

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER...

A story is told about a woman who returned home from Europe. At the airport, in customs, the agents asked her what she had in one of her bags. She answered, "Oh, in there? There's Lourdes water in there." However, when the agent opened the bags, he found bottles of Hennessy-Irish Whiskey. The woman acted surprised and then said, "Glory be to God, he's done it again! Another miracle!"

Well, I think we all know the story of Jesus's first miracle. It occurred at the Wedding Feast of Cana. It was there that Our Lord turned water into wine at his mother Mary's request. It was not water into whiskey however! The story of the first miracle proves that Jesus is able to take water which is flat and tasteless and make into something sweet, flavorful and powerful-choice wine.

Thinking a little about this miracle of Jesus and applying it to our own lives, we could say that Our Lord can do the same for each one of us as well. By the power of His grace, the Lord is able to transform us into something altogether new and exciting. But we have to allow Him to do that!

Mary's words to the waiters at the wedding feast are well worth reflecting on- "Do whatever Jesus tells you." If only we really listened to what Christ tells us in our own lives of faith.

Unfortunately, it's sort of the opposite for us at times. We completely forget about what Jesus wants and put ourselves first; in other words, we are self-centered. One way to counter the selfishness that clouds our vision is to pray each day. As Catholics we need to become men and women of prayer.

Last week I saw the trailer for a new film that came out this month (October 9th) about a man who truly was a champion of prayer-especially the holy rosary. His name was Father Patrick Peyton. The film is called "Pray-The Story of Patrick Peyton." Because of the Covid crisis, the film had a limited engagement in theatres, but soon it will be available digitally.

Maybe some of the older folks might remember Father Peyton who was known as the "rosary Priest." Born in Ireland in 1909, Patrick and his brother Tom immigrated to the United States. His brother found a job in a coal mine, but Pat came to work as a janitor at Saint Joseph's Cathedral in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The time he spent alone in Church, opening up in the early morning and closing at night brought him close to God in a deep way.

One day when a Holy Cross priest came and did a mission at the parish, Patrick spoke to him and joined the order. During his seminary years, however, he became ill with tuberculosis which was a death sentence in the 1930's. His family expected him to die. However, that did not happen.

An old Holy Cross priest from Notre Dame came to visit him and prayed with him. He told him, "Pat, we know that you have faith. We know that you're close to the Blessed Mother. Let her intercede for you. Turn to her. If you believe in her, she'll believe in you." And that is what Patrick Peyton did. He turned to Mary with all his heart and he was healed. The doctors were flabbergasted and could find no explanation for the cure.

Patrick did become a priest. His ministry was dedicated to the Blessed Mother in a special way. He started holding rosary rallies to promote this message. He used the mass media, first radio and then television to help him. Hollywood's biggest stars from Lucille Ball to Jackie Gleason and Frank Sinatra lined up to give their support.

Father Peyton's famous expression was: "The family that prays together stays together." How true that is. Let us heed his words and take some time to pray the rosary during this month of October and trust in Mary's intercession!

*Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerome*