

OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS of the Feast of the Purification: In the third apparition Mary told Mariana to have a statue made of her as Our Lady of Good Success and gave her this message: "so that men in the future might realize how powerful I am in placating Divine Justice.... When tribulations of spirit and sufferings of body oppress them...let them gaze at my holy image and I will be there ready to listen to their cries and soothe their pain." The statue was consecrated on the Feast of the Purification 1611.

GIVE YOURSELF TO GOD THROUGH THE 7 HOLY GIFTS OF SALVATION: BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, CONFESSION, THE HOLY EUCHARIST, HOLY ORDERS, HOLY MATRIMONY, EXTREME UNCTION.

THERE IS NO FUTURE WITHOUT HOLINESS IN THE FAMILY: The interrogation continued and a man asked, "Give us an example of the Church forcing people to observe traditions (customs) and practices, mandated as necessary for salvation." Joshua said: "The Church demands that couples marry before a Catholic priest. If they marry before a non-Catholic member of the clergy, the marriage is considered invalid. To demand how couples marry under penalty of an invalid marriage and the stigma of sin is wrong. The couple may be married for many years and have children, but if one of them decides to walk away from the marriage and the children, and comes with another lover to a priest, they can be married with the priest's blessing because the previous marriage was considered invalid. If a Catholic marries before a justice of the peace, his marriage is also considered invalid. He may even take many wives and have children and decide to abandon all of them. Then if he finally decides to marry before a priest, his new marriage is now blessed in a ceremonial ritual. Do you think this kind of legalism pleases God?

"TAKE THE HOLINESS OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN: Jesus intended confession to be a great gift to bring peace and joy to tortured souls, *who give themselves to Him.* But abusive officials have created mental anguish for many people, making it psychologically impossible for them **to lay bare their soul to a priest.** Are they doomed to perdition because of this? It is the insensitivity of priests that have taken the *seven* gifts of God and turned them into instruments of pain. Jesus intended forgiveness to be offered with compassion, not with humiliation from a priest. What Jesus intended to be casual and free-spirited, the Church has encased in rigid rituals on scheduled times, as if the Holy Spirit works on timetables dictated by humans."

The group was shocked! They never heard the Church and priests criticized this way. But some of them knew he was speaking the truth, through similar experiences. A man retorted, "So you are hateful of the Church and criticize her teachings and laws." Joshua responded, "That is not true. I love the Church, as Jesus loved the Church. It is His great gift to mankind, but there is a human aspect of it that needs constant correction." Another man said, "You are a heretic and I will do all in my power to destroy your influence in the community!" The group left to **speak against him** to their pastor. On their way back they saw Marcia embracing him at his front door. Joshua new well what the sign of this gesture implied to them. But he needed the comfort of a friend. **The future seemed ominous** and her visit was a welcome relief.

POPE FRANCIS says in his Apostolic Exhortation on marriage and the family, *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*): "The baptized who are divorced and civilly remarried need to be fully integrated into Christian communities... Such persons need to feel not as excommunicated members of the Church, but instead as living members, able to live and grow in the Church... This integration is needed in the care and Christian upbringing of their children."

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There Is No Future without Holiness and Forgiveness!



THE EUCHARISTIC FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY IS CELEBRATED ON THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS; THE FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY IS CELEBRATED ON FEBRUARY 2ND.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY PROPOSES FOR OUR SALVATION THAT WE IMITATE THE LOVE, HOLINESS, PIETY AND PURITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY SO THAT THE WORLD WILL BE AT PEACE. **THE FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION** HONORS MARY'S OBEDIENCE IN KEEPING THE MOSAIC LAW OF PURIFICATION. AFTER GIVING BIRTH A WOMAN WAS UNCLEAN UNDER THE LAW AND COULD NOT ENTER THE TEMPLE. FORTY DAYS AFTER MARY GAVE BIRTH, THE HOLY FAMILY WENT TO THE TEMPLE AND OFFERED A SACRIFICE FOR HER PURIFICATION AND PRESENTED JESUS TO THE LORD. THE PROPHET SIMEON BLESSED THEM. HE WARNED MARY THAT HER CHILD WOULD BE "A SIGN THAT IS SPOKEN AGAINST" (*LK 2: 22-32*).

LOOK AT THE CROSS! TRANSMIT FAITH, DISCERN TRUTH, AND TRULY LOVE! Spread Words of Salvation to All Those Who Do Not Know Jesus' Love!



"DEAR CHILDREN: By the act of the decision and love of God, I am chosen to be the Mother of God and your mother. But also by my will and my immeasurable love for the Heavenly Father and my complete trust in Him, my body was the chalice of the God-man. I was in the service of truth, love and salvation, as I am now among you to call you, my children,

apostles of my love, **to be carriers of truth;** to call you **to spread His words, the words of salvation,** by your **will** and **love** for my Son—that with your **actions** you may show, to all those who have **not** come to know my Son, His love. You will find strength in the Eucharist—my Son who **feeds** you with His Body and strengthens you with His Blood. My children, fold your hands and look at the Cross in silence. In this way, you are **drawing faith to be able to transmit it; you are drawing truth to be able to discern; you are drawing love that you may know to love truly.** My children, apostles of my love, fold your hands, look at the Cross. Only in the Cross is salvation" (Med. 2/2/20).

JOSHUA: A PARABLE FOR TODAY is a National Best Seller by Father Joseph F. Girzone, a Catholic priest, who joined the Carmelite order at age 14, serving Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (card 105). He died in 2015 at age 85, having not seen the sweeping changes made in the Church by Pope Francis, correcting practices, customs and traditions. This series began with Ark Box 6 and card 108. To write the cards I incorporate Mary's current messages from Medjugorje and current Catholic calendar events with the book, connecting the common threads, to transmit a message: If Christ's Body, the Church, would truly give themselves to God in holiness and show the world with their words and actions that they are the chalice of the God-man, the world will have a future of joy! The Catholic Missal is the oldest Christian calendar that celebrates the Eucharistic Feast with Jesus, who feeds us with His Body and strengthens us with His Blood. Father Girzone, drawing on truth he discerned as a Catholic priest, transmits a message for the Church to think about: What would it be like if Jesus lived today, if He again became the God-man? Would He be welcomed or crucified by the Church, He entrusted to Peter, who succeeded to the chair of Moses? How would his people, the Jews, receive Him? In the parable the Heavenly Father sends Jesus (Joshua) to a small town in America on a secret mission. He is to carry the truth and spread the words of salvation with his words and actions to show all those who have not come to know God's love, His love. He is a wood-carver and was contracted by the Jewish synagogue to carve a statue of Moses, which transmits a message that people are speaking about. He has been gaining notoriety through his artwork, and his words and actions, and now will be contracted to carve two statues of Peter. Chapter 11 follows.

ST. PETER: A man who drew faith, truth and love from the Cross, transmitting its message across time through his actions seen in artwork! Joshua was contracted to carve a statue of Peter by a Pentecostal church. Then as he was working in his garden a luxury car pulled up. A chauffeur opened the door for a huge man, dressed like a cleric, who pompously asked, "Is Mr. Joshua the sculptor at home?" Joshua said, "I am Joshua." The man remarked, "But you are just a gardener; I was expecting a distinguished man, befitting your reputation." He extended his hand as if he expected Joshua to kiss it and proclaimed, "I am Father Darby, rector of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church." Joshua held his hand and invited him in and went beyond protocol and invited his chauffeur. The priest looked around his house, questioning the ability of a man whose life-style bordered on poverty. When he saw his simple workshop, disappointed, he remarked, "I expected to see a shop professionally equipment and a room full of artwork." Joshua assured him that he had all that he needed. Then asked, "What do you have in mind?"



THE FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER, who was chosen by Jesus to lead the Church, succeeding to the chair of Moses, is celebrated on February 22, honoring his Pontifical Authority. The wooden chair was a gift from the Emperor of Rome. Over time it was repaired and finally encased in gilt bronze, preserving it as artwork. Peter served as the First Bishop at Antioch, the third largest city of the Roman Empire. Later he seated his chair in Rome. He was crucified during the persecution under Nero. A shrine to him was discovered on Vatican Hill, where Nero held a circus

to show all those who had come to know Jesus and His love the consequences of their words and actions. Fox's Book of Martyrs records that Nero **sought matter against** Peter to put him to death for being a carrier of truth, spreading words of salvation. His friends begged him to flee. When he came to the city gate, he met Jesus and asked, "Lord, where are going?" Jesus replied, "I am come again to be crucified." Peter discerned Jesus meant he was to suffer—his body was to be the chalice of the God-man. He returned to face crucifixion with complete trust in the Heavenly Father. He folded his hands and looked at the Cross in silence. He felt unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus, so with immeasurable love he gave himself to God and willingly asked to be crucified upside down. By his love and actions he showed all those who had **not** come to know Jesus, His love.

Father Darby answered, "A grand figure of the great Apostle Peter, a man for whom I have always felt a certain affinity and the greatest affection. He was the chosen leader of the apostles and was established by Jesus as the foundation of the Church. I envision him as a man of great proportion and equal dignity, not unlike myself, if I may be permitted to indulge in a little vanity." Joshua, trying not to laugh, said, "Yes, I can see there is a resemblance." Father Darby remarked, "If you don't feel equal to the task, I will look for someone else." Joshua assured him that he could do the work and that it would be ready in a week. After they left, Joshua thought about Peter. Yes, there were similarities between Peter and the priest. In his youth Peter was pompous and taken up with himself. They were both huge. But there was little else they had in common. Peter was a big man in other ways. He had a big heart. Father Darby was cold and unfeeling. In his youth Peter would have enjoyed having a chauffeur, but he was also the type who would have gotten just as much pleasure being the chauffeur. Joshua thought about the message the figure should project. Every work of art should have a message.

JOSHUA: A carrier of truth, spreading words of salvation to those who do **not** know Jesus' love! Joshua was taking a walk when some people confronted him. They **sought matter against him** to accuse him to Church officials. A woman said, "We are offended by what you say about Catholics, that they deprive people of their freedom and are incapable of growth and stuck on external observances of religion rather than on loving God and their neighbor." Joshua replied, "Yes, that is true. Church leaders feel they have a mandate from God to control people's lives. When people do not obey their mandates, they are made to feel that they are disobeying God, resisting His grace and jeopardizing their salvation. God never intended for human institutions to control people's lives. It was the function of the apostles and those who succeeded them to gently guide the flock. Religion is most beautiful when a person lives life motived by a great love of God." A man said, "The Church stands in the place of Christ, and what the Church

teaches, man must obey." Joshua admitted that the Church succeeded to the chair of Moses and the **seat of Peter**, as Jesus wished, but Jesus insisted that his apostles not imitate the Pharisees, who invented elaborate practices, traditions (customs) and rituals for people to observe and transformed religion into the observance of manmade practices and traditions, which turn people away from the Church.

