

In Touch



***Christ led,
Christ fed,
Hope filled!***

Priority One

Creating a Culture of
Vocations

Priority Two

Strengthening Faith
Formation in Family Life

Priority Three

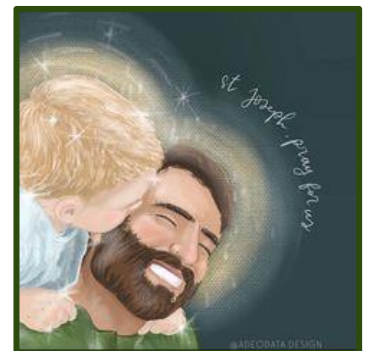
Building Parishes with Living
Stones

**Renew Faith,
Nurture Hope,
Discover Love**



**Diocese
of
Ogdensburg**

As we approach the feast of St. Joseph, I was thinking about what I might say about this special person in the life of Jesus and Mary. As I was looking for some inspiration, I decided that the following quotes express it far more eloquently than I could. So, I offer you the following reflections.



“I have a great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table, I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him:

**“Pray for this problem!”
-Pope Francis**

“Whereas Adam and Eve were the source of evil which was unleashed on the world, Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth.”
-Pope St. John Paul II

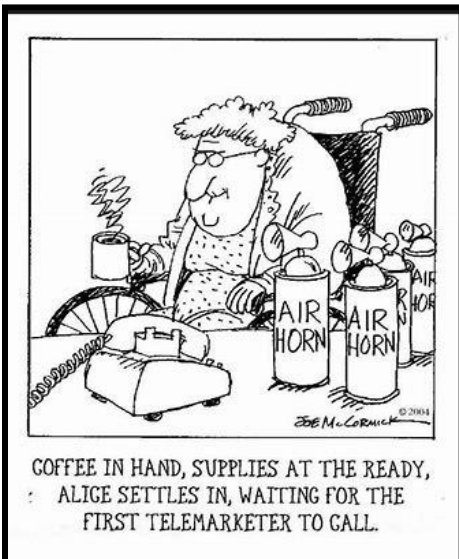
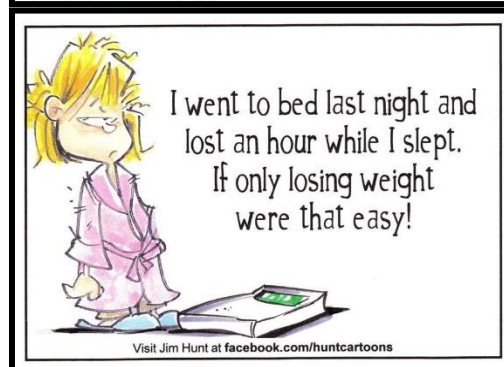
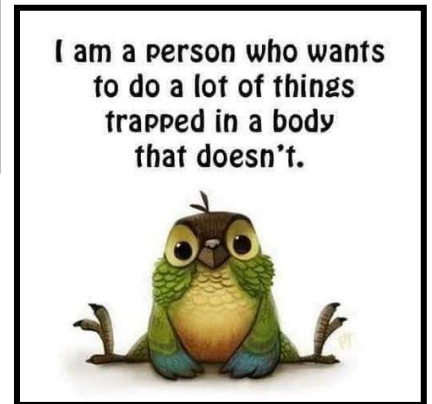
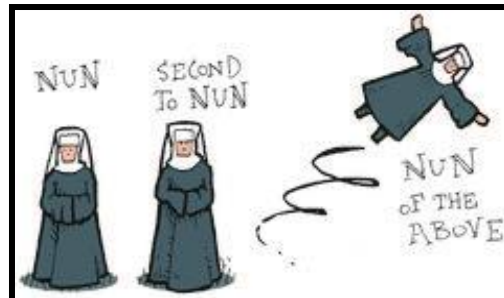
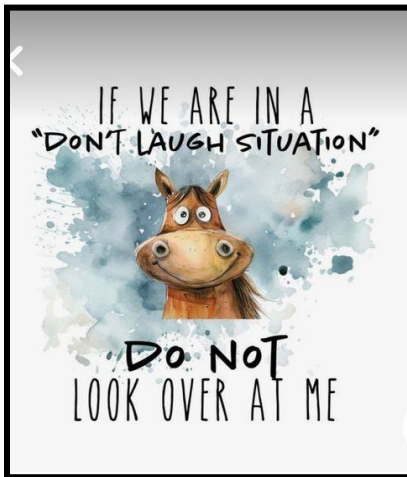
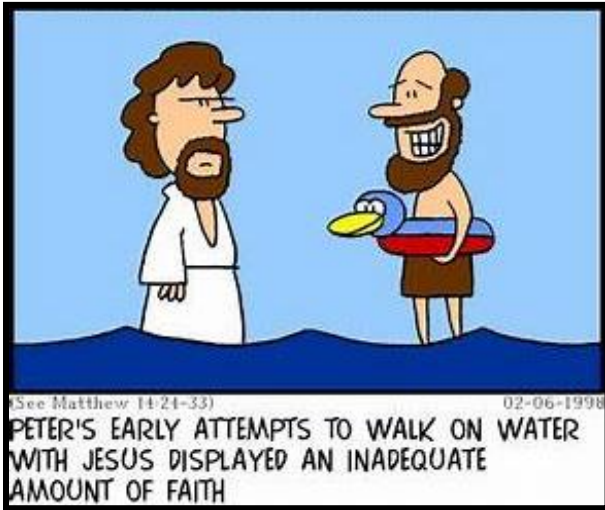
“St. Joseph did not do extraordinary things, but rather by the constant practice of ordinary and common virtues, he attained that sanctity which elevates him above all the other saints.”
-St. Joseph Marello

“He is Holy Joseph, because according to the opinion of a great number of doctors, he, as well as St. John Baptist, was sanctified even before he was born. He is Holy Joseph, because his office, of being spouse and protector of Mary, specially demanded sanctity. He is Holy Joseph, because no other Saint but he lived in such and so long intimacy and familiarity with the source of all holiness, Jesus, God incarnate, and Mary, the holiest of creatures.”
-St. John Henry Newman

“What many kings and prophets desired to see, and saw not; desired to hear, and heard not; he [St. Joseph] was allowed not merely to hear and see, but also to carry, lead, embrace, kiss, nourish, and protect.”
-St. Bernard of Clairvaux



A Bit of Humor



Thoughts on HOPE from Pope Benedict XVI

As Benedict explains in his hope-themed encyclical, "To come to know God - the true God - means to receive hope."

He continues, "... we need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain. The fact that it comes to us as a gift is actually part of hope. God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety. His Kingdom is not an imaginary hereafter, situated in a future that will never arrive; his Kingdom is present wherever he is loved and wherever his love reaches us. His love alone gives us the possibility of soberly persevering day by day, without ceasing to be spurred on by hope ..."



"Human life is a journey. ... Life is like a voyage on the sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that indicate the route. The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by - people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way. Who more than Mary could be a star of hope for us? With her 'yes' she opened the door of our world to God himself; she became the living Ark of the Covenant, in whom God took flesh, became one of us, and pitched his tent among us (John 1:14)."



Quite simply, it [prayer] offers the assurance that, when no one seems to be there for me, there is someone to whom I can always talk, and who will always listen to me. In prayer, God opens us up; opens us up for God and opens us up towards others. In prayer, God purifies and strengthens our desires, enlarging our hope and developing in us hope for others as well. In prayer, we speak to God communally, liturgically, as well as personally. Prayer makes us hopeful and enables us to give hope to others.



Hope does not
disappoint!



Updates



The Carmelite Community from Saranac Lake that moved to Beacon, NY are now down to 8 sisters. They are no longer able to function as an autonomous monastery and are now living in two locations: Hartsdale and Mt. Vernon. The official address for the sisters is Marian Woods, 152 Ridge Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530.



If you have been a member of the Religious Council and are no longer able to participate, please let me know. If you are not able to continue, is there another sister from your community who would be able and willing to serve?



RIP Sr. Marilyn McGillan, APB. Sr. Marilyn's funeral will be Monday at St. Patrick's at 10:00. Let us keep her and her community in prayer.

