

HOLY REDEEMER



GRACE NOTES

August 2024

Introduction...

In the Catholic Church, each month of the year is dedicated to a particular devotion, and for August it's the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In addition to the Assumption of Mary, two other lesser-known feast days in August are also devoted to Mary. "Our Lady of the Angels" is celebrated on August 2, and the interestingly named "Our Lady of the Snows" is celebrated on August 5. If you have never heard of Our Lady of the Snows you're not alone. Despite its relative obscurity it's a fascinating story, and a great way to being the August issue of Grace Notes.

On a hot and sultry August night in 352 A.D. Pope Liberius and one of the Roman patricians had the identical dream in which Mary appeared to them and asked that a church to be erected in a place where snow fell in the middle of summer. The next day, the Esquilin hill in Rome was covered with snow.

All Rome proclaimed the summer snow a miracle, and a church to honor Mary was built on the hill. Restored and refurbished many times, the church -- now the magnificent Basilica of St. Mary Major -- stands today as the seat of devotion to Our Lady of the Snows.

Our Lady of the Snows is honored today not so much because of the legend but because of the special work that the church has spawned. The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate -- the congregation of priests and brothers who operate her Shrine in Rome -- have always called on Mary to look upon their missionary efforts with a mother's love. Founded in 1816 by St. Eugene de Mazenod, the order has grown to 4,000 priests and brothers, serving in 60 countries around the globe.

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate have an especially noteworthy history in North America, which began with their arrival in 1849. Often referred to as "The Cavalry of Christ," they frequently took to horseback while establishing missions in the untamed west.





The reputation of the order was further enhanced by Father Paul Schulte, known as “The Flying Priest of the Arctic.” Father Schulte was trained as a pilot in Prussia during World War I and ordained in 1922, and subsequently flew medical aid and supplies to remote Oblate missions. His most daring flight was a 2,200-mile aerial rescue mission to the northernmost Catholic mission in the world, the Inuits in the Arctic Bay. His motto was “*Obviam Christo terra marique et in aera*” (“Toward Christ by land and sea and in the air”).

Because he was a German citizen, the U.S. government interred Father Schulte during World War II at Saint Henry’s Seminary, in Belleville, Illinois. He was also kept under FBI surveillance. Though confined to the seminary, Father Schulte continued his devotion to Our Lady of the Snows by constructing a small chapel there in her honor. He also commissioned noted religious artist J. Watson Davis to make a painting of her, depicted at an Inuit mission, surrounded by the Aurora Borealis.

The first Solemn Outdoor Novena to Mary was held at Father Schulte’s chapel in 1951, the final day being celebrated on August 5, the Feast of Our Lady of the Snows. The Novena became an annual event which soon attracted thousands of worshipers, and Davis’ painting of Our Lady of the Snows was given a place of prominence in the new chapel.



As devotion to Our Lady of the Snows grew, the Oblates decided to look for a place to build a more substantial shrine in her honor. The search ended in February 1958 with the purchase of a large parcel of farmland near St. Henry’s, on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River Valley.

Completed in 1961, the Shrine to Our Lady of the Snows offers a tranquil place of peace for hundreds of thousands of pilgrims every year. The Shrine accomplishes its ministry through spiritual programs, 12 devotional sites located at various places on the 200-acre grounds, a retreat center, and daily Masses at the Church of Our Lady of the Snows. This year an exhibit entitled “*Arctic Wings and A Shrine,*” was commissioned to open people’s hearts and minds to the history and charism of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in North America, to the history of the Shrine, and to a deeper relationship with Mary.



On the Shoulders of Giants – St. Fulgentius of Ruspe

Isaac Newton said that all he had accomplished in life was due to “standing on the shoulders of the giants” who came before him. Each month we remember one of the giants upon whose shoulders the parishioners of Holy Redeemer are perched.

This month we’re focusing on a saint that probably only a few parishioners have ever heard of, but a man who is very close to Holy Redeemer, literally and figuratively: St. Fulgentius of Ruspe. Most Catholics are aware that church altars are frequently the repositories for the relics of saints. Holy Redeemer is no exception, and the new altar that was dedicated by Bishop da Cunha on July 7th is the final resting place for relics of Saint Fulgentius of Respe. Here is his story.

There is an ancient Chinese curse that goes “May you live in interesting times.” In this case the word “interesting” is really another way of saying “chaotic” and dangerous.” And despite the fact that St. Fulgentius was from North Africa and not China, as we will see the ancient Chinese curse definitely applies to his life and times.

Fabius Claudius Gordianus Fulgentius was born in 462 A.D. on the northern coast of Africa in what is now Tunisia. It was the beginning of the “Dark Ages”; the Vandals had sacked Rome, effectively ending the Western Roman Empire, and then continued on to establish a kingdom in Northern Africa. New religious sects were spreading, including “Monophysitism” (the belief that the person of Jesus Christ has only one, divine nature rather than two natures, divine and human), “Arianism” (which held that Jesus Christ was not one with God the Father, but instead just created by God and a holy man), and “Pelagianism” (the denial of the doctrine of original sin). As a result, the practice of orthodox Catholicism as set forth by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. was under frequent attack.



Fulgentius came from a politically connected family. His grandfather – Gordianus -- had served as a senator of Carthage before being banished to Italy by the Vandals. His father – Claudius – died when he was quite young, and his mother Mariana taught him to speak Greek and Latin. Fulgentius became particularly fluent with the former and was said to have committed the entire works of Homer to memory. His reputation quickly grew and as a young man he acquired a post as a procurator or tax collector for the region.



Fulgentius soon grew tired of the material life, and this combined with his religious studies, convinced him to become a monk. He was accepted into the monastery at nearby Byzacena, but attacks by members of the Arian sect forced Fulgentius to flee to another nearby monastery. There he and the abbot in charge of the monastery – Felix -- agreed to work as “co-abbots.”

Persecution soon followed and a local Arian priest had Fulgentius and Felix arrested and tortured for practicing what was considered orthodox Catholicism.

During a brief period of normalcy Fulgentius returned to Byzacena, where he built his own monastery, adopting a life of extreme austerity and electing to live in an isolated cell. He refused to wear clerical shoes and went barefoot or with sandals. He had the same tunic day and night, winter and summer, and even for the Holy Sacrifice, since he believed that the heart and not the garment should be changed.

Two years later he was persuaded to take the post of bishop of Ruspe. However, chaos again returned and he was banished to the Mediterranean island of Sardinia with some sixty other bishops who did not hold the Arian position. While in Sardinia Fulgentius built yet another monastery and set about writing a number of works to help instruct the Christians of Africa.

He returned to Northern Africa a decade later, summoned by Thrasamund, the King of the Vandals, for a debate with the Arian bishop who had unseated him. Fulgentius' performance in the debate impressed Thrasamund and he wished to keep him at Carthage, but the Arian bishops were afraid of his influence and his power of converting, and he was sentenced to exile yet again. The Arian bishops attempted to ship him off late at night so that the people of Carthage would not know of his departure. But contrary winds kept his vessel in port for several days, and nearly all the city was able to receive Holy Communion from his hand.

Following the death of Thrasamund and the accession of his Catholic son Hilderic, Fulgentius was allowed to return to Ruspe. He was reunited with his beloved monastery but insisted that his former co-abbot Felix be sole superior. As always, he was careful that the clergy refrain from wearing fine clothes. They were to have houses near the church, to cultivate their gardens with their own hands. He ordered fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays for all clergy and widows, and for those of the laity that were able.

In this last period of his life he published his sermons, and ten books against the Arian sect. A year before his death he abruptly left the monastery and sailed with a few companions to the island of Circe, where he gave himself to reading, prayer, and fasting in a monastery which he had previously caused to be constructed on a small rock.

He died on 1 January, 533 at the age of 65, heralded as the savior of Catholicism in Northern Africa.



Rededication Recap

The weeks of planning paid off. The Holy Redeemer Rededication Service came as close to perfection as possible. Very few of the 170 or so attendees at the service had ever witnessed the dedication of a new altar, and few are likely to ever see such an event again. "Powerful" was a word many attendees used to describe the experience, and more than one commented that watching Bishop da Cunha anoint, incense and then cover the altar while surrounded by beautiful flowers and movingly accompanied by the choir in their new and more acoustically friendly location gave them goosebumps.



Other highlights of the service included the Knights of Columbus in full dress as they led the initial procession into the church, the celebrants who joined Father John Sullivan and Deacon Art LaChance in the service, Monsignor Anthony Kulig, Father George Benoit, and Deacon Tom Polaza, and the three altar servers, Chris May, Zachary Constant and Jake Mortell.

And then there was the remarkable reception, held under a somewhat medieval looking tent that had more than one attendee commenting that they expected to see a jousting match.

Between the food, the prosecco and the wonderful company it was a beautiful ending to a marvelous day.

Many thanks to those who attended the event. The rededicated church is off to a terrific start.



Jeopardy for Catholics – *Here's the way this works. We will give you an important aspect of Catholicism as noted in the "The Mary Knoll Catholic Dictionary," and ask you to name it. As always, your answer must worded in the form of a question.*

Given that we're in the heart of summer, and between the hydrangeas and the kousa dogwood trees Chatham is bursting with color. So this month we're focusing plants and trees in the Bible.

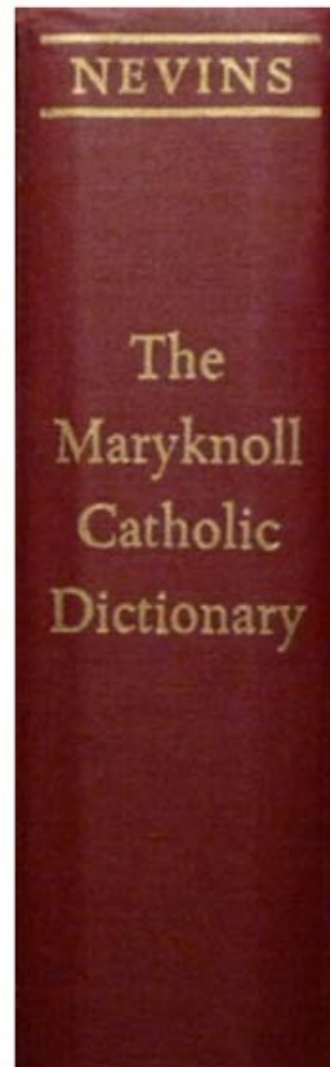
Here goes.

Number 1: Associated with purity and innocence in the Bible, this flower also represents resurrection and new life.

Number 2: This tree represents fertility, abundance, and spiritual growth in the Bible, and it's leaves were used to hide the nakedness of Adam and Eve.

Number 3: During Passover this generic group of plants is featured on the seder plate, together with lamb and unleavened bread.

The answers are provided on the final page of Grace Notes.



Snippets from the Bible – Some Familiar Words That We Often Take For Granted

It might be a tossup as to which is quoted more often, the Plays of Shakespeare or the Bible.

- "To thine own self be true," vs "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Hamlet vs. John 8:32)
- "All that glitters is not gold," vs "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand." (The Merchant of Venice vs. Mark 3:25)
- "Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow" vs "For many are called, but few are chosen." (Romeo and Juliet vs Matthew 22:14)
- "To be or not to be," vs "The Lord is my shepherd." (Hamlet vs. Psalm 23)

During the recent Rededication Service at Holy Redeemer, Bishop da Cunha mentioned that one of his favorite quotes from the Bible is the phrase "My grace is sufficient for you," which Jesus uttered in response to Paul's request for assistance with "the thorn in his flesh," indicating that his grace was fully capable of providing everything Paul needed to endure this suffering. The Bishop also provided some excellent background regarding the origin and meaning of this familiar quote. Which begs the question: while many of us probably learned the origin stories for a host of Shakespeare's more familiar quotes when we were in high school or college, we might not be as adept at the origin (much less the meaning) of a biblical quote like "writings on the wall."



In the coming months we'll attempt to shed some additional clarity on several of the Bible's most familiar quotes, and also show how (and why) such quotes have entered the popular vernacular.

We're going to start with a favorite, which has also been turned into a very popular hymn: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."



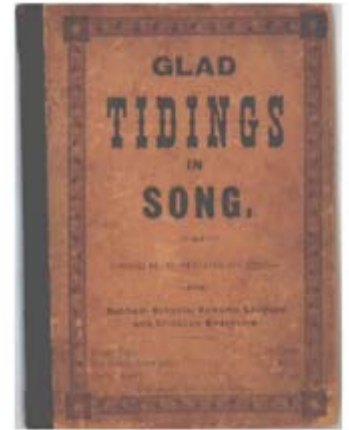
The expression "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" is part of a larger passage in which Jesus tells all who are weary and burdened to come to Him for rest. He isn't speaking here of physical burdens. Rather, it was the burdensome yoke of self-righteousness and legalistic law-keeping, that the Pharisees laid on the backs of the Jews that Jesus was offering to relieve. For example, biblical scholars have noted that the Pharisees added over 600 regulations regarding what qualified as "working" on the Sabbath.

Jesus' message that "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" represented his familiar approach to simplify things, as when he condenses the traditional ten commandments into the two that are the most important: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "Love your neighbor as yourself. "

That is not to say that Jesus' approach does not necessarily make things easier for his followers. His reformulation of the Mosaic Law in the Sermon on the Mount actually goes above and beyond a mere outward conformity to the Law and deals instead with the inner person.

Jesus was saying that any kind of law-keeping is burdensome and amounts to a "heavy yoke" of oppression because no amount of law-keeping can bridge the gap between our sinfulness and God's holiness. The good news is that Jesus promises to all who come to Him that He will give them rest from the heavy burden of trying to earn their way into heaven and rest from the oppressive yoke of self-righteousness and legalism. Jesus encourages those who are "heavy laden" to take His yoke upon them, and in so doing they will find rest for their souls. The yoke of Jesus is light and easy to carry because it is the yoke of repentance and faith followed by a singular commitment to follow Him.

Now to the song. The phrase "My yoke is easy and my burden is light" was transformed into a wonderful hymn by Ralph Erskine Hudson. Hudson was born in Napoleon, Ohio in 1843. His family moved to Pennsylvania when he was a boy. Soon after the outbreak of the American civil war, he enlisted in the 10th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served for three years. After being discharged from the army, Hudson became a successful music teacher. From 1872–74, he was Professor of Vocal Music at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. He is best known as a hymn writer and music publisher, and for evangelism and temperance work.



In addition to writing "My Yoke is Easy" Hudson's other claim to fame occurred in the fall of 1977 when one of his hymns – called simply "Hudson" – was sung during a church service on the first episode of season six of the television show "The Waltons."

Summer Events at Holy Redeemer Church

The summer's big events didn't end on July 7th with the Rededication of Holy Redeemer.

Early in August and again in September, Holy Redeemer will hold Open Houses and invite the wider Chatham community to tour the renovated church. Keep an eye on the Church bulletin for dates. We're looking for people to serve as docents and explain what has changed in the church, what the furnishings in a Catholic Church are, and how we use them in our worship or for devotions. If you would like to serve as a docent for one of the Open Houses please call the rectory at 508-945-0677.

On Thursday, August 8th, at 7 PM the Women's Club will be hosting an extraordinary night of Irish Music, featuring The Rose Clancy Trio. Please join us for a fun evening of singing and stories by this beloved and talented local singing group. Tickets will be available after each Mass at Holy Redeemer Church and Our Lady of Grace Chapel through August 3, 2024. Tickets will also be available at Holy Redeemer Church prior to the event on August 8th. The cost of tickets is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children aged 12 and under.



And finally, on Sunday, August 25th, Holy Redeemer will host a Parish Picnic featuring food, games, and musical entertainment to celebrate the last days of summer.

Getting to Know the Members of the Parish – Karen Campbell

Inspiration is the fuel for motivation. It's what drives us to do great things. But how do we stay inspired and motivated? Karen Campbell has an answer. Volunteering. Before launching into Karen's long and amazing career of working tirelessly to find, engage with and drive worthy causes, here are a few quotes about volunteerism to set the stage.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." -- Sherry Anderson, author

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead, anthropologist

"When you give joy to other people, you get more joy in return. You should give a good thought to the happiness that you can give out." -- Eleanor Roosevelt



Much of Karen's story is rooted in her parents, Daniel and Kinnie. "Being the oldest of seven I saw how hard my parents worked to put food on the table. I could see what groceries my mother bought on the weeks my father got paid and what she bought on the weeks he didn't." Karen's parents told her the secret of life was just two things. The first was "always do your best," and the second was "always help others." The trouble with phrases like "Do your best" and "always help others" is that they sound nice, but they're hard to measure. Did I get a "B" in doing my best and a "C+" in helping others? The again, after you read about Karen's life you might decide that grading it is pretty easy.



Karen was born in Medford, but her family later moved to upstate New York, near Albany. After high school she enrolled in The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, one of the nation's premier institutions for engineering degrees. You can add "trailblazing" to Karen's credentials, since women are in a distinct minoring when it comes to engineers.

After graduating, Karen took a position in Baltimore with a one of the country's largest manufacturers, where she designed and built new radar systems for aircraft. After spending most of her career in Baltimore, the company offered Karen the chance to manage one of its largest plants, located in Silicon Valley. Karen took the challenge, moved to San Jose, and ran the plant – and its 1200 employees -- from 2012 to 2018, finally retiring as a Vice President.

So we'll give Karen an "A" for "do your best."

She might even get a higher grade for the "always help others" part. While she was in Baltimore, Karen was an active member of Junior Achievement. JA's mission is "to inspire and prepare young people to succeed." JA volunteers work to help student realize that the education they are receiving will help them toward a bright future. And how important is that when you consider that 20% of all high school students will never earn a diploma. Throughout her time in Baltimore, Karen devoted a significant portion of her time to helping students get interested in science and engineering.

When she moved to Silicon Valley Karen expanded her volunteering activities to include a heavy involvement with the March of Dimes. What began with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal struggle with polio led to the creation of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, better known as March of Dimes. They pioneered the vaccine research leading to the eradication of polio in the U.S., and then shifted their focus to address some of the biggest health threats to mothers and babies, with innovations like surfactant therapy.



Upon retiring Karen moved to Chatham with a goal of eventually having her parents come from Georgia and live with her, at least during the summer. “Unfortunately Dad died a week after I bought the house in Chatham.” But her mother is now a full-time member of the Chatham community.

And what has Karen been doing with her free time now that she’s retired? We don’t have enough space in Grace Notes to discuss all the organizations that Karen is volunteering for or donating to, but here is a list of some of her favorites.

“Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands” –

The organization is a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to promoting welfare, enhancing the quality of life, and maintaining the dignity of the elderly. Karen has been working with them for over five years, helping low-income seniors manage their finances and ensuring that they can remain in their homes. “



“Monomoy Dollars for Scholars” – Monomoy Dollars for Scholars offers seniors in Chatham and Harwich financial assistance for any kind of education, for technical and trade schools, universities, community college, even for students who aren’t really sure about what they want to do.

Not all scholarships are based on financial need. Indeed, the organization believes that -- because of the high cost of college -- all students are needs based and deserving of help. During the past year Karen and her fellow volunteers at “Monomoy Dollars for Scholars” raised over \$186,000, which provided 66 scholarships. Importantly, the program also provides “continuing education” scholarships for students in the second and third year of college who may be encountering financial hardships. In addition to helping raise money for scholarships Karen also mentors high school students.



“One Hundred Women Who Care” -- The organization is national in scope, but the local chapter – of which Karen is the Secretary -- consists of philanthropic women dedicated to amplifying the awareness and support of deserving non-profits in the local area. Over the past 11 years the group has given over \$180,000 to more than 30 local charities.



“Housing Assistance Corporation” – During her time in Silicon Valley Karen witnessed first-hand the difficulties many of the individuals employed at her plant encountered trying to find affordable housing anywhere near where they worked. Now on Cape Cod she has seen many young couples and also seniors having the same difficulties with affordable housing and is determined to do something about it by working closely with Housing Assistance Corporation in Hyannis.



And then there’s knitting. Karen and her mother both love to knit and are always looking for organizations to which they can donate the garments they create. The primary recipients of their recent knitting endeavors have been “Operation Gratitude,” which delivers knitted hats and scarves to deployed troops, military children, veterans, and first responders, and “Warm Up America,” which provides hand-knitted and crocheted blankets, clothing and accessories to people displaced by fire or natural disasters.



At the risk of guiding the lily, we would also like to mention that in 2019 Karen set a record for knitting 20 blankets for Cape Cod’s homeless population as part of A Great Yarn’s Knit-a-Thon. If all of that doesn’t get you and “A” (or maybe an “A+”) for “always help others” then you need to review your approach to grading.

Thank you Karen for sharing with us the secret of life, and for inspiring us with your story.

...Conclusion

Lou Holtz is one of the most successful college football coaches in history, best known for coaching the University of Notre Dame for 11 seasons, including a National Championship title in 1988. In thirty-four years as a coach, Holtz won bowl games with five different football teams — the only head coach to ever do so — ultimately earning him a spot in the College Football Hall of Fame. Holtz lives and works by three simple mottos: do what is right, do everything to the best of your ability, and show people you care.



While Holtz is known primarily for being a coach, he has also established himself as a man of fervent Catholicism, inspiring young athletes, fans, and people across the nation to be the best versions of themselves, always keeping God at the forefront.

In 2013, Holtz was featured in a popular “Catholics Come Home” television commercial, released during college bowl week. Holtz’s rallying half-time pep talk urged viewers to focus on heaven and partake in scripture and the Sacraments of the Catholic Church, resulting in thousands of viewers going online to learn more about the Catholicism.



Holtz has served as a powerful witness to the beauty of the Catholic faith throughout his public career. His inspiring speeches have earned him a spot amongst the greatest speakers in America today, as he encourages people to strive for virtue and seek to overcome seemingly impossible challenges by setting goals and working to achieve them.

Holtz is also the author of many books, including “Three Rules for Living a Good Life.” He and his late, beloved wife, Beth, have four children and nine grandchildren.

Over the years, Holtz has received numerous honorary doctorate degrees and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in December of 2020 for his contributions to society.



Here are a few of Lou Holtz’s best quotes.

- “God didn’t put us on this earth to be ordinary.”
- “The whole basis of faith is that you don’t need to have something shown to you to believe in it.”
- “You’ll never get ahead of anyone as long as you try to get even with them.”
- “Life is 10 percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it.”
- “The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely the one who dropped it.”
- “Everybody needs four things in life. Something to do regardless of age. Someone to love. Something to hope for. And someone to believe in.”

Answers to Jeopardy for Catholics

Answer to Number 1: What is the lily?



Answer to Number 2: What is the fig tree?



Answer to Number 3: What are “bitter herbs”?
(Extra credit if you guessed endive, which is thought to have been one of the main components of seder plates in Biblical times.)

