

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022**

Wed. December 7th 11:30am St. John site
 Thur. December 8th 11:30am St. John site
 Thur. December 8th 7:00pm St. Columbkille site
 Fri. December 9th 9:00am St. John site
 Sat. December 10th 4:00pm St. John site
 Sun. December 11th 8:30am St. Joseph site
 Sun. December 11th 10:30am St. Columbkille site

Confessions for this Week

Wednesday: 11:00-11:25am St. John site
 Thursday: After 7pm Mass St. Columbkille site
 Saturday: 3:30pm (ask Fr. at door) St. John site

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 5th
 Isaiah 35: 1-10 Luke 5: 17-26
Tuesday, December 6th
 Isaiah 40: 1-11 Matthew 18: 12-14
Wednesday, December 7th
 Isaiah 40: 25-11 Matthew 11: 28-30
Thursday, December 8th
The Immaculate Conception
 Genesis 3: 9-15 Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12
 Luke 1: 26-38
Friday, December 9th
 Isaiah 48: 17-19 Matthew 11: 16-19
Saturday, December 10th
 Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11 Matthew 17: 10-13
Sunday, December 11th
 Isaiah 35: 1-6 James 5: 7-10
 Matthew 11: 2-11



We wish to express our deepest sympathies
 and condolences to the family of Carl Franzel
 who passed away.

Please remember your parish when planning your estate

Let Us Give Thanks!
 Weekend Collection – \$4274.00
 Loose - \$394.00
 Building Fund - \$100.00
 Campaign for Human Development -
 \$170.00
 650 Parish Families
 (297 Family envelope holders)
 114 Envelopes used

Donations:
 In memory of our son Doug Glaza
 by: Larry & Delores Glaza

**Mass Intentions for the Week of:
 November 28 – December 4, 2022**
 Saturday St. John site: + Sandy Peplinski
 Sunday St. Joseph site: + Marie Klee
 Sunday St. Columbkille site: Good Shepherd
 Parishioners

**Mass Intentions for the Week of:
 December 5 – December 11, 2022**
 Saturday St. John site: + Jim & Bernice Weber
 Sunday St. Joseph site: Good Shepherd
 Parishioners
 Sunday St. Columbkille site: + Michael Thomas
 Sweeney



Communal Penance Service

We will be having our communal penance service this year
 at St. John's on December 4. It will begin at 2:00pm
 followed by private confessions with visiting priests.

In This Sunday's Readings

**"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm,
 because the coming of the Lord is at hand." --
 James 5:8**

Having patience can be a struggle. Often we want
 immediate responses and resolutions. We want things to
 go the way we plan and on our schedule. We often don't
 want to see that God may have a different plan. It is
 important to listen to God's plan for us through prayer and
 awareness that He will reveal His plans for us in His
 timeframe.



Newly Baptized

Please welcome into our family of faith

Sophie Audrey Williams

Daughter of Justin & Katherine Williams

Congratulations and welcome into our parish. May you experience the Lord every day of your life.



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Counters:

December 5: Luci Kubacki, Judy Messing, Barb Roggenbuck

December 12: Geraldine Peruski, Kay Peruski, Evelyn Peruski

December 19: Rose Maikrzek, Shirley Piontkowski, Mary Jane Zurek

4:00pm Saturday Mass December 10th St John site

Lector: Del Czewski

EMHC: Del Czewski

Altar Server: Kylie Keller, Summer Franzel

Sacristan: Del Czewski

Ushers: Tom Murray, Whitey Pawlosky, Allen Peruski, Jim Czewski

8:30am Sunday Mass December 11th St Joseph site

Lector: Shirley Catalano

EMHC: Shirley Catalano

Greeter: Chuck Izydorek

Ushers: Bruce Uhl, Chuck Izydorek, Kerry Grifka

10:30am Sunday Mass December 11th St Columbkille site

Lector: Adrienne Maurer

EMHC: Jerry & Val Fischer

Altar Servers: Sarah & Laura Romzek

Greeters: Maurer Family

Gift Bearers: Sadie, Jocelyn & Avery Fischer

Ushers: Marv Osentoski, Jeff Sweeney, Brayden Sweeney

Faith Formation

The Faith Formation education program of Good Shepherd Parish has begun. Please pray for all who come together on Wednesday and Sunday. We will be having our family night gathering on December 7th at the parish center starting at 5:30pm with a meal.

Ubly: 5:30-7pm (Dec 7, 21)

Sheridan Corners: 6-7:30pm (Dec 7, 21)

Youth Group

Youth group will meet on Saturday, December 10th for a pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey center in Detroit.

Anyone interested in joining this trip, please contact Fr. Nate.

Youth group is for all 7-12th grades & there is no cost.

The Rescue Project

Thank you to everyone who participated in this program. A special thank you to Diane Smalley and Jo Izydorek for all their help preparing the meals, Dave Eiler and the K of C for providing food for our retreat, and for the group leaders. I hope everyone enjoyed Fr. Riccardo and were inspired by this program. You will be hearing more about The Rescue Project as we hope to offer it again during lent.

Blessings to all from JoAnn Roy

BENEFIT FOR NATALIE

New Year's Eve Benefit for Natalie Morgan

Ubly Heights

6:00 pm to 12:30 am

Smorgasbord with the following:

Prime Rib \$28.50

Perch \$16.00

Both \$41

Please RSVP for a guaranteed dinner spot to Melinda at 989-550-3955 or Jodie at 989-553-0899.

Raffle items and dancing to ring in the New Year

Knights of Columbus

Ubly/Sheridan Council #12850

Next Meeting: We will meet at 7:00pm at the Parish Center on Wednesday, December 14. We are always looking for New Members – call Jeff Maurer @ 989-553-4224. Our food pantry is available for anyone in need, located in Ubly. This is completely confidential and anonymous –

Call Jerry @989-550-9664.

Jeff Maurer Grand Knight-Ubly/Sheridan Council-12850



FREE PIANO

It is out of tune but works.

If interested please call the parish office.



Please remember your parish when planning your estate



Good Shepherd Christian Mothers

Christmas Party is December 13th

5:30pm at the Parish Center

Dinner served at 6:00pm.

\$6 at the door for the meal

Exchange Gift: \$10 (Optional)

RSVP to Cathy Stacer at 989-551-3877 or

Kathy Beaver at 989-658-8065

Please RSVP by Dec. 6th

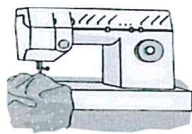
Come enjoy the night with some
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT !!!

(If you make a reservation and cannot make it,
you are responsible for paying for your meal. Thank You)



Breakfast with Santa Children 10 & under free

**Thumb Veterans Organization Post #1 Pancake
Breakfast** at the **TVO Hall, Ubyly on December 4th**
servng from 8am – 12:00pm. The cost is adults \$8.00,
children (11-12) \$4.00 and free for 5 and under. Take outs
are available – Call Steve 989-315-1226
Free eye screening for Children – Conducted by Ubyly
Lions Club. Proceeds to support area veterans!!



Sew What Day!!

Come learn to sew or bring to finish. Do something with
new friends, starting up in Argyle, St. Joseph's Hall
December 9 & 10 at 10:00 a.m. Bring a dish to pass &
your sewing stuff. Call Edie for more info (810)404-9887.

CONGRATULATIONS GOOD SHEPHERD PARISHIONERS !!!

*We have met 75% of our CMA goal. Please see the
insert from the diocese.*

*Our Goal: \$52,323. As of November 23, 2022 we
are at \$44,187.*



Giving Tree

Please take an envelope, place a monetary donation in the
envelope and return it to the Sunday collection basket.
The total money collected will be divided up into four
and donated to the Homeless Coalition in Bad Axe &
Sandusky, the Womens Shelter in Bad Axe and Eva's
Place in Sandusky. Thank you in advance for your
generosity.

Choir Practice for Christmas Masses

St. Ignatius and St. Joseph will be holding choir practice
on December 12th at 7pm for the Christmas masses.
Practice will be held at St. Ignatius Church.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Lighten the load. An abbot writes, "Your gift helps ease
our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out
our mission of seeking God and serving the Church."
Donations to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious
collection will help hundreds of US religious communities
to provide for their aging members.
Please give generously.

Advent Season 2022 Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Mass

4pm - St. John Church, Ubyly

6pm - St. Columbkille Church, Sheridan Corners

8pm – St Joseph Church, Argyle

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day Mass

8:30am – St Ignatius Church, Freiburg

Saturday, December 31st – New Years Eve Mass

Mary Mother of God

4pm – St. John Church, Ubyly

Sunday, January 1st – New Years Day Mass –

Mary Mother of God

8:30am - St. Joseph

10:30am - St. Columbkille

Please remember your parish when planning your estate



Where Christ's Mission Appeal Stands

Parishioners from throughout the Diocese of Saginaw continue to be generous with their support of Christ's Mission Appeal.

As of Wednesday, Nov. 23, overall the appeal is **52%** toward the goal of \$3,877,650. That amount has been reached with **26%** of registered parishioners making donations or pledges.

Shout Out to the First Parish to Meet Its Goal

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Midland is leading the way by exceeding its assessment for Christ's Mission Appeal. With 38% of their registered families, Assumption is at 102% of their goal!

Six More Parishes Exceed 75% of Assessments

Good Shepherd, Ubly,
Holy Name of Mary, Christ the Good Shepherd, Nativity of the Lord, St. Brigid and St. Francis de Sales parishes – keep it going!!!

More About Options for Making a Gift to the Appeal - or Your Parish

Stock Donation Gifts

By donating stock that has appreciated for more than a year, a donor is giving 20% more than if he/she sold the stock and made a cash donation. This is because the donor avoids paying capital gains taxes.

Donated stock is shares in a corporation that have been donated to a charitable entity, such as the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw or your parish. The donor can take a tax deduction in the amount of the fair market value of the stock on the date of donation.

Qualified Charitable Distribution Gifts

A ***qualified charitable distribution*** is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA to a qualified non-profit such as the Diocese of Saginaw or your parish. Qualified charitable distributions can be counted toward satisfying a donor's ***required minimal distribution*** for the year.

The requirements for qualified charitable distributions include: the donor must be at least 70½ years old; the qualified charitable distributions are limited to the amount that otherwise would be taxed as ordinary income; the maximum annual amount that can qualify for charitable distribution is \$100,000; the deadline for qualified charitable distributions typically is Dec. 31.

A donor should arrange for this type of gift promptly.

Encourage your parishioners to contact their broker or financial adviser to assist with stock or charitable donation gifts. The diocesan stewardship and development office can offer more details: 989-797-6679.

Jesus Cries, “I Thirst!”

Will you quench His thirst for love?

- Fr. Nate's Update -

Dear Saint-in-the-Making, Happy Advent! “COME LORD JESUS!”

“Thanks be to God” for Another Recent Baptism:

Lord Jesus Christ, it is You who perform the baptism through Your human mediator. Thank You for baptizing Sophie Audrey Williams; please grow the grace of baptism in our newest sister in Christ and member of Your Body, the Church. Please give her parents and

Godparent the grace to be shining examples of love for God and neighbor. May their parish family also support and protect them with our prayers and shining example, Amen.



Some Holy Humor: The self-centered woman knelt in the confessional. “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.” “What is it, child?” “Father, I have committed the sin of vanity. Twice a day I gaze at myself in the mirror and tell myself that I am the most beautiful woman who ever walked the face of the earth.” The priest turned, took a good look at the woman and said, “My dear, I have good news. That isn’t a sin – it’s only a mistake.”

“Catholics need to be overwhelmed by the Gospel” by Fr. John Riccardo

“In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul tells us, “The Gospel is the power of God for salvation” (1:16). This simple verse is rich in meaning. When Paul says “the Gospel,” he means the proclamation of what God the Father has done for us in the Person of His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, born of the Virgin Mary. That announcement, that proclamation, is often referred to in the Church as the kerygma, the Greek word for “proclamation.” The word that is translated as “power” into English is the one from which we get the word “dynamite.” In other words, the Gospel is not mere news; it is extraordinary, unexpected, and life-changing news!

“Note also that Paul says the Gospel itself is **power**. In other words, it doesn’t ultimately depend on the oratory skills of the herald, be he a priest in the pulpit or a mom talking with her children. This takes the pressure off us.

“Pope St. John Paul II wrote that the result of preaching the kerygma should be that “a person is one day **overwhelmed** and brought to the decision to entrust himself to Jesus Christ by faith” (Catechesi tradendae, 25).

“Seriously, ask yourself: how many Catholics do you know would say they have been **“overwhelmed”** by the Gospel? How many people do you know who would say they have made a decision to “entrust,” that is to say, “surrender,” their whole lives to Jesus by faith?

“The most **urgent** need right now in the Church is to proclaim the Gospel. I don’t think most Catholics have ever really heard it. What many of our evangelical brothers and sisters do so well is proclaim the power of the Gospel. And we would do well to make it a priority in our preaching to spend intentional time each year doing the same. How?

“One of the joys, and challenges, of being Catholic is the lectionary we read from at Mass on Sundays. The joy is that in the course of three years at Mass, we are immersed in a wide swath of Scripture. The challenge is that the lectionary presumes you already know and understand the story. Because of the level of biblical illiteracy in so many Catholics, as we have found in our

ministry at ACTS XXIX, there is a need to intentionally set aside time on at least four consecutive Sundays to just preach “the Gospel.” To help preach and share this, we have broken the Gospel down into just four words: **Created, Captured, Rescued, Response.**

“Behind each is a profound question: Why is there something rather than nothing? Why is everything messed up? What has God done about it? How should I reasonably respond?”

“The Scriptures help us to see where we came from, where we’re going, and how to get there. In them God reveals His plan, His love, and His power. They make clear that there is an enemy in this life. They reveal his tactics and strategy to deceive us from the happiness God created us for. They help us understand why the eternal Son of God became Flesh. They reveal that Jesus has robbed the enemy of his power and conquered Sin and Death, and so we have nothing to fear. In this time of immense anxiety and fear, we urgently need to know and to share these things.

“No one in human history ever entrusted herself to God by faith as our Blessed Mother did. May we beg her intercession this month, that we may grow in faith, and become heralds of hope to a culture desperately in need of it.”

Advent Homily Series: What is the Good News? Created, Captured, Rescued, Response

For Your Review: Previous Homily

Homily #1: Why is there something rather than nothing?

What is the answer to all of the problems in the world? The answer to all of the despair and hopelessness in our country? In the last few years, even before Covid, there has been a dramatic increase in the numbers of so-called “deaths of despair”, including suicide, liver failure caused by alcoholism, and opioid overdose. What’s the answer? What’s the answer to ALL of our own personal problems and struggles and suffering? The answer... is **Jesus Christ.**

Pope St. Paul the Sixth said, The Church exists to **evangelize**, which means, to spread the Good News about Christ. Every parish exists to evangelize. Good Shepherd parish is fulfilling its mission and purpose in the measure that we are sharing the Good News, by word and example.

Many of us disciples are not sure how to share it by word. How do we share the Good News in a brief way, in a way that will help others to see how it’s not just Good News, but Extraordinary, Life-changing, Hope-giving news? How do we share it in a way that brings hope to others who are losing hope? How do we share it with ourselves?

Before we as disciples can evangelize with our words, we have to truly understand **WHAT** the Good News is! And not just understand... we have to experience... in our personal lives... **HOW** the Good News is not just good, but **EXTRAORDINARY and LIFE-CHANGING!** What if someone were to ask you, "What is the Good News? What is this 'Good News' that Christians are always mentioning?" How would you respond? Think about that for a moment.

To help disciples to discover what the Good News is, and to help us share it, God has sent a special missionary to the Church in the United States. His name is Fr. John Riccardo, a priest from the Archdiocese of Detroit. Fr. John and others founded ACTS XXIX (29), a team of missionaries dedicated to “unleashing the power of the gospel”, and equipping ordained AND lay leaders to evangelize. Fr. John and his team have already begun to help our parish!

He’s helped us through his book, entitled, **Rescued: The Unexpected and Extraordinary News of the Gospel.** Every year the catechists who teach the children in our Faith Formation classes are required to do their own Faith Formation by some continuing education. They usually read and discuss a book. This past year, I had our catechists read this book by Fr. John. I believe the Holy Spirit wanted them to

December 4, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

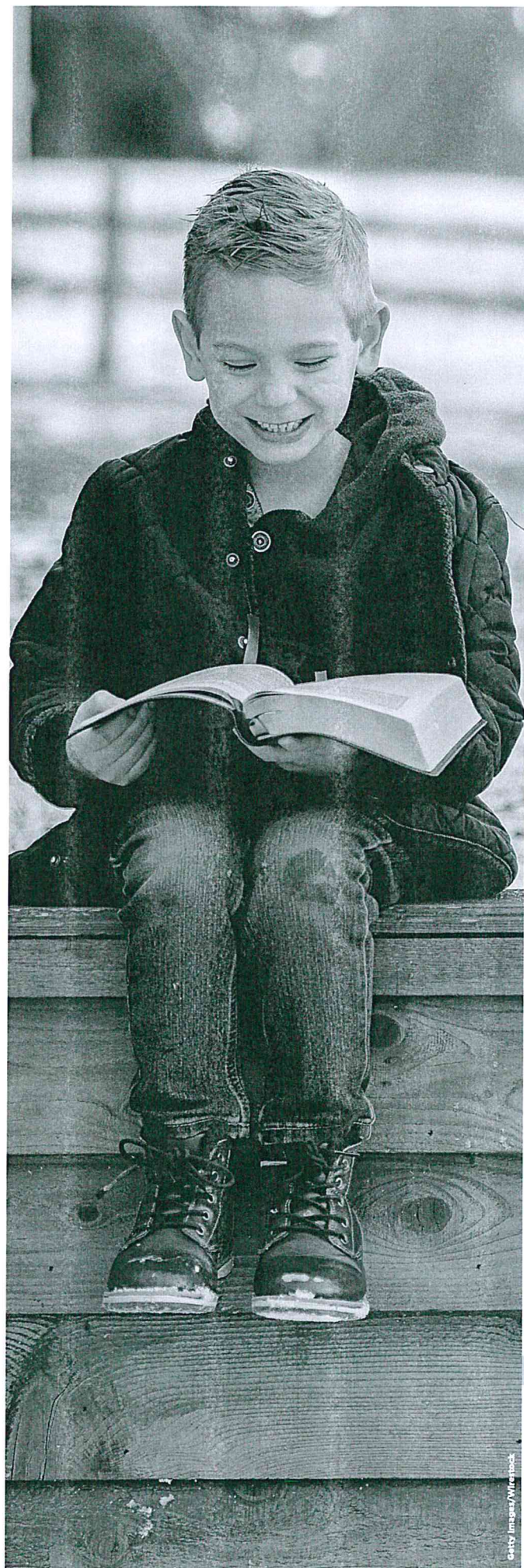
Harmony. It can seem so elusive in these times when our news-feeds bombard us with reminders of what's wrong with our world: war, political conflicts, hunger, injustice, violence. We may also experience discord in our homes or within our hearts. Perhaps that is why the beautiful imagery in Isaiah's prophecy, where Isaiah envisions a world transformed by the coming of the Messiah, strikes a chord as we prepare for Christ's coming: We picture the wolf lying beside the lamb, and the calf with the lion. All will be right with the world. As we reflect on the areas in our lives that lack harmony, we are reminded to focus on Jesus and the Father, the source of all good. Through prayer and reflection on our Advent readings, we can "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I have a "smart" alarm clock. To shut it off, I just have to say, "Alexa, turn off my alarm." Easy, right? Well, too easy, it turns out, because lately I've slept right through the one-sided conversation. But it's hard to miss John's wake-up call: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Perhaps, though, we've become complacent; we've heard it so often that we skip right past it. That can happen during Advent, this season of preparation and, yes, repentance. I love our family traditions - candy every day, in the morning!; our well-worn Nativity set; lighting the Advent candles; Christmas concerts and gatherings. None of those are bad, of course, but in the blur of the season we must be challenged by John the Baptist's words to prepare not only our homes but our hearts for Christ's coming. During this season, we can examine our lives to separate the wheat from the chaff, focusing on those things that bring us closer to the Lord and one another. As St. Paul encourages the Romans, "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God."

PRAY St. Paul's words above give us pretty clear instruction for how to live out our faith by welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us. Reflect on these words during daily Advent reflection this week: When have we welcomed others in our lives - and truly loved them? How can we do that for someone in the coming days?



read it, since I had gone through it twice myself, and Fr. John really helped ME to truly understand the Good News, and how it's not just Good news, but Extraordinary and Life-changing News.

Second, Fr. John and Acts XXIX have helped our parish through his new Faith Formation series called **The Rescue Project**. A group of disciples met at our parish weekly for 9 weeks, for food, a teaching, and discussion. We will be offering this series again in Lent, with the hope that many more parish family members will attend, especially those who may not be comfortable joining us at Mass.

Fr. John challenged us priests to offer a homily series about the Extraordinary News at least once a year. So today we are beginning an Advent homily series called, "**Created, Captured, Rescued, and Response.**" Fr. John explains that these four words give us an easy way to remember, and to SHARE with others, the Extraordinary News of Jesus Christ. To help you remember, two of these words start with C and the next two start with R.

Today, I will cover the theme "Created," with the question, "**Why is there something rather than nothing?**" Before we begin, let's pray. It's important to ask for a specific grace for each of these topics. *Heavenly Father, give us the grace of wonder and awe at Your creation, especially the highpoint of your creation, human beings, including myself. Amen!*

Have you ever thought about the question, "why is there something rather than nothing?" "Why is there something, the universe, you and me, rather than nothing?" To find the answer, we look at the story of our creation in Genesis. While it does contain historical truth, every word in Genesis is not written to be taken literally. It is meant to teach eternal truths about God, about creation, and about the human person. That's why there are two different creation stories, Genesis 1 and 2!

The **Genesis creation stories** are much different than the pagan creation stories of history. The pagan gods were not portrayed as loving, but as violent and selfish. They created human beings to be their slaves and tools. They often demanded child sacrifice. But in Genesis, God reveals that there is only one God, who creates us out of love, to give and to receive love, to share in His divine life for all eternity.

How big is the **universe** that God created as a sign of His love for us? My brother in law is into astrophotography. His pictures are amazing. Did you know that the stars we see are actually galaxies? Today, astronomers measure the universe to be 46 billion light years across. One light year is the distance light travels in one year, about 5.88 trillion miles. So our universe is 46 times 5.88 trillion miles per year.

How many **stars** are there? There are about 70 sextillion stars in the universe. One scientist said that if you were to picture each star as a grain of sand and you took all the grains of sand and built a sand castle, the sand castle would be five miles wide, five miles long, and five miles high. That's a lot of stars.

The bible says God counts all the stars and knows each of them by **name**. But he also knows you by name, and you matter to him INFINITELY more than all the stars put together! God created the universe as a sign of His love for you, and as a display of His power and glory. God created each of us for friendship and union with Him for all eternity. God created us to be divinized, to share in His divine life, to become gods, lowercase "g."

Why is there something rather than nothing? **Because God is love and God wants to share His life and love with you and with all human beings for all eternity.**

Whatever you're worried about today, anxious about, whatever you've going through, whatever your loved ones are going through, God knows, and God feels it with you. God is holding you in the palm of His hand. God has promised that He will work all things, including the tragedies and sufferings and evils in our lives, for our greatest good, our **eternal salvation**.

God loves you and thirsts for you. I love you and pray for you. Pray for me! -Fr. Nate

Retirement Fund for Religious



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry—educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities. Please give generously.

*Standing, from left: Fr. William Graham, OFM Cap, 75; Sr. Mary Lucille Stelly, SSF, 89; Sr. Angele Marie Sadlier, O Carm, 91; Fr. Bertrand Ebben, OP, 90.
Seated, from left: Sr. Joan Flores, SSF, 81; Sr. Denis Rodrigue, O Carm, 93; Sr. Ann Martinez, MSC, 82.*

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Data Preference (Please check Yes or No.)

The data I provided may be used to complete this transaction and used and stored for United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Retirement Fund for Religious records.

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