



Spring 2021

Good Stewards

United in faith, we bring the Reign of the Sacred Heart to the world

A message
from
Fr. Dominic



In the Mass for Easter Sunday, the first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. In fact, throughout the Easter season starting in April, the first reading at every Mass will be from Acts. Why? Because the readings showed the early church, from its very beginning, had its struggles and growth, and its disappointments. Alleluia!

Today we sing our “Alleluias” at Mass and we are aware of the struggles and disappointments in our own world. The readings from Acts should encourage us and give us a reason to hope. It is also a time for us to be active in our own lives to bring new life and hope to people in a needy world.

The first Easter changed the world some two thousand years ago — and Easter 2021 can change our own troubled world by living that Christ-Life within each one of us. Alleluia!

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A Life of Hardship Ends with Profound Blessings

Soon after coming to America from Croatia in 1939, Frances and her family learned of the Priests of the Sacred Heart through, “*their great work in spreading the word of God and helping the poor.*”



Frances

Frances did her best to live a life devoted to God and helping others through her achievements.

But her greatest blessings came after Frances married Luke, the love of her life. The two were happily married for 55 years until Luke went to his heavenly reward. The couple was blessed with two sons.

And even at age 85, Frances’ spirit was devoted to others. She even published a book! The book contains poems and special memories she penned as a gift to her family. What a treasure they’ll always have — a remembrance of the past.

In the book, Frances speaks of her life in Croatia and the hardships her family overcame.

“Life was hard then and we were poor. But my mother was such a smart person, hard worker, good organizer, that we children never noticed what she had to go through to raise us. We were always so happy. Our beds were made of plain wood, mattresses out of corn husks and sheets out of flannel and

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wool we had from our sheep."

It is evident in reading the history of Frances' family that God and prayer were ever-present. Despite any of the obstacles she had to overcome, throughout the book, Frances refers to her life as "blessed."

It is because of friends like Frances, who give a gift every month as a *Heart to Heart Society* Member, the Priests of the Sacred Heart are able to carry on God's work.

"Although Frances described her gifts as small, it made the world of difference. We're honored she chose to support the Priests of the Sacred Heart and thankful we were able to visit Frances." shared Fr. Dominic and his assistant Pam.

Ned, Frances' son and caregiver for many

years, called to share Frances passed away at the age of 99.

Ned shared, *"Over mom's last few months, I collected her accomplishments on a web page and I would go over each of them with her so she could recall her achievements. I often put the website up on the TV, and mom would marvel how her accomplishments were broadcast to the world on TV!*

She would forget by bedtime, but tell me, as I tucked her in, 'I know something really nice happened for me today, but I don't remember what it is.' Then I would tell her again, about her great works in this world, always ending with the best: she raised two good sons."

If you would like to share a monthly gift with the Priests of the Sacred Heart like Frances did, visit poshusa.org/heart or call 1-800-448-7674.

Sacred Heart Memorial and Tribute Gifts

"There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love." — Corinthians 13:13

Is there someone who has touched your life? Perhaps your mother, father, a teacher or beloved friend. Consider a gift of celebration by honoring them with a memorial or tribute gift.

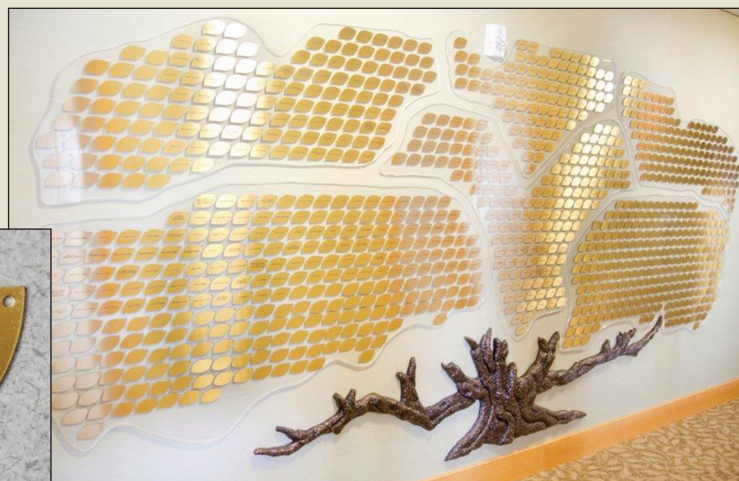
What better time is there than the celebration of a loved one's birth or anniversary to honor them and assist the work of the Priests of the Sacred Heart? By furthering our mission and touching the lives of others, you'll be giving a most honorable gift of love.

Consider giving a lasting tribute with an inscription on the *Tree of Life Memorial* — you can chose a leaf, rock or dove. Or, you can honor a loved one with an



engraved brick in the *Sacred Heart Shrine Memorial Garden* or with a gift to the Seminary Renovation.

To learn more about your options, please visit poshusa.org/tribute, or contact Pam at 1-866-268-0157 or pmilczarski@poshusa.org to establish a memorial today!



We are Blessed by Your Prayers and Support

During times like these, even the best-laid plans may need to be revisited.

Lives were on hold for most of 2020, and none of us could have ever anticipated the impact on our own personal situations. Today more than ever, people are reaching out to advisors to discuss their needs and ways to help their favorite charities.

And we want to thank YOU. People of faith, such as yourself, have motivated much of the humanitarian work performed by the Priests of the Sacred Heart in the U.S. and around the world.

You continue to make our mission possible to reach those most in need, while also building a strong future for the Catholic Church through the education of priests at the Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

We want to share with you a few ways you can make a major gift with minor effort.

✓ **An IRA charitable rollover**, if you are 70½ you are eligible to take a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) up to \$100,000 from an IRA. A QCD is a direct transfer to a qualifying charity like the Priests of the Sacred Heart and is not included in taxable income. If you are 72 and required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a IRA, a QCD counts towards your RMD and reduces taxable income even if you don't itemize.

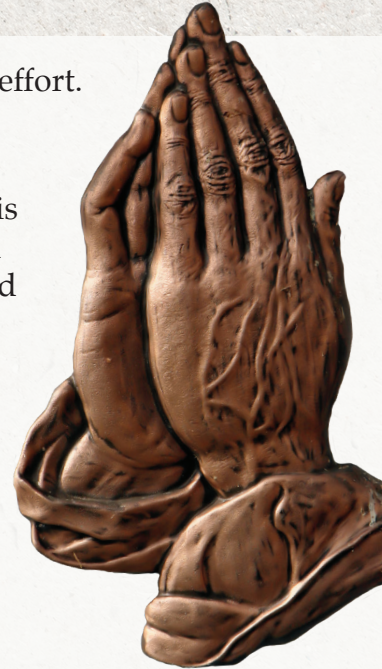
✓ **Legacy gifts** can take many forms. You may want to consider remembering the Priests of the Sacred Heart in your estate plans as a residual beneficiary, which means after all of your expenses are paid and your loved ones are taken care of a percentage goes to a charity. You may also decide to name the Priests of the Sacred Heart as a beneficiary to your:

- Life Insurance Policy
- Payable on Death checking or savings account
- IRA
- Will or trust (for a specific amount)

✓ **A Donor Advised Fund (DAF)** is known for its convenience and tax benefits, and are therefore gaining popularity. Think of them like a charitable savings account; you transfer cash or other assets, such as appreciated stock, to establish the fund at a community foundation or financial services firm. You can then recommend how much and how often funds should be distributed to nonprofits of your choice.

- **Your benefits:**

- ➔ **Simple** — because you can contribute to multiple nonprofits from one fund, it's easier to track your charitable gifts and tax benefits.
- ➔ **Flexible** — you'll qualify for a tax deduction in the year(s) you contribute to the fund when you itemize. You can recommend distributions take place later.
- ➔ **Enduring** — you can create a lasting legacy by helping the priests, brothers, students and the less fortunate by naming the Priests of the Sacred Heart as the beneficiary of your funds, or name a successor who will recommend grants after your passing.



For more information about IRA, Legacy and DAF gifts please visit, poshgift.org or contact Pam at 1-866-268-0157 or pmilczarski@poshusa.org.

When God Calls, You Answer

Celsus Neil Robert, who is currently a postulant preparing for novitiate, is from the island nation of St. Lucia. He entered the SCJ formation program in January 2017.

Although he felt a call to the priesthood when he was young, he said he pushed it aside to pursue other things. However, a few years ago during a moment of silent prayer, the call came again, *“as a whisper, directing me toward the priesthood,”* said Celsus.

Again, Celsus tried to set the call aside, but he couldn't deny he felt God pushing him stronger this time.

“When God calls, you answer!” said Celsus.

Celsus has undergraduate degrees in Social Work and Criminal Justice from Cheyney University (Pennsylvania) and an MBA in Healthcare Administration from California Southern University. He is now a first-year M. Div. student at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology.

While choosing the route to answer God's profound call, Celsus was attracted by the charism of Fr. Leo John Dehon and the spirituality of the Dehonians (SCJs).

“Especially their focus on social services; I was a social worker for 18 years and my degree is in social work ... to be an SCJ priest means going to the people, not sitting in the sacristy. I like that about the SCJs,” said Celsus.

Celsus reflected on the impact the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had on his life and that of his community.

“This pandemic hit us at a time when the Church was calling us into solidarity with each other during Lent. It was a time for deeper self-reflection and



Frater Celsus

sacrifice; therefore, for me it was an easy transition into being creative and making the best out of this crisis.”

Celsus said he and others started a novena to the Divine Heart and then moved into more devotions and personal prayers, including Stations of the Cross.

“The transition to online classes went fine for me, although the caseload became heavier with more online posting and discussions. I was able to utilize video conferencing tools for most of my classes, and with this, I was still able to interact with my fellow classmates.”

Although it is relaxing and comfortable to have classes sitting at your desk in your own room, Celsus said, it came with a cost.

“Sitting for long hours at the desk had an effect on me, I started developing lower back pain. But this is really the only bad effect of the online coursework for me.”

The new circumstances gave Celsus more free time to do things, which he had been putting on hold.

“I tend to my little nursery in my room and out in the hallway. I spend more time praying and reading, and most of all I spend more time catching up on calls and emails which I had for too long not returned.”

Overall, this stay-at-home order and transition to online education has been a productive time for Celsus and other fellow brothers in his community he now spends more time with.

“I spend more time using the indoor fitness center, as well as play indoor soccer with members of the community. Some of us even started cooking more often and inviting others to partake. Therefore, there have been benefits to this time, including a closer bond with God and with others around me. I have not let this moment break me.”