avenue was where you went get anything you needed. There were "salumerias" (delicatessans), "trattorias" (small restaurants that also serve wine), "pescherias" (fish/seafood stores), butcher shops, cafes, pasta stores, clothing stores, a movie theatre, a super-market... all in walking distance.

Social Network - Retro. One interesting place on 18th Avenue, just around the corner from us, was a store front that bore the name "The Santa Rosalia Society." It was what they used to call a men's social club; this is where the men in the neighborhood, mostly older, would kibitz, smoke cigars, play cards, and other activities (it's also where you want to "play the numbers," etc.). In the front window of that store front was a statue of saint — St. Rosalia. Her image was tall, standing, eyes looking heavenwards, hands in prayer, and surrounded by mountainous or perhaps desert like trappings (on the ground near her was a skull, there was sand, some rocks, but also some roses).

Who's that Girl? But I wondered, who the heck is Santa Rosalia? I knew St. Francis, St. Dominic, St. Anthony, St. Joseph, St. Peter, St. Catherine, St. Mary, St. Maria Goretti — but I never heard of Santa Rosalia. I remember asking my dad about the name of the social club; he said there are lots of saints we don't know about but that she was probably some Italian saint from way back. I walked by that social club regularly for years, but in that pre-internet era, I settled for my dad's answer, she's an Italian saint from way back.

Of Saints and Parmesan Cheese. Years later, I was reading a book of hagiographies (saint biographies) and lo and behold, there was an entry for Santa Rosalia. Immediately my mind shot back to 18th Avenue and the Santa Rosalia Society. And I decided it was time to end the mystery of Santa Rosalia and find out about her. My eyes were glued to her story like parmesan cheese melted on a veal cutlet.

The Writing is on the Wall. So, here's the story: St. Rosalia was a Sicilian saint. She was raised in a royal family in Sicily, but rejected the trappings of royalty and wealth. So she moved away from her family, and adopted the life of a hermit, living in a cave (to which the angels had led her) on Mount Pellegrino near the city of Palermo, Sicily. In the cave, she wrote a message on the wall, "I, Rosalia, daughter of Sinibald, Lord of Roses, and Quisquina, have taken the resolution to live in this cave for the love of my Lord, Jesus Christ." This reminded her of where she came from, where she was, and why

she was there. As the story goes, St. Rosalia lived a hermit-like life of prayer and penance, in and around her cave. She remained separated from the world until the end of her life. It is said she died alone buried in a cave in, at the age of 30 in 1160.

Cave, Man. In 1625, a local resident from Palermo stumbled upon St. Rosalia's cave. He dug down into it, and found her relics (remains) and her message on the cave wall. People in Sicily knew about history of St. Rosalia, but this finding spiritually electrified the nation. Sicily at the time was suffering from a period of terrible plague, with many people sick and dying. The man who found the relic announced his find, and the relics were taken as a sign of God's favor, and they were paraded through the streets of Palermo, Sicily, with people gathering in prayer. Three days later the plague abated, and St. Rosalia's intercession deemed the cause of the cure. Ultimately her feast day became a grand national day of celebration in Sicily and throughout portions of Italy. In 1927, the Pope (Pius XI) declared her feast day (September 4) to be a Holy Day of Obligation throughout Italy (though that is no longer the case)

Go Tell It on the Mountainside. Over the years, I've seen artwork of this little known saint of great importance, and it seems that the Santa Rosalia Society in Brooklyn in their window display of Santa Rosalia knew a lot about how she was depicted in Church art over the years: shown, usually, with a skull; sometimes holding a cross or Bible; hands in prayer; shown on a mountainside, etc. While that Santa Rosalia social club is now long gone, the memory of that image of Santa Rosalia has remained with me over the years. And I would guess that is how devotion or histories of the lives of the saints spread over the years: from images, from memories, and from stories repeated or written down. So, I guess, right here, in this column, I am continuing to spread the facts about the life a great saintly woman, and making her known to another generation of Catholics.

Questions. Of course, there are always questions, like, "If Santa Rosalia went off to the mountain and saw no one throughout her life, how do we know angels led her there? How do we know about her holding a cross and a Bible? How do we even know she died, let alone in what year." It reminded me in a horror movie once where one

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Brennan Ferris	Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Richard Kosior	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger	Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

Church of the Holy Cross
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

ICC STAFF

Parish Office	410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon	Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti	DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia	Bookkeeper
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

MAILING ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception Church
P. O. Box 399
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

Holy Cross School
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

2023 FAITH AND CHARITY CATHOLIC APPEAL – “SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us, "Let not your heart be troubled...I am the way, and the truth and the life. No man cometh to the Father, but by me." When we follow Jesus and listen to him, he leads us by His light. We are called to shine the Light of Christ and live Jesus' example; by doing so, he promises us a place with Him.

As followers of Christ, we must act faithfully to reach out to others as Jesus does. We are called to commit ourselves as good stewards of our gifts, and by doing so, we bring Christ's light with us everywhere! Jesus reminds us to help those on the margins and support the faith journey of those around us.

Thank you to everyone who "Shining the Light of Christ" pledged the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. If you have not yet participated, please consider doing so today. Your gift makes a real difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families who reside within our 12-county diocese. Pledge envelopes are available in the Parish Office or on the table in the Gathering Space, and can be placed in the offertory basket. Thank you for your generosity and support.

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MAY 14)

FIRST READING: ACTS 8:5-8, 14-17

The Holy Spirit is given to those who have accepted Christ and been baptized.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:15-18

Peter says that followers of Jesus must be prepared to suffer, just as Christ our Lord suffered for our salvation.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-21

Through our love of Christ, we are drawn into the very life of the God who is Father, Son, and Spirit.

Deacon Formation Information Nights



New class of
Permanent Deacons
starting in June 2023

For more information, visit: cdow.org/deacons

Is the Holy Spirit calling you? You must follow the link above to make your reservation to attend one of the Information Nights!

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Attention Gold Star Families. We would like to acknowledge and honor the sacrifice of your loved one at the Memorial Day Mass on May 29th. Place of interment need not be Holy Cross Cemetery. Please contact Len Dornberger at 302-674-5787 ext. 135 to provide needed information.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Some couples learn about how to have a successful marriage from their own parents. Some take classes, get counseling, or are just lucky. Some life lessons also come from people who have divorced. Do you know anyone who has learned marriage the hard way? Listen to them.

PARENTING POINTERS

Officially May 1 - 7 was Screen Free Week) <https://screenfree.org/> but you can start it any time. Ask your family if they are willing to free themselves of digital devices (with the exception of work or school) for one full week. Experiment with human or outdoor entertainment. Secret weapon: Tell your child it would make a great Mother's Day gift.

MASS INTENTIONS MAY

8 MONDAY HC 8:00 am	Basilio Bautista
9 TUESDAY HC 8:00 am	DM Durk & Kerr Faily
10 WEDNESDAY HC 8:15 am	John Iavecchia (LI)
11 THURSDAY HC 8:00 am ICC 6:00 pm	Anna Grady For the People
12 FRIDAY HC 8:00 am	Meliss DeJesus
13 SATURDAY HC 8 am HC 5:00 pm	Theodore Morris Gregory & Brian Shouldis Debra Shouldis Petrovich
14 SUNDAY HC 7:30 am ICC 8:30 am HC 9:30 am ICC 11:00 am HC 11:30 am ICC 1:00 pm	Linda Gray Betty Langham Maria A. Maddalena Keith DeFrancesco Mother's Day Novena For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

DE RIGHT TO LIFE

Join us Thursday, May 11 at Middletown Memorial Hall for our Annual Fundraiser Banquet, which features Mark Houck as our main speaker. Mark has an amazing story to tell of his pro-life activism, which led to his being falsely arrested by the FBI last summer. His courageous witness to the sanctity of life is an example to us all. Don't miss it. Register at www.derighttolife.org/calendar

faith in action

HOLY CROSS MAY 13/14, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM F. Ernst C. Helwig A. Torbert
D. Field F. Hettinger B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

H. Walker
F. Uriock

7:30 AM J. Chandler J. Denney A. Costa
J. Davis R. Fritzsche E. Costa
M. Costa

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM T. Arndt S. Cordie A. Wilk
K. Boyer D. Martinez C. Wilk
R. Willemin

LECTORS

S. Crossen
J. Coffield

11:30 AM T. Hernandez M. Richard TBD
E. Pastoriza

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

G. Godfrey

8:30 AM

LECTORS

K. Cairns

J. Carrow

11:00 AM

LECTORS

D. King

1:00 PM TBD

**Homebound Ministry at Holy Cross
Needs Your Help**

Holy Cross is in need of more Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to bring the Eucharist to the shut ins and those in the nursing homes and hospital. We service so many assisted living places, rehabilitation places, nursing homes, the hospital, and the homebound and do not have enough ministers to lighten the load of those already doing this special ministry.

We will offer one class to train you as an EMHC. We will have you also shadow with someone to make you feel comfortable doing this ministry. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to learn more about this ministry. We need YOUR help!!!

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

The Holy Cross Odyssey of the Mind team will hold a spaghetti dinner on Monday May 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, to raise funds for their trip to the World Competition in East Lansing, MI on May 24-28. Team members will be present after masses on Saturday and Sunday, May 6th and 7th to sell tickets. Take out is available. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 10 and under. A family ticket for two adults and children 14 and under is available for \$36.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday We have openings where you can spend quality time with Our Lord. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

- SUNDAY** 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
- MONDAY** 5 am, 11 am, 3 pm, 5 pm
- TUESDAY** 5 am, 6 am, 2 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm
- WEDNESDAY** 11 am
- THURSDAY**
- SATURDAY** 5 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

MEN OF THE HOLY CROSS (NEW AND MORE CONVENIENT MEETINGS)

It is now easier than ever for you to join the Men of The Holy Cross! You are welcome to come in person or participate from the comfort of your home, sitting in your favorite chair with a cup of coffee. Thanks to our newest innovation (a state of the art "Meeting Owl" which makes you feel like you are there in person), all you need is your smartphone, tablet or computer. Just type in the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting set up and join our hybrid meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/30861480> Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM You need the ID #83606382292 and pass code 631, for prayer, gospel reflections. Email Steve Balogh with any questions: stephenb_01@yahoo.com.

- Conquistando Las Naciones para Cristo Tendrá un Retiro de Sanación Interior en Delaware del 5 al 7 de Mayo para hombres y mujeres mayores de 18 años. Donación es de \$125. Lugar 14047 Redden Rd. Bridgeville, DE 19933. Para más información hable con los líderes de la Junta Directiva o llame al 302-442-5887 -302-685-8192. “Vengan a mí los que estén cansados y agobiados que Yo los aliviare” Mateo 11,28
- Mayo Mes de María. La Virgen peregrina va a empezar a visitar casas a partir del 7 de mayo. Si desea que la imagen de la virgen visite su hogar por una semana por favor de anotarse con la Sra. Martha Espinosa.
- ¿Porque Mayo es el mes de María? Durante siglos la Iglesia Católica ha dedicado todo el mes de mayo para honrar a la Virgen María, la Madre de Dios. La idea de un mes dedicado específicamente a María se remonta al tiempo barroco o siglo XVII. Si bien, no siempre se llevó a cabo en mayo, el mes de María incluía treinta ejercicios espirituales diarios en honor a la Madre de Dios. Fue en esta época que el mes de mayo y de María se combinaron, haciendo que esta celebración cuente con devociones especiales organizadas cada día durante todo el mes. Esta costumbre se extendió sobre todo durante el siglo XIX y se practica hasta hoy. Es común que las parroquias tengan en mayo un rezo diario del Rosario y muchas erijan un altar especial con una estatua o imagen de María. Además, se trata de una larga tradición el coronar su estatua, una costumbre conocida como la Coronación de Mayo.
- A menudo, la corona está hecha de hermosas flores que representan la belleza y la virtud de María y también es un recordatorio a los fieles para esforzarse en imitar sus virtudes. Esta coronación es en algunas áreas una gran celebración y, por lo general, se lleva a cabo fuera de la Misa. Los altares y coronaciones en este mes no son solo privilegios de la parroquia. En los hogares también se puede participar plenamente en la vida de la Iglesia.
- Debemos darle un lugar especial a María no porque sea una tradición de largo tiempo en la Iglesia o por las gracias especiales que se pueden obtener, sino porque María es nuestra Madre, la madre de todo el mundo y porque se preocupa por todos nosotros, intercediendo incluso en los asuntos más pequeños. Por eso se merece todo un mes en su honor.
- Foro Cristiano Todos los viernes de 6:00 – 8:00 pm en ELC. Venga escuche, participe y aprenda de nuestra Fe y como vivirla Con el Padre Brennan Ferris y el seminarista Jon Lenus
- Todos los segundo jueves de cada mes habrá una Unidad Médica Móvil de Cristiana Care que le proporcionara servicios de fácil acceso el mismo día. La unidad móvil está ubicado en:
- Modern Maturity Center, 1121 Forrest Ave. Dover, DE 19904

ICC

- Primeras Comuniones: Nuestras felicitaciones a nuestros 12 niños(a) quienes recibieron por primera vez a Jesús en el Sacramento de la Comunión , el sábado, 29 de abril: Alessandro, Aylin, Elmer, Kendra, Keylin, Litzy, Lizbeth, Marlon, Melody, Mercedes, Pablo, Yordin.
- Coronación y el Santo Rosario Viviente será el último día de clases de Educación Religiosa después de clases. Todos están invitados.
- Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para las clases de Educación Religiosa 2023-2024. Es de suma importancia que inscriba a su hijo ahora, y de esa manera garantizar materiales, catequistas y salón a tiempo.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Have a child or children in grades K-8 who need faith formation? Please go to the following link to register for religious education classes.

<https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)
LAFF, Living as a Family of Faith. How is your Faith growing; personally, and as a family? I was once told, “show me a Bible that has not been opened and I’ll show you a family falling apart; show me a Bible falling apart, and I’ll show you a family living in Faith.” Put down the electronics and pick up the Bible and pray together as a family and learn to communicate with God and each other. Learn more about our Faith and the Catholic Church. Understand what “The Source and Summit” of our Catholic Faith is all about. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences. Bring your communications equipment with you: Basic Information Before Leaving Earth. BIBLE!

Interested in enrolling your family in the LAFF program for the 2023-24 school year?

Please go to the following link to register for the LAFF program using the religious education form.

<https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

The Catechism In a Year

www.ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear

Bible in a Year

In English: Father Mike Schmitz
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

In Spanish: Fray Sergio Serrano
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration>

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Registration for Confirmation 2024:

Forms for registering for Confirmation Preparation Classes may be found on the Holy Cross website under Teaching the Faith - Sacramental Preparation - Confirmation. Please return forms to the Religious Education Office no later than June 30, 2023.

CATHOLIC HEART CAMP COMING TO DOVER

Catholic Heart Camp will be coming to Holy Cross from June 19 to June 22. Anyone who needs assistance with painting, yard work, light repairs, etc., please call Linda Darling at 302-674-5787, ext. 123, or email her at ldarling@holycrossdover.org.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Rice Bowl: THANK YOU Our community changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, and we want to say THANK YOU! Don’t forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl in the Bin at the front of Church or to Ms. Alicia, or donate online at crsricebowl.org/donate.

First Eucharist at Immaculate Conception:

Congratulations to our 12 children who received Jesus in the Sacrament of First Eucharist on April 29th: Alessandro, Aylin, Elmer, Kendra, Keylin, Litzzy, Lizbeth, Marlon, Melody, Mercedes, Pablo, Yordin.

May Crowning and Living Rosary will take place on our last day of Religious Education, May 7th. Please join us at 9:45am in the hall.

Registration for Religious Education for the 2023-2024 school year are now open. Please get your children registered now, so that we may plan accordingly.

Vacation Bible School: “Stellar” VBS will be here before you know it! Come to our planning meeting on Sunday, April 23rd at 12noon in the Office meeting room and join our team of great volunteers. Adult and youth volunteers asked to attend. on Sunday, April 23rd at 12noon in the Office meeting room and join our team of great volunteers.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization with 1.7 million members. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities, families and young people. Founded in the United States in 1882, it is named in honor of Christopher Columbus and dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. If you have the chance to research their rich history you might be surprised by the influence they have had throughout American history. I was most surprised to learn that the words, "under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance were added as a result of the influence and strong efforts of the Knights of Columbus.

In the not-too-distant past I was approached by Dr. Wayne Thomas, a member of the Holy Cross Chapter of the Knights of Columbus. He was inquiring into the feasibility of a monetary donation to the Scholarship Fund of HCS. The proposal entailed the donation of proceeds from one of the Friday Fish Fry events. In our conversation I raised the possibility presenting the Living Stations as a token of appreciation. Our eighth-grade students as leaders and representatives of the student body would have had the opportunities for a few "dress rehearsals" as they would have presented before the students. I was confident of their ability and willingness to prepare for an evening presentation for the parishioners. He agreed to present my proposal to his fellow Knights at an upcoming meeting. To make a long story short, I spoke with Mrs. White. She took the ball and ran with the entire production. The result was an evening marked by reverence and realism.

I am thankful to Dr. Wayne Thomas for meeting with me, for being open and accepting of the evening presentation. I am grateful to his fellow Knights for their willingness to gift HCS with a monetary donation that will afford and enhance the opportunity for families to bring to reality the possibility of a Catholic education. It is on their behalf that we all say.....



Thank You

.....because today I was visited by two members of the Holy Cross Chapter, Mr. James Rose and Mr. James Schultz, representing the local chapter. These two kind gentlemen presented me with the very generous donation of \$4,130.00. The amount raised during the evening exceeded all expectations.

Given the opportunity.....we would be honored do it all again!

character tells another about the story of a haunted house, and then says that no one who learns about the secrets of this house lives to tell the tale. My question: Then how does anyone know the house has secrets, and how does the tale get known? But there I go, over-thinking things a little too much, rather than using the example of our Blessed Mother Mary and just pondering.

Answers. However, not to leave you with the seeds of doubt, let me answer my questions about Santa Rosalia which help explain how we got to know about her. The truth about Santa Rosalia and other hermits of her era was this: Though hermits lived lives of seclusion, they still lived in the context of the world, and indeed as specific and unique part of society. People, back in the day, would visit hermits, who were deemed by their way of life to be extremely holy people because they spent so much time alone, in prayer, pondering the wonders of God. Hermits would be sought out for their wisdom and spiritual insight. Thus, while Santa Rosalia, lived the life of a hermit, she still encountered people; people likely brought her food and tended to some of her basic needs; and people knew exactly where she was living her hermit like life.

Who's Zooming Who? How does Santa Rosalia's story apply to us? Well, in the world we live in today presents to us the ironic situation in which we are a society of people who are more inter-connected than ever before (by phone, email, text, social media, etc.) and yet isolation and loneliness pervades the lives of many. How can that be? Much of it has to do with the lack of human contact and interaction; we have yet to come to the realization that "cyber" connections are not human connections — or as I like to say, in a "Zoom meeting" no one is actually meeting, because if I can't shake your hand, pass you a glass or water, or borrow a pen from you, etc., then we are not meeting at all: We are watching each other on a computer screen.

Empty. This cyber-existence has left us empty — whether it be Zoom, text, Twitter, Facebook, etc. — because, simply put, it does not replace human contact. Even Santa Rosalia, who lived a hermit-like life, still had human contact. As scripture tells us: It is not good for man to be alone. And yet, technology has, oddly, left us very connected, but very alone and isolated. According to a study back in 2019, some 52% of respondents sometimes or always felt lonely or isolated. This plague of loneliness, no doubt, has a lot to do with the anti-social behavior that we see in our world today. People learn to be social by being social — by being connected; and this assuages loneliness.

Living on a Prayer. But the other takeaway from the Santa Rosalia story is that though she lived a hermit-like life, she was very connected to God, living a life of prayer and reflection. She didn't feel alone because God was always in her life, day to day, moment to moment. One of the societal problems that causes folks to feel isolated and alone is that absence of God in society. Prior to the mid-20th century, religion played a major role in daily life and indeed in the comings and goings of society. While people had different beliefs — in the sense of religious differentiation — the people collectively saw the importance of God in our lives, in our towns, in our counties, in our nations and in our world. Today, God is being stripped out of more and more areas of public life; the existence of God for society today is no longer a given. This circumstance abets the problems of loneliness and isolation.

Alone Again, Naturally? Thus many people today who feel isolated, tend to experience the ultimate isolation: not just isolated by technology's intervention in daily life (i.e., less interaction with human beings), but more so by the lack of the presence of God in the structures of our modern culture, society and in the lives of many. Christ was fully man and fully God, those isolated today often lack the presence of both man and God in their lives. That needs to change; and it needs to change on both the personal and on the societal level.

Santa Rosalia was a famous hermit; she lived on the fringes of society — off alone much of the time. But she did interact and spend time with people. And when she was alone she spent time with God. A good person is never alone, and the story of Santa Rosalia tells us that as clear as can be. St. Rosalia pray for us!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor