



Reflections

Volume 29

1

St. Paul Ministry

January 2018

You Are a Miracle of God

Blessings to All:

The calendar of our lives revolves around our time on earth. Many a tombstone depicts our calendar as 'Born December 2, 1880; Died February 3, 1910.' What we did between these dates is sometimes forgotten by others. But not by God.

I ask myself recently, what am I doing with the one life God has given me? How am I filling the time between my birth and my eventual death? This is a question each of us should ask ourselves.

When God gave us an immortal soul we became a miracle of God. We have an impact on the world in which you live. Especially with our family, friends and loved ones. You and I are a living miracle of God to others. And as such, we can do things that others cannot do. God has given us unique abilities and charisms that only we possess.

The time we have on earth will be filled with ups and downs. Happiness and Stress. Laughter and Tears. But as Christians, we believe and hope of having eternal peace and joy through the redemption of Jesus.

The dictionary defines 'miracle' in one of its explanations as "an amazing product or achievement, or an outstanding example of something." And "a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency."

Let me show you a miracle:



The miracle of conception and birth.

This photo should remind us, that we were a miracle to our parents. Once a miracle...Always a miracle. God uses us in the world to help others. You are special to God and He needs us to be special to others. Smile at someone and a miracle happens to

that person by seeing us being friendly. It stirs their hearts and souls in a positive way. Mother Teresa said, "Let us always meet each other with a **smile**, for the **smile** is the beginning of love."

Small miracles happen when you smile to others. Or when you hug your spouse; children; grandchildren; or bow your head in prayer.

You are a miracle to others. Be a good example to others...forgive...visit the sick...visit those in prison...say a rosary for the souls in purgatory...have compassion on those less fortunate... don't reply back when someone says something unkind to you. Whatever you do and wherever you are...you can be a miracle to others.

The Nuns Who Went To Prison

First time in 400 years - 61 cloistered nuns go to prison

Santiago, Chile (CNA/EWTN News) - "I don't know if in the 400 years of the history of Santiago, there has been another occasion when contemplative sisters from several monasteries joined together to celebrate the Eucharist with a group of women who are incarcerated, but who are sisters in the faith," said Cardinal Ricardo Ezzati, who celebrated the Mass.



The nuns made the trip to the facility on May 23, 2016 to mark the Jubilee of Consecrated Life as part of Pope Francis' Year of Mercy.

Cardinal Ezzati said that the nuns made the request to visit with the inmates "so the sisters who contemplate the face of God every day in prayer could contemplate him in the face of people who are suffering, going through a hard time in their lives."

"The dear cloistered nuns are the city's uplifted arms to intercede before God for all of us, especially those who are suffering the most," he said.



After the Mass, the religious sang a traditional Chilean song to honor the Virgin Mary, and to everyone's surprise, four of them got up to dance. They then went to the prison courtyard where they continued visiting with the inmates.



For Sister Maria Rosa of the Discalced Carmelites from the San José monastery, the day was "a grace to share with them, to really feel like a sister with them, to feel their sorrow, their joy and to become one with them. It strikes me that this encounter would be on the feast of the Holy Trinity. That means that God dwells in every soul," she told the archdiocesan communications office.



Railín, one of the inmates, said that "it was good that they came and prayed for us. The sisters and bishops coming helped support us, we need a lot of people to come and see us."

Ana Chacón, another inmate, said that the religious "give us the spirit of the Lord, it's a blessing to have them here. Seeing the dear cloistered nuns doing the traditional dance and swinging the kerchiefs was something new."



Prisoners line up to form a Cross

Man Turns Old Truck Into Mobile Shower For Homeless People To Wash Up And Restore Their Dignity

When people want to help the homeless they usually think of providing them with money or goods like food, water, and clothes. But what about their personal hygiene? It's just as important. Soap, clean water, a safe washing facility – these are all things that many homeless people lack access to. This is where Jake Austin steps in.



He has been helping homeless people in St. Louis, Missouri for years now, but just recently came up with a brilliant idea: Austin bought an old truck from Craigslist for \$5,000 and transformed it into a mobile shower unit titled "Shower to the People". The mobile shower on wheels contains two shower stalls and a long row of sinks and mirrors, plus

Raise the Bar employees give out free soap for people using the unit. Water is taken from fire hydrants and is warmed up with the help of an external generator.

"Good hygiene promotes health, fosters hope, and restores dignity to those who may have lost it." – Jack Austin explains.

Jack Austin is another example of being a "Miracle to Others".



Jack always has free bath supplies for the homeless



Jack is a Miracle Worker to those that use his Shower on Wheels.

Jesus the Miracle Worker has compassion on the crowd.

In Matthews gospel we see the great kindness of Jesus to the people who have been following him for three days. He was in Galilee by the Sea and goes up to the mountain to preach, heal the sick and then feeds them. Sometimes we miss key points in the Gospels. I did this in reading this one. Somehow, I concentrated on Jesus feeding the four thousand and did not see the other aspects of this account.

People brought their sick, lame, deformed, mute and many others who needed curing. These unnamed people where probably family members or friends who had heard about Jesus and were hoping he would cure their friends and loved ones.

They had followed him for three days. It took a great effort in those days to travel and many of these people had to carry or cart the sick, deformed, lame people.

They were showing kindness and caring and hoping in Jesus reputation as a miracle worker.

They were not disappointed. The Gospels tells us, that Jesus healed them all. But he also had great compassion on their need for food and rest. As you read this account of the Gospel below...read it slowly and image you were there. You had carried a sick child in your arms for three days in hopes that Jesus would cure your child. Your heart was unsure, but you trusted in the "hope" that what you had heard about Jesus was true. He would cure your child.

Now imagen Jesus sees you and walks up to you and asks you what you want of him. Your heart is beating fast and you are unsure what to say. But you hold up your child to him and look into Jesus' eyes. Jesus sees the heart of a worried mother and smiles at you so gentle. Then he places his hands on your child and immediately your child is cured. Your heart is over joyed and tears flow easily from your eyes. You thank him with tears of joy as he walks to the next person who needs him.

Just imagine you are there...

Matt:15:29-39

At that time:



Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there.

Great crowds came to him, having with them the **lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others.**

They placed them at his feet, and he cured them. **The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able**

to see, and they glorified the God of Israel.

Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "**My heart is moved with pity for the crowd**, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way. I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days, and have nothing to eat; and I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on

the way." And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get bread enough in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." And commanding the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied; and they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. And sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan."

The Miracle of the Immaculate Conception



HOMILY OF JOHN PAUL II

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday, 8 December 2004*

Note: I copied here only the last few lines of his homily.

To you, Virgin Immaculate, predestined by God above every other creature to be the advocate of grace and model of holiness for his people, today in a special way I renew *the entrustment of the whole Church.*

May you guide your children on their pilgrimage of faith, making them *ever more obedient and faithful to the Word of God.*

May you accompany every Christian on the path of conversion and holiness, in the fight against sin and in the search for *true beauty* that is always an impression and a reflection of divine Beauty.

May you obtain *peace and salvation for all the peoples*. May the eternal Father, who desired you to be the immaculate Mother of the Redeemer, also renew in our time through you, the miracles of his merciful love. Amen!

https://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/2004/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_20041208_immaculate-conception.html

Photo taken December 8, 2017 on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, Cypress, TX



The Miracle of the Birth of Jesus Christ

Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

St. Paul Ministry, Cypress, TX

