

# The MESSENGER

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY



SPRING/SUMMER 2006

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Saint Louis, MO

# Provincial Perspective

Dear Readers,

The phrase “Some assembly required” sends chills through my spine. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve confronted my “mechanically challenged” mind and failed. Many of us have vivid memories of taking on a simple project of trying to put together a Bar-b-que pit, some lawn furniture, a desk or table that didn’t quite come together like the picture on the box. If you are anything like me, you get frustrated and mumble a few words of “thanks” to the manufacturer who led you to believe that any 6 year old child with a screwdriver could do the job as well. To this day I remember a plastic model car kit that when I finished constructing it, looked like it came from the junk yard.

Yet there are times....too few times, perhaps .....when it all comes together. One day I assembled a kite and part A actually fit into slot B and whatchamacallit C snapped into doohickey D. The kite was a marvelous sight to see flying gracefully through the sun lit sky. What a wonderful sense of accomplishment. All the pieces fit.....It all came together.

All of this brings to mind the Solemnity of Pentecost which we celebrate each year. The Pentecost experience for Jesus’ disciples is the moment when it all comes together. When the life, death and resurrection of Jesus finally makes sense, when the pieces of Jesus’ teaching start to fit.

On that first Pentecost the gospel of John tells us that... Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” This same Spirit continues to “breathe” through our Church today. To give life and direction to all of us as we accept the challenge to proclaim the Gospel to every nation and people.

May the Spirit of the Lord bless you with a generous, loving and caring heart.

*Fr. Joseph Roelke, M.S.F.*

Very Rev. Joseph Roelke, M.S.F.  
Provincial



*Very Rev. Joseph Roelke, M.S.F.*

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## HOLY FAMILY LIFE

# My Lessons in Fatherhood from God the Father

By Robert Gotcher

One thing a new father learns very quickly is that he is not God. We keep learning this same lesson year after year, child after child. Not only are we not omnipotent, but we are also, more to the point, not all-good and all loving. Yet, the Fatherhood of God reveals to us fathers something about our own vocation. God has been a father a lot longer than I have, so it stands to reason that he is better



at it than I am. In fact, being Father is not something God has to learn at all. He is the origin of all fatherhood. As St. Paul says, "This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every fatherhood, in heaven or on earth, takes its name." (Eph. 3:15 JB). It is God who is really Father; I am only father because human fatherhood participates in some mysterious way in his divine Fatherhood.

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### *Lesson 1: Delighting in Our Children means Time with Our Children*

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The first thing we learn about God's love for His children is that He delights in His offspring "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel!" (1 Kgs 10:9 RSV). "This is my beloved, in whom I am well pleased." (Mt. 3:17). I try (and too often fail) to make it a daily practice to recall the wonderful qualities of each of my children and to delight in them. This is also a good investment for those days when their positive qualities aren't as obvious as the negative ones!

How do our children know we delight in them? The same way we know God delights in us, He loves to be with us; that is, Emmanuel – "God with us". God went with Israel in the tabernacle, which became the Temple of God's presence in Jerusalem. And, of course, Jesus is the ultimate presence of God with all people, a presence which continues in the Eucharist. Fathers who are absent or remote are not imaging the Father's love for His children.

Loving presence of this sort requires sacrifice. God the Father's love for His children is sacrificial. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should have life everlasting (Jn 3:16 RSV). Fathers may be asked to give up what is most precious and desired in our lives for the sake of our children, such as luxuries, privacy, achievement. Our children need our time, energy, and focus. There are many things in this world that can draw us away from our children. We can become so engrossed in civic and parish activities, evenings at the pub with friends, as well as t.v., sports,



magazines, newspapers and computers that we are not present to our children. But none of these things can make our children as happy as time spent with the undivided attention of their father. If we are losing that, the rest becomes empty, rather than fulfilling. As for work, it is easy in our culture to think that more work means more money means a happier family. Although many fathers have to work away from home, and perhaps travel, these times will be painful separations from the ones we love.



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## *Lesson 2: Time and Shared Experiences*

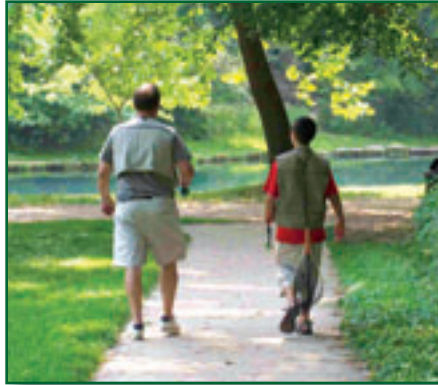
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Let not one think that a father has to completely give up any personal pursuit, one can remember that God not only takes interest in our life, but invites us to be part of His life. In creating the world He extends that gift by making us in His own image, thus allowing us to share in His creative powers. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'" (Gn. 1:27-8 RSV).

Unlike the days when the father's workshop was attached to the home, many fathers have their work away from home and it is hard to involve the children in the work. I know at

least one father, however, who has a construction business who lets his children work with him as they get older. Academics, such as me, could let our children be involved in our research. Certainly we can let our children be involved in our efforts to keep up the home, to grow a garden, to work on a hobby, or with our civic and social involvements. I make it

a point, without forcing them to do things they lack interest in, to include our children in our activities as much as possible. I like to take our children to our many pro-life activities. Being pro-life becomes a natural part of their life. When considering what activities would be great shared experiences, consider that today's culture sees the family as a unit of consumption, but this was not always true. In the past the family was seen as a unit of production. In fact, the word "economy" comes from the Greek word oikos, which means "household," because in ancient times the household was the primary productive unit of the economy. So activities that produce or give rather than simply consume might hold a greater benefit.



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### *Lesson 3: Responding to our Children's Requests*

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The Bible says again and again that God hears our cries and responds. A good father will respond to his children, even though it is expressed in odd and perhaps less than optimal ways. He will listen carefully and will respond to the actual need of the child.

I have this tendency when my children cry or whine to focus on the obnoxious behavior rather than getting beyond it to the real source of

the child's unhappiness. In fact, there is no harm in giving a child what he wants regularly, even if it is not necessary. "What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?"

(Lk 11:11-12 RSV). In being generous with our children, we are teaching them something about the prodigal generosity of our Father in heaven.

It took me a long time to get over the popular notion that my children were manipulating me at every turn. For the most part, they were genuinely expressing their thoughts and desires, although they are not always sure what they really want and are sometimes mistaken about what would really make them happy. Like God, we will sometimes want to give them something different and even better than what they think they want.

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### *Lesson 4: A Father's Patience*

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A final characteristic of God's Fatherhood is His mercy, patience and tenderness. "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger for ever." (Psalm 103:8-9 RSV) .

Because God is merciful and knows

our weakness, He is patient. Since I am not patient by nature, it has taken me decades to learn to hold my tongue and get my bearings on a situation before firing off my “final word” on an issue. I want my children to instantly obey and understand and behave exactly like I want. Unfortunately, I myself don’t even behave in the way I want my children to! How can I expect them to?

A father is also tender with his children. If nothing else I think all fathers should work diligently at eradicating all yelling and growling. Karol Wojtyła, who became Pope John Paul II, spoke in the book, *Love and Responsibility* about how important it is especially for men to develop the virtue of tenderness because we have the inbuilt tendency to conquer and control. “In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us.” (Lk 1:78 NAB).

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***Lesson 5, 6, 7... :  
Every Day is a new  
lesson in Fatherhood***


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There are many other qualities of God the Father that I could enumerate if I had more space. For instance, just as God, as the source of the Word and Wisdom, is teacher, so fathers need to guide their children with wisdom they’ve gained through prayer, meditation on the scriptures and teachings of the Church. Just as God went with His children in their sojourn in the

desert as pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, so must we be protective of our children. Just as God provides a secure and bountiful peace for his people, so should we create a home environment of peace, hospitality and generosity. Just as the Lord is trustworthy and consistent, so must we be reliable and predictable; not changing from day to day, but being, like the Lord, a rock for our children.



I am hoping that as I grow older and conform my life more and more to that of Christ, I will be even more the image of the loving, tender, patient, responsive,

steadfast Father that is revealed to us in the Old and New Testament. And I hope my older children can forgive me for taking so long to catch on! I’ve got a bit of a way to go. 



**Dr. Robert Gotcher is a husband and father of seven children. He lives in Franklin, Wisconsin, where he teaches theology at Sacred Heart School of Theology. ([www.shst.edu](http://www.shst.edu))**



## DEAR FATHER

### Ask Father John

By Rev. John Carl Lombardi, MSF

#### *Dear Father,*

*From time to time I receive a prayer formula in the mail that claims if I pray this prayer it is guaranteed “to never fail.” Some ask that you leave a copy of the prayer in the church for nine days, others require you to publish it and others request that you send it to someone else not to break the chain. I would like to know just how effective are these prayers?*

Prayer is a good thing, but when you subscribe to these prayers that are guaranteed “to never fail” you are turning prayer into a magical formula bordering on superstition. Such prayers also do not represent the best understanding of just what intercession is all about.

There are two ways we can approach prayer. One is as a communication of love and trust and the other is as a business transaction. If our prayer is authentic, we are opening ourselves to God’s will and trusting Him to answer us. The problem is when we pray these prayers that are guaranteed “never to fail” we are trying to manipulate God.

In that God always answers our prayers in one way or another, there is truth in the claim that authentic prayer is guaranteed “never to fail.” God answers all our prayers but sometimes, His answer is “no.”

I really question prayers that require publication, strict formulas, mathematics or circulation because it represents an impoverished approach to the spiritual life.

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***We should never approach prayer as if it is conducting a business transaction with God.***

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We should never approach prayer as if it is conducting a business transaction with God.

St. Francis de Sales tells us: “Do not distress yourself about your prayers. It is not always necessary to employ words, even inwardly. It is enough to raise your heart and let it rest in our Lord, to look lovingly upward toward this divine lover of our souls, for between lovers the eyes speak more eloquently than the tongue.”



## **Dear Father,**

***As a cradle Catholic and a regular Sunday Massgoer all my life, I have to admit I don't believe in the Real Presence when I receive Holy Communion. I see it just as a symbol of our Lord's body and blood, and have been struggling with this problem all my life. Could you give me some words of encouragement on this matter?***

Like so many Catholics, your problem lies with a culture and society that promote a general attitude of skepticism and refusal to accept anything we cannot understand outside of human reason.

This thinking came out of the intellectual 18th century movement known as the Enlightenment, which held that the most reliable guide to knowledge was not faith or authority but human reason. Learning, freedom and science were all emphasized at the expense of faith.


As Catholics we have to accept things on faith because they are a part of divine revelation, and that includes believing that Christ is truly present under the forms of bread and wine.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that: "At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the works of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's body and blood" (CCC 1333).

When Christ instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper he did not say it is a symbol of his body and blood, but he did say: "'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave

thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood'" (Matthew 26:27-28).

If our Lord wanted us to regard the Eucharist as a symbol of his body and blood, he would have told us so. But he did not give us this option, so as Catholics we must approach the table of our Lord with faith since, "Human reason is weak and can be misled; but true faith cannot be deceived" ("The Imitation of Christ," Thomas A. Kempis).

Let me leave you with this final thought: "What Christ gives us is quite explicit if his own words are interpreted according to their Aramaic meaning. The expression 'This is my body' means 'This is myself'" (Father Karl Rahner, SJ). 



Father Lombardi, a priest of the Missionaries of the Holy Family, is associate pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish in South Saint Louis, Missouri.



### Is Believing Easy?

Contributed by Guadalupe Diaz, Jr.

The history of man is full of examples where religious teachings clash with the ways of man. The book of John reveals Jesus teaching the people that he is the bread of life and whoever eats his flesh will live forever. Those who heard Jesus' teaching became offended and were confused on how one man can claim to be the bread of life and instruct everyone around him to eat his flesh. Jesus knew the people had their difference of opinion, yet he did not explain himself in a different way. He went on to repeat himself with even greater earnestness. But, was the teaching really that hard? Or is it that the people did not want to receive or accept the Son of God into their lives. As the world ages, the views of our people evolve, but the attitude of man still remains the same. It was hard to receive such teaching with the Son of God standing right in front of them, so in today's world you can only imagine the challenge.

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*Many of his  
disciples, when  
they heard  
it, said,  
"This is a hard saying;  
who can listen to it?"  
(John 6:60 RSV)*

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The Catholic Church is the original Christian religion and in some ways the strictest. The youth of America have flocked to non-denominational churches for a variety of reasons. Many want to be free from the strictness of the Catholic Church or to avoid the influence of a significant religion in their lives. Not only is the Catholic Church strict, it also poses the most difficult and most sacred teaching of them all, the Eucharist. Is it hard to believe that every time we receive Holy Communion we receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ into our bodies? Of course it is hard to believe, but remember we are the same people that questioned Christ over 2,000 years ago. I believe the only way to really believe is to learn of his sacrifice, his word, and his calling on your life. Being a young disciple of Christ is difficult sometimes, but being a young Catholic disciple of Christ can be even more difficult. To go against the stream of today's youth

means to receive persecution and to be embarrassed. Throughout my journey of faith I have experienced persecution and embarrassment, but I notice the blessings of Christ overwhelm my life in more ways than one. His scripture became clear to me, "and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved." (Mark 13:13 RSV).


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***"...and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."  
(Mark 13:13 RSV)***

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"...endures to the end..." is what Christ said in the Gospel of Mark, so I know that my salvation is never guaranteed. I will always strive towards a better relationship with

my Best Friend and Holy Savior. The only thing that I can be sure of is my faith in Christ, the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the calling in my life, and of course, to know that I am never alone no matter how empty the room may feel. To know these things is to live life with intent. To walk like you're trying to get somewhere.

I can only pray that our youth apply their heart to instruction, so God's teaching can mold his children into being the Church of tomorrow. And I am excited for the Church of tomorrow to be here today. 



Guadalupe Diaz, Jr. – has attended the Catholic Church his whole life and has been playing for the youth choir since the 8th grade. He has one more year left in high school and then plans to attend a design school. His hopes are to be a youth minister in a few years. His hobbies also include playing guitar, writing music, and singing for his parish. Guadalupe is a member of Holy Family Parish in New Braunfels, Texas.



# THANK YOU

*All the priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Holy Family want to express their deep gratitude to all our supporters. You are remembered in our prayers.*

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☆	★	Richard Ölliges	☆	★	Rol & Wagner
☆	★	Roy & Elizabeth Ortega, Jr.	☆	★	Mary Ann Walsh
☆	★	Kenneth & Patricia Ortmann	☆	★	George & Mary Weston
☆	★	Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	☆	★	Elmer & Geraldine Williams
☆	★	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	☆	★	Ronald & Marsha Williams
☆	★	Our Lady of The Assumption	☆	★	M. Carlan Wolf
☆	★	Juanita Ovalle	☆	★	Women For Women Health Care, S.C.
☆	★	Guy & Julie Parasch	☆	★	Erma Wood
☆	★	Stan & Diane Paur	☆	★	Ralph & Mary Wright
☆	★	Carmelita Pelch	☆	★	Joe Paul & Maria Wuerth
☆	★	Louis & Estela Peralta	☆	★	William Wuerth
☆	★	Raul Perez, III	☆	★	William A. Zib
☆	★	Juanita L. Perez			

# Missionaries of the Holy Family



We invite you to a life fully dedicated to the apostolates of the family, vocations and wherever God directs us.



## Servants of God

## Builders of Family



### Charism

The Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Family was founded in 1895 at Grave, Holland by Fr. Jean Berthier. He dedicated the community to the Holy Family which is "the perfect model of every religious community and of every Christian family." We seek out and foster vocations, particularly among mature adults and the poor. Our community strives to live as a family while bringing the Gospel message to areas of need.

### Apostolates

Throughout the world we promote and serve the needs of Church, family, local community and our Congregation. In the North American Province (Canada, United States and Mexico) we are involved in many types of pastoral service. As priests and brothers we work in parishes, schools, hospitals and homes for the aged. Our work reflects the concern and respect we have for family life.



MSF Vocation Office  
104 Cas Hills Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78213  
(210) 344-9145



# AROUND THE PROVINCE

▶ Fr. Andrea Spatafora, MSF (on right) and Fr. Joseph Roelke, MSF (2nd from right) concelebrated Mass at a local church in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The leadership of the Missionaries of the Holy Family from around the world gathered for a meeting in Argentina.



◀ Rev. Herman Defler, MSF visited with Pope John Paul II in 1998. His Holiness called Fr. Defler “Compadre” since they were both celebrating 50 years as a priest. On December 1, 2005 Fr. Defler received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross which is a papal honor created in 1888.



▲ Br. Robert DeLong, MSF speaking with parishioners while on a vocation weekend visit to St. Luke’s Catholic Church in Brownsville, TX.



▲ Fr. Steve Hernandez, MSF and Br. Robert DeLong, MSF visit after a wonderful weekend of vocation talks at St. Luke’s where Fr. Steve is pastor.

▶ The Apostolate Board for the Missionaries of the Holy Family met during October in St. Louis, MO. Pictured are (back, l to r) Fr. Phil Sosa, MSF Fr. Jim Wuerth, MSF Fr. Joseph Roelke, MSF Fr. Andrea Spatafora, MSF. (front, l to r) Walter Lukaszek, Paul Mahabir, Gracie Mirabal, Bobby Mirabal, John Harper, Not pictured is Martie Aboussie and Dr. Terri Quebedeaux.

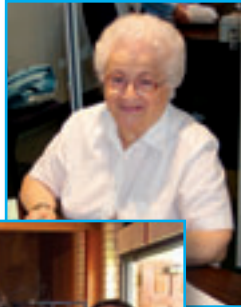


# AROUND THE PROVINCE

▶ Volunteers for the Missionaries of the Holy Family are so important in helping with the large Novena Mailing. Pictured clockwise are Mary Million, Ana Ballesteros, Carmelita Pelch, +Dorothy Brouk and Mary Ann Walsh.



▼ Fr. Feddy Himawan, MSF and Fr. Ignatius Triatmoko, MSF are involved with Youth Ministry.



◀ The Missionaries of the Holy Family remember in a special way +Dorothy Brouk who was an enthusiastic volunteer and benefactor. Pictured here she was helping with the Holy Family Novena mailing. Dorothy passed away on New Year's Eve during the nine days of the Holy Family Novena.



▼ Fr. Tomasz Grabara, MSF celebrated his 38th Birthday on January 6 at the formation house. Fr. Tomasz arrived this past fall from Poland for his assignment here in the North American Province as part of the International Cooperative.



▲ Brother Rolland Kapsner, MSF (far left) is pictured with 10 RCIA participants from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Seguin, TX. Br. Rolland worked with these candidates and they were all welcomed into the Catholic Church this 2006 Easter



# AROUND THE PROVINCE



◀ Fr. Clement Razafimahatratra, MSF shown in his English class. Fr. Clement arrived in the United States early last year and has nearly finished his language courses and will move into ministry soon.



▲ Mass is celebrated at the Formation House in San Antonio and while others are welcome to attend it is often simply the House members present for the joyful and personable celebration of the Mass.



▲ From the Eucharistic Celebration to the dinner bell members of the MSF Formation House live as a community.

▶ Fr. Ignatius, MSF making sick calls at a San Antonio Hospital.



▶ The Candles for the Holy Family Novena were located behind the altar at St. Wenceslaus Parish. Nine Days of Masses were offered for the intentions of the Novena and those who sent in their prayer requests.





## PARENTS TIME OUT

### Talk: It's Cheap

Contributed by Dr. Ray Guarendi

Dear Dr. Ray,

*I'm a mother of three children. It seems like I'm nothing but a talking machine. All the kids just shrug me off.*

*Any ideas for making myself heard? - Hoarse*

Talk...the illusion of discipline. Nagging, lecturing, overreasoning, pleading, cajoling, arguing, threatening, screaming...all forms of talk, all frustrating, and all imposters of legitimate discipline. I suspect the succinct adage "Talk is cheap" was coined by a child.

As a kid, I liked it when my parents overtalked and said in 93,000 words what they could have said in seven. Playing in the backyard, I'd be blissfully ignoring my mother's repeated calls for supper, when the torrent would come. "Raymond Nicholas! How many times do I have to call you? You know, buddy

boy, you seem to think I talk just to hear myself talk. You seem to think I like the sound of my own voice. Well, I'm going to tell you something, young man. You'd better listen, and you'd better listen good, because I'm not going to say it again. I was not put on this earth to be your own personal slave. There are five other people in this house. If you think we're going to revolve our schedule around yours, you've got another think coming. You mark my words, there's going to be some changes around here. I have just about had it with you. I'm sick and tired..." I never even



looked toward the house until the 70,000th word. My attitude was, “She’s not mad enough yet.”

If you talk 200 to 400 words a minute, with gusts up to 700, you can be sure of one thing. Most of what you say is for your ears only, because a foremost reality of discipline is this: The more you talk, the less you’re heard.

A related reality is that the more space between your mouth and your kid’s ears, the less you’re heard, no matter how loud you get. It’s just plain easier for D.J. to tune you out when you’re standing across the backyard or even just across the hall than when you’re looming right next to him. It’s even easier to ignore you if you’re out of sight, in other words, if there’s a ceiling, wall, stairs, or dirty window between you and him. Voices without faces have little meaning to kids who operate on the philosophy that “A parent should be heard and not seen.”

The final futility of endless talking is that talking inevitably leads to yelling, which inevitably leads to anger. We get riled, the kids

get riled, the dog gets riled, and our original discipline purpose becomes lost in a maelstrom of words and emotion. I’ve yet to meet a parent who can calmly say, “Please, Rose, this is the eleventh time I’ve asked you to water the flowers. Another ten or twelve



times, and I’m afraid I’m going to have to raise my voice.” For most of us, after four such requests, our voice volume is approaching 110 decibels, and our jaw is so clenched we can’t speak clearly anymore.

Why do we fall into the talk trap? First of all, talk is easier than action, in the very short term anyway. Somehow we convince ourselves it takes less effort to threaten Mercy sixteen times with an early bedtime if she blows her whistle a seventeenth time while we’re

on the phone than to leave the phone temporarily, pack her off to bed, and weather twenty-seven minutes of crying. It probably does take less physical effort, but the emotional toil is much higher, not to mention still having to talk over that infernal whistle. Second, talk usually makes us feel less guilty than actual discipline. We don't

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***“talk usually makes us feel less guilty than actual discipline”***

---

feel quite so “mean” nagging at Hazel through two game shows and a mini-series to clear the supper dishes as we would if we fined her fifty-cents. Again, in the short run, we may feel less mean. But soon we start feeling meaner and

meaner, as our words and polite requests go unheeded or challenged. And then, our words can become meaner than a fifty-cent fine could ever be.

Third, kids are crafty. They want to keep us talking. They know that the longer we talk, the more likely eventually we'll wear down, give in, and shut up.

Of course, if all you have to do is smile sweetly while whispering “Dishes, please,” and Chastity instantly drops the phone and rushes to dry them, then talk serves you well. Stay with it and savor the envy that the rest of the world's parents feel toward you. On the other hand, if your words are having as much impact as Ping Pong balls thrown at the hull of a battleship, then you need some action backing up your talk. 



### **Dr. Ray Guarendi**

is the father of ten, a psychologist, a popular Catholic radio personality and guest speaker offering parenting advice in concert with Catholic values. More information about Dr. Ray's books and tapes can be found on the internet at [www.DrRay.com](http://www.DrRay.com)

**"THEY TELL ME I MAY HOLD THE CURE FOR PARKINSON'S."**

*Stem cells in our bodies work wonders. They repair damaged organs. They rebuild vital tissues and muscles. And they have already changed people's lives. They've helped people with severe spinal cord injuries to walk again. They've helped children avoid a life of pain from sickle-cell anemia. And stem cells are showing further promise in treating a host of diseases like Parkinson's, diabetes and heart disease. But these are not embryonic stem cells. They are adult stem cells, obtained without harming anyone.*

*Some insist miracle cures will come only from embryonic stem cells. Yet two decades of embryonic stem cell research have not helped a single person. Embryonic stem cells tend to be genetically unstable and can form lethal tumors. And they come with a hefty price tag: living human embryos must be killed to obtain their cells.*

*Embryonic stem cells have been hyped. But it's the adult stem cells that are showing hope.*

*So, where's the future?*

*Look deep inside. The answer is clear.*



**ADULT STEM CELL  
RESEARCH.  
LET'S FIND CURES  
WE CAN ALL LIVE WITH.**



**Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities**

*For more information, visit  
[WWW.USCCB.ORG/PROLIFE](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/PROLIFE)*

*Made possible by the generous support of the Knights of Columbus.*



## A PROFILE OF SERVICE

### Rev. David Tonary, MSF

Interviewed by Guy Parasch

A 25 year anniversary is cause for celebration in many settings, like marriage and employment. For some reason priests tend to downplay their anniversaries – it must be that “humble servant” training. Fortunately the many people whose lives have been helped by a priest’s ministry won’t stand for letting such a wonderful milestone pass by quietly. Fr. David Tonary, MSF is approaching the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood and celebrations are already planned. Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Seguin, TX will be celebrating on June 30th.

#### Rev. David Tonary, MSF 25 years of Priesthood June 21st, 2006

Born: March 13, 1951  
Birthplace: New Waterford,  
Nova Scotia, Canada

Ordained: June 21, 1981  
Age: 55

Education:  
K – 12

Our Lady of Mount Carmel,  
New Waterford,  
Nova Scotia, Canada

College  
Nova Scotia Teachers College  
Nova Scotia, Canada

Holy Family Seminary,  
St. Louis MO

St. Louis University,  
BA English Literature

Kenrick Seminary  
Theology



Confirmation Name: Joseph

Patron Saint: St. Joseph

Hero: Mother Teresa

Hobbies: Reading

Last Book Read:

The Story of a Soul

–Autobiography of  
Saint Therese of Lisieux

Motto:

Do the best you can for this day.

Advice to those discerning  
a vocation:

Pray, Pray & ACT!

This is the perfect opportunity to get to know Fr. David better. If you have had the pleasure of speaking with Fr. David you, might pick up on a wee bit of an accent. Yes, that accent comes from the snowy “Great White North”. Fr. David was born in New Waterford, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Fr. David grew up one of six children in the Tonary Family. His father +David (a coal miner) and mother +Sarah (homemaker) provided a wonderfully memorable family life. Fr. David recalls his youth as “full of fun” with its moments, too. One of his Mom’s favorite sayings highlights that it was a typical family household. She often said “There will be no fighting in this home. There is already enough fighting going on outside.” His oldest brother was +Jim. Next was Michael, best known as Mickey. Then came himself and his twin sister Heather (please note he is the “older twin” – Fr. David emphasizes this in a loving sibling rivalry tone). Next

are John and then Robbie.

Fr. David was educated by the Sisters of Charity at Our Lady of Mount Carmel from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is considered a “public school”. In Canada there is no restriction in having a Catholic education supported with government funds.



Fr. David’s first thought of the priesthood goes back to when he was between 12-14 years of age. Although he took no action at that time, the thoughts quietly lingered.



“Fr. David on the day of his ordination in 1981 with his family. (Front l to r) His twin sister Heather, then his Mom (+Sarah) and Dad (+David). (Back l to r) is Mick, John, Fr. David, Rob and +Jim.”

After high school he attended and graduated from Nova Scotia Teacher’s College. Fr. David taught in elementary education for several years. One spring day after classes he was at home sitting at the kitchen

table reading the newspaper. In the middle of a page was a small 1 inch by 1 inch advertisement titled, “Want to be a Missionary?” He wrote to the address in the ad and this was the start of his journey into the Missionaries of the

Holy Family. After several communications and a personal visit by Fr. Danny Hawkins, MSF, vocation director at the time, Fr. David entered the Missionaries of the Holy Family that summer as a brother candidate.



Above: "Family Fun when brother Jim turns 50"

In 1974 at the age of 23 he entered the Holy Family Seminary in St. Louis, MO. While in St. Louis he also attended St. Louis University and received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. During this time he discerned that his calling was shifting from that of a brother to priest and he was permitted to do so. Fr. David's theological studies took place at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis.

Father David was ordained by Bishop William E. Power on June 21, 1981 at his home parish, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Fr. David's mother and father were present for his ordination and it was a moment of great joy for the family. After the celebrations and visits, the newly ordained Fr. David was

off to his first assignment. Little did he know that the first 6 hours of his assignment would hold a life long memory!

Fr. David arrived in San Antonio, Texas and was greeted at the airport by his first pastor, Fr. Herman Defler, MSF stationed at Our Lady of Guadalupe. At about 3pm during the trip from the airport to the parish, Fr. Defler

Below: "Fr. David has the joy of baptizing his nephew."



mentioned to Fr. David that he would be celebrating Mass at 6pm – that night – and to add to the excitement the Mass was to be celebrated in Spanish! Fr. David did not know Spanish nor had he studied Spanish. Panic was an understatement. In the end God always makes it work out, the Mass was celebrated and Fr. David has a memory that is lasting him a lifetime!

Fr. David's mother passed away in 1983 within a couple of years of his ordination. A few years after that, in 1987, his father passed away.



During his father's funeral, several people approached him and voiced comments like "We wouldn't have survived without him". Initially Father David did not understand why they were saying that about his dad. Eventually he learned that during some difficult economic times his father was quietly bringing food to families that were in desperate need – all this while raising a family of six children on a coal miner's income. His father did this quietly and no one in the

he was transferred to Immaculate Heart of Mary in Harlingen, Texas as Associate Pastor-. Following this assignment he became rector of Holy Family Seminary in Saint Louis, MO. His most enduring assignment to date came next as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Corpus Christi, TX for over 10 years. Today Fr. David has come full circle and is back at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Seguin as pastor.

In his role as a priestly father, Father David hopes to be helpful in bringing people closer to Christ and to help someone who has a true vocation to religious life to hear and follow their calling.



"Fr. David was chaplain at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, MO. He is shown here with Darren Politte a student."



family really knew that he was doing it. When Fr. David reflected on his father's charity work, he felt this must have contributed to his dad's peaceful nature. Fr. David always sensed that his dad was at peace with himself and was "peace filled."

Fr. David's 25 years as a priest began at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Seguin, TX as associate pastor. Then

We pray that his next 25 years are as wonderful as these past years.



*We asked Fr. Dave  
Some questions, see his  
responses on the next page.*

# Fr. Dave Answers Some Questions

## Q: Why are you a priest?

A: "As a teacher I really enjoyed the role of helping people learn. I see being a priest as a broader role where I can reach more people and teach them about Christ."

## Q: What concerns you most about the priesthood today?

A: "I hope that all priests are happy. In the secular part of our culture there is so much negative publicity and media about the church and in particular the priesthood it can take a toll on priests."



"Fr. David with his good friend +Sr. Dorothy Salazar, IWBS"

## Q: In your opinion what is the biggest change in the priesthood over the years?

A: "The average age of priests is getting older and older. The face of the priesthood is looking old."

## Q: What do you wish you could do better now?

A: "I wish I could turn 24 hours into 48 hours."

## Q: What have you enjoyed most about being a priest?

A: "Seeing the joy in others surface. Something as simple as a smile in the face of someone who is grieving at a funeral helps me see God at work."

## Q: What do you like least about being a priest?

A: "Administration. The business manager part of being a priest has the least joy for me."



"Fr. David enjoys tending to his garden"

## Q: What do you know now that you wish you knew when you were younger?

A: "That we are all trying to reach the same destination – union with God, but we are all on different parts of the road."

**Q: What is the key to being a successful priest?**

A: "I think the first question should be – 'How do you measure success?' Often success is considered to be found in numbers. I think we need to leave the actual "numbers" or results up to God, but our responsibility as a priest is to be faithful and faith filled. To be faith filled we need to be knowledgeable about our faith and to be faithful we need to act on what we know. With our cooperation in those two areas, God can work through us to "get the numbers".

**Q: What is one of your most memorable experiences as a priest?**

A: "While hearing the confession of a "little one" I gave a penance of "Say three Hail Mary's". For a moment it was quiet on the other side of the screen and then I heard the start of sobbing. I was confused. Did the young one think three Hail Mary's was too harsh? Then came the words... " I only know one Hail Mary."

**Q: Who is your hero?**

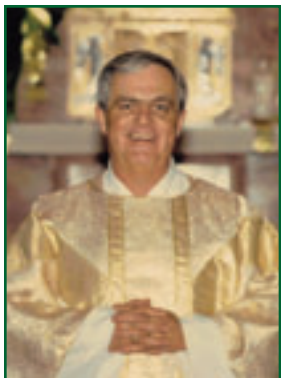
A: "Mother Teresa. She did what she was called to do. She did it with joy. She was Lion and Lamb all in one. Her confidence came from believing in the Truth. She walked the walk and talked the talk."

**Q: What do you hope to do that you haven't done yet?**

A: Get back into teaching in school or PSR... youth or adult education. At my core I am a teacher. Even while in the seminary I nearly flunked the course on preaching. I was told to "Stop teaching and start preaching" - I still don't understand what they meant by that!

**Q: If you were not a priest, what do you think you would be doing today?**

A: "Hmmm... I think I would be a retired teacher by now!"



**Tribute Gifts in Honor of Fr. David's  
25th Jubilee can be mailed to:**

**Missionaries of the Holy Family  
3014 Oregon Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63118**

Fr. David will be notified of your tribute gift in his honor. Your gifts will support the Missionaries of the Holy Family which is a 501(c)3 organization and your gifts are tax deductible.



## *The Holy Family Apostolates Need Your Support Join the Holy Family Circle*

The Missionaries of the Holy Family have six wonderful Apostolates that are making an impact in the lives of families and individuals.

The work of the Apostolates is detailed beginning below. When performing the work of these Apostolates, please understand that the Missionaries of the Holy Family receive little or no income from this work. Additionally, the Holy Family Priests and Brothers are all under a vow of poverty.

Please consider a gift to support these Apostolates by joining the **Holy Family Circle**. This is the first year of the **Holy Family Circle** and if you join in 2006 you will be recognized as a 'Charter Member'. Enrollment forms are on the back page of this issue of The Messenger.

### **The Holy Family Apostolates**



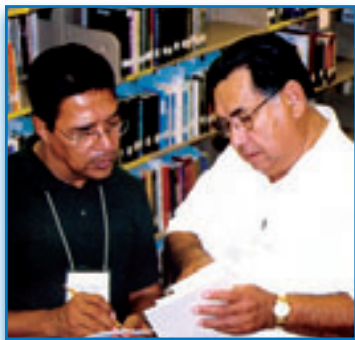
#### **Vocation Program**

When was the last time religious vocations were talked about from the pulpit? The Missionaries of the Holy Family Vocation Director, 3 part-time associates and our lay Board Members are leading an active program. They are making weekly visits to numerous colleges, hosting Vocation Weekends at parishes and much more. The Vocation Team needs funding. Vocation Team expenses include travel, advertising, programs, printing, office supplies and coverage of the Director's living and healthcare expenses.

#### **International Cooperative "Experienced Priests Needed"**

The need for more priests in America is clear. Priests of the Missionaries of the Holy Family from Indonesia, Madagascar and Poland are signing up for a minimum three year assignment in the United States. This program is adding to the number of Missionary priests and consequently increasing the number of people being served. Expenses for this program include international transfer, college courses of English and Spanish Language/Culture, tutors, living expenses, travel and healthcare.





## Seminary Education

God calls men from many social and economic backgrounds to serve as priests and brothers. The Missionaries of the Holy Family have a tradition of accepting men with a true calling into the Seminary Program even if they do not have the ability to pay for their education. Seminarian expenses include tuition, room, board, transportation and healthcare.

## Mission Work

The Missionaries of the Holy Family staff 6 mission sites in North America. Through these missions we serve hundreds of families. We are supporting 3 mission chapels in rural Texas and two chaplaincies at Little Sisters of the Poor (KY and MO). We also have a priest at a rural church in Minnesota. Each mission site has limited financial resources and we receive only a partial income from serving the families at these missions.



## Messenger Magazine

Our magazine contains articles to help individuals and families grow closer to Christ. It also informs people about the work of the Missionaries of the Holy Family. There is no subscription fee and it is published twice a year. Nearly 28,000 copies are distributed each year.



## Caring for Senior Holy Family Priests and Brothers

Our missionary priests often did not receive a full or partial salary or retirement benefits. Life in the missions is day to day and other priorities have been more critical than saving for retirement. The MSF Retirement Fund needs generous support from benefactors to help care for Senior Priests and Brothers.

## The Holy Family Apostolates Need Your Support!



**Holy Family Circle Members** are persons, families and organizations who offer regular **financial support** for the **Holy Family Apostolates**:

Vocation Program  
International Cooperative  
Seminary Education

Mission Work  
Messenger Magazine  
Senior Priest & Brother Care

### Holy Family Circle Benefits:

- **Daily Prayer Remembrance** by Holy Family Priests & Brothers.
- **Enrollment** in the Holy Family Perpetual Mass Association.
- **Invitations** to Special Holy Family Events and Celebrations.

Joining the Holy Family Circle is simple and the *different levels* of membership make it easy for anyone, any family or any group to support the Apostolates of the Holy Family.

### Membership Levels

<b>Associate</b>	Monthly Gifts up to \$35.
<b>Samaritan</b>	Monthly Gift of \$50.
<b>Companion</b>	Monthly Gift of \$100 <i>supports 1 Apostolate 1 day each month.</i>
<b>Disciple</b>	Monthly Gift of \$300 <i>supports 3 Apostolates 1 day each month.</i>
<b>Apostle</b>	Monthly Gift of \$600 <i>supports 6 Apostolates 1 day each month.</i>
<b>Patriarch/ Matriarch</b>	Annual Gift of \$10,000 <i>provides significant annual support for an Apostolate.</i>

*The work of the Missionaries of the Holy Family is inspired through prayer...*

*...and enabled with the financial support of generous benefactors.*



# Join the Holy Family Circle Charter Year Enrollment

## Holy Family Circle Benefits:

- **Daily Prayer Remembrance** by Holy Family Priests & Brothers.
- **Enrollment** in the Holy Family Perpetual Mass Association.
- **Invitations** to Special Holy Family Events and Celebrations.

## Select Your Membership Level

- Associate** Monthly Gifts up to \$35.
- Samaritan** Monthly Gift of \$50.
- Companion** Monthly Gift of \$100 supports 1 Apostolate 1 day each month.
- Disciple** Monthly Gift of \$300 supports 3 Apostolates 1 day each month.
- Apostle** Monthly Gift of \$600 supports 6 Apostolates 1 day each month.
- Patriarch/Matriarch** Annual Gift of \$10,000 provides significant annual support for an Apostolate.

## Dear Holy Family Priests and Brothers,

Please enroll me (us) in the Holy Family Circle to support the works of the Missionaries of the Holy Family on a regular basis throughout the year. I am (We are ) also pleased to receive the spiritual benefits from being a member. It is my (our) intention to provide support in the amount of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Starting: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Monthly     Quarterly     Semi-Annually     Annually

Enclosed is a Check or Money Order

*Make payable to: **Missionaries of the Holy Family***

Please contact us (me) to discuss a contribution

*Credit Card - Electronic Funds Transfer - Appreciated Securities*

*Please  
Print*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this page to:

**Missionaries of the Holy Family**

**3014 Oregon Ave. • Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412**

*Look at the sea,  
great and wide!  
It teems with countless beings,  
living things both  
large and small.*

Psalm 104:25



**Missionaries of the Holy Family**

3014 Oregon Ave. St. Louis, MO 63118 - 1412

Phone 314.577.6300 Fax 314.577.6301

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