



Holy Apostles
College & Seminary

SUMMER 2023 | VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2

INTO THE DEEP

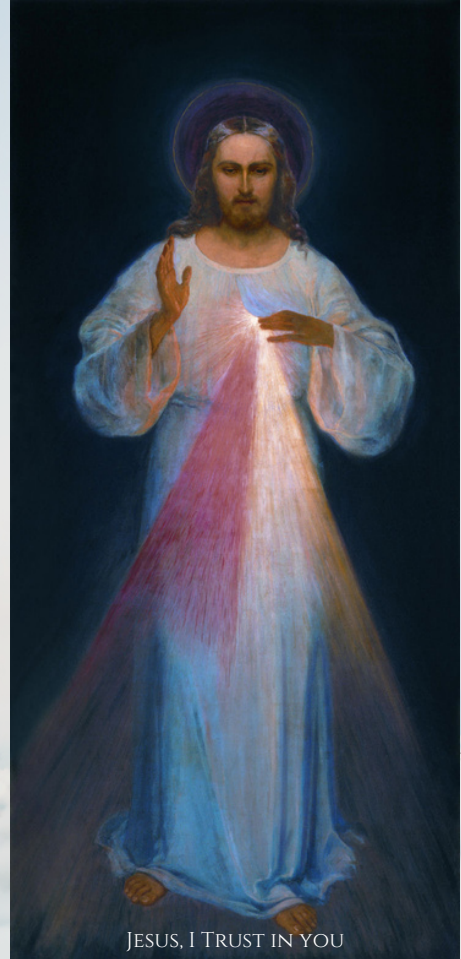
"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" ([Luke 5:4](#)).

Pastoral Studies Program Newsletter

Theology for the Heart

Transforming the Culture one Heart at a Time

Cover photo by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski (1873-1939); Accessed 12/5/21 <http://www.cisza2.krakow.dominikanie.pl>, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9049047>



SUMMER
SEMESTER 2023

ALL TO THE GREATER HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER!

BY DR. J. MARIANNE SIEGMUND

In God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace" ([1 Thess. 1:1](#))! This edition of our Pastoral Studies newsletter, *Into the Deep* ([Lk. 5:4](#)), is dedicated to Our Heavenly Father, the First Person of the Most Blessed Trinity.

In these days, it seems as if God the Father is a bit overlooked. While we invoke His love and mercy in the "Our Father," sometimes our relationship with Him ends there. Of course, rightly do we speak of following Christ Jesus and of imitating Him, for He is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity Incarnate. He is the Word of the Father, our Incarnate God. Prayer to the Holy Spirit is also common among Catholics and other Christians as well. For example, the Novena to the Holy Spirit, traditionally prayed between the Friday after Ascension Thursday to the eve of Pentecost Sunday, marks the first novena in human history. As students, we also invoke the Holy Spirit, who is the Love between the Father and the Son, before our studies. Why, then, do we not call upon our Heavenly Father? (continued on page 2)

(continued from p.1)

Since “God is Love,” we need to think about what that means (1 John 4:8,16). It means that everything that “happens” to us has already been carefully, lovingly and solicitously planned for us by our most loving Father in Heaven. On earth, we cannot see and understand the full plan of the Father’s love in the various events and situations that come to us each day of our lives. Nonetheless, we trust in the Father’s care for our sanctification on earth and for our eternal salvation in Heaven, if we but cooperate with the outpouring of graces He so marvelously bestows upon us.

God the Father is the Author of our salvation, for He sent His Son to redeem us from sin and to restore us to His friendship. He “so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). In the Gospel according to St. John, Jesus prays to the Father in the following manner. “I have manifested Your Name to the men whom You gave me out of the world” (John 17:6). Jesus reveals to us “the mystery of the Father and His love” (Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes #22). Moreover, He teaches, “I have given them the words which You gave Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from You” (John 17:8).

A final example highlights the love between the Father and the Son. In this Love, who is the Holy Spirit, we are to dwell. In other words, we are enfolded into Trinitarian Love. “I made known to them Your Name, and I will make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:26). Christ prays that the love with which the Father loves the Son is also in us. What a glorious gift! (continued on page 3)



Divine Providence concerns God who, as a wise and omnipotent Father, is present and active in the world and in the history of every creature. He does this so that every creature, and specifically man, God’s image, may be able to live life as a journey under the guidance of truth and love toward the goal of eternal life in God.

Pope John Paul II, *God: Father and Creator: A Catechesis on the Creed*

Submitted by Fr. Richard Barfield



Father, The Holy Spirit, and Christ Crucified, depicted in a Welsh manuscript, c.1390-1400; Public Domain

(continued from page 2) The Fathers of the Church also speak of our Heavenly Father. They encourage us to love and to trust Him. In addition, they inspire our devotion and our attention to His Person. Apostolic Father of the Church, Pope Saint Clement of Rome, even seems to be advocating the practice of the presence of God. “Let us fix our eyes on the Father and Creator of the universe and cling to His magnificent and excellent gifts of peace and kindness to us. Let us see Him in our minds and look with the eyes of our souls on His patient purpose. Let us consider how free He is from anger toward His whole creation” (Clement of Rome, Letter to the Corinthians #19).

Truly does Pope Saint Clement speak of our Father with gentleness and tenderness. For example, the pontiff urges us to pray to the Father, “lifting up pure and undefiled hands to Him [by] loving our kind and compassionate Father, who has made us His chosen portion” (Clement of Rome, Letter to the Corinthians #29). We are to turn to the Father in our every need.

Writing just over two centuries later, Saint Athanasius declares that the “only really happy...life” is knowing the Father. Through the Incarnate Son of God, we can “apprehend the Father, which knowledge of their Maker is, for men, the only really happy and blessed life” (Athanasius, On the Incarnation #11). A final example suffices. Saint Athanasius explains that Christ became Incarnate, suffered, died and rose again in order to “recall men from all the paths of error to know the Father. As He says Himself, ‘I came to seek and to save that which was lost’ (Athanasius, On the Incarnation #15; Luke 19:10). In other words, knowing the Father helps us to know the truth and to live an upright life.

In these summer months, I would suggest kindling your love and devotion for our Heavenly Father by focusing upon the prayers of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Notice that the entire prayer which is the Mass is directed to the Father through the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord in the Love who is the Holy Spirit. A single Mass prayer highlights the teaching. In the doxology, the priest prays, “Through Him (i.e., Jesus Christ), and with Him, and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, for ever and ever.” Those sacred words of the Mass encapsulate Trinitarian Love concretized in Christ’s saving act.

“He who does not love does not know God [the Father]; for God is love. ... So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him (1John 4:8,16). Many of us have probably known that God loves us since we were children. My prayer for you is that you not only know of our Heavenly Father’s infinite love for you, but that you come to believe in it ever more deeply each day.

May Jesus Christ be praised, now and forever! God bless.

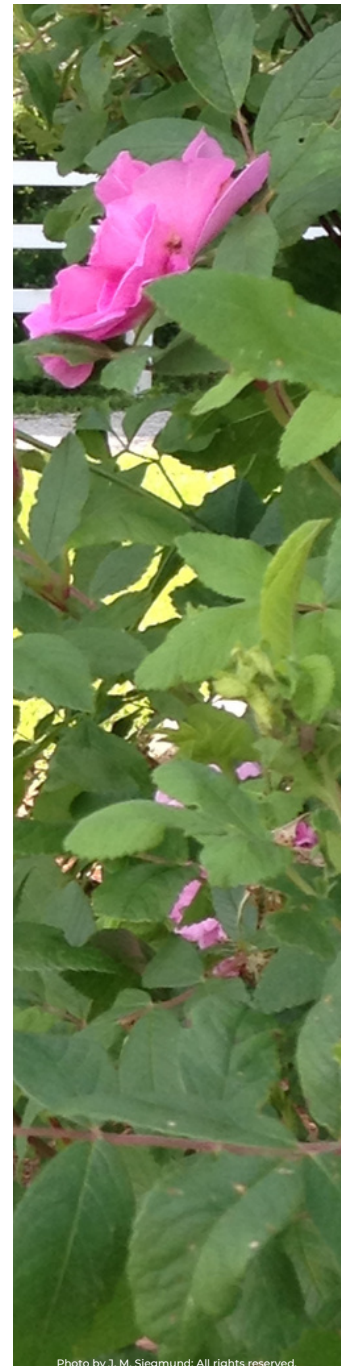


Photo by J. M. Siegmund; All rights reserved.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL STUDIES 2023 GRADUATES!



Sr. Dorothy Radoli, Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies

I'm so grateful to all my amazing professors who have taught me during my studies at Holy Apostles College & Seminary for three years. I'm humbled and I cannot express enough gratitude to all of you for your dedication in instructing me in my online courses. I have been enriched immensely by your professionalism.

All the courses I have studied have left a bearing on my innermost being. However, what inspired me most of all was the Mystical Theology course that challenged me to live an authentic and absolute way of life like the monks on Mount Athos, who were concerned solely with purity and elevation of one's whole being to God and to eternity.

Like the monks on Mount Athos, I want to be joyful about my journey to Heaven. With that one goal in life, I am dedicating my whole life completely to God. For that reason, I pray that the Lord may fill me with abundant graces to live a holy and authentically truthful life. I look forward to being a hospital chaplain after my studies. Thank you, Holy Apostles!



“He became Himself, an object for the senses, so that those who were seeking God in sensible things might apprehend the Father through the works which He, the Word of God, did in the body.”
Saint Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*, #15





Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Graduation 2023 Used with permission.

The Lie Many Believe about God Our Father

By Maria Smith

Many devout Catholics see God the Father as a fierce judge and punisher, ready to castigate and inflict pain for the smallest offense and sin. Or, at best, as a severe, strict, and stern Father who tolerates our failings and weaknesses.

This is not an accurate portrayal of God the Father. While our God is indeed All-Powerful and All-Just, His greatest attribute is neither strength nor justice but rather Mercy. Our Heavenly Father is the most loving, most tender, most caring, most merciful, most compassionate, and most forgiving of any and all earthly fathers. In fact, He infinitely surpasses not only all earthly fathers, but also all of creation.

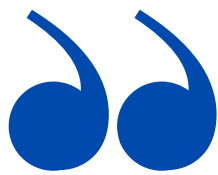
Perhaps the best representation of Our Father is the one found in the biblical parable of the Prodigal Son. All of us tend to one or the other of his two sons: The Prodigal who grabbed and squandered, or the Dutiful who served without love. The father loves both his sons dearly and tenderly. He waits with enduring patience, great yearning, and tender love for the prodigal to turn back to him, to acknowledge his presence, to appreciate his gifts, and to return something of his great love for them. And, with profound tenderness and affection, the father reasons with the dutiful son, urging him to understand the truth: That everything he has is also his, that everything he possesses he gives to his children for their delight and enjoyment.

This is who God our Father truly is: loving, patient, tender, longing to share all He has, all His wealth, all His treasures, all His goodness and all of His love with us. God our Father desires the fullness of happiness and joy for each one of us, beginning right here on earth and reaching complete fulfillment in Heaven with Him and with the whole blessed family of saints and angels. We have only to turn to Him in loving trust.



To love God is
something greater
than to know Him.

St. Thomas Aquinas



Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Graduation 2023 Used with permission.

CELEBRATING EASTER IN ERITREA

By Abba Tesfu Asghedom, SDB

Holy Week is considered a time of spiritual preparation with its special intentions of focusing upon the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each day has its own meaning, but mostly they are uniquely honored days. Holy Thursday and Good Friday are especially the two greatest days because Jesus offered His life for us. In our country, most of the people are so aware of these days, and they do some spiritual exercises and preparations for the Easter feast. So let me share with you briefly how we celebrate Good Friday and the Easter feast in Eritrea (Africa).

On Good Friday, early in the morning around 6:30 am all the faithful led by their parish priest gather in the church. Unless there are some health problems, traditionally on Good Friday we do not eat any food for the whole day. It is a very strict fast day up to 6:00 pm. The whole day is assisted with exhausting and repeated prostrations. The famous Greek words that the faithful repeat for the whole day is the “Kyrie, eleison” (Oh Lord Have Mercy on us) and we also mention other Holy Names of Jesus, which are taken from the different etymological languages, such as Greek, Hebrew, and Coptic which are adapted to the Ge’ez language (a very ancient South Semitic language).

The whole day of Good Friday is mainly divided into five sessional prayers, which are Morning hours (starts at 6:00 am), the Third hour (9:00 am), the Sixth hour (12:00 pm), the Ninth hour (3:00 pm), and the Evening hour (up to 6:00 pm) which is a conclusion prayer; there is also a Night hour but it is optional. Each session has its own meaning and relation to Christ’s Passion. We recall all that has happened to Jesus, starting from the morning up to the conclusion of His burial. There are also very intensive Biblical readings in every session from both Testaments, including the four Gospel readings in every session. In our local church’s tradition (Ge’ez Rite), Scripture reading from the Old Testament is not common in the Holy Mass. To mark the special day, most of the biblical readings on Good Friday are from the Old Testament.

By doing these and other acts of devotion, we spend the whole day of Good Friday in prayer and penance. Then it continues to Holy Saturday, up to and including the Holy Mass Vigil. In the morning we read the whole book of Song of Songs in turn with the altar servers and the faithful in the church. There is a ritual of praying and distributing a sedge, which is a kind of long grass, to each participant in the Holy Mass. The sedge signifies a sign of hope that Jesus is going to be resurrected and He will rise for all. We recite from the book of Psalms, “Whenever I lay down and slept, the Lord preserved me to rise again” (Psalms 3:5) as a responsorial Psalm.

And then the celebration continues for the whole day with very intensive confessional activities until the Vigil Mass of Easter night approaches. For priests, these days are the most exhausting and busiest days. Additionally, in our Ge’ez tradition, the Holy Mass on Easter time is very long; it takes more than three hours. In the evening around 8:30 pm, all of the faithful gather in the church with their newly bought candles in hand. We begin with Mary’s Song of Praise (the Magnificat, cf. Luke 1:46-55) which is a preparatory evening prayer, together with chanting (it is called waziema in Ge’ez language) and it is followed other Biblically based prayers and songs. (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page) Then a deacon proclaims with a loud chant, “ወተሥእ እግዚአብሔር ከመ ዘንቃሕ እምነዋም፡ ወከመ ኃያል ውሳዳገ ወይን፡ ወቀተለ ፀሮ በድኅሬሁ፡ (Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a warrior from effects of wine. He put His enemies to flight; everlasting shame He dealt them)” (Psalm 78: 65-66). Then around midnight (12:00 am) all participants light their candles and then with a bright flame they do a procession to church three times with a joyful song of our Ge’ez chant, “እማን በእማን፡ ክርስቶስ ተንሥእ እምነ መታን፡* (Truly, Truly Christ has risen from the dead” and it continues with other spiritual songs. Then, after completing the procession, all the faithful enter inside the church. Kissing the Holy Cross, with a very loud and joyous voice led by the priest, all repeat with him, “ክርስቶስ ተንሥእ እመታን፡ በዓቢይ ኃይል ወሥልጣን፡ ኣሠሮ ለሰይጣን፡ ኣግዓዞ ለኣዳም፡ እም ይእዜሠ ኮነ ፍሥሐ ወሠላም፡ (Christ has risen from the dead with the power of His authority that crushed Satan; Adam (man) has been removed from sin and came to redemption, from now on joy and peace have come).” Then immediately, the Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Celebration) begins, and it continues up to 3:00 am. If the faithful are many in numbers, it might take a longer time to receive Holy Communion. Usually, the Holy Mass for Easter is offered in the nighttime and most of the faithful attends at this time, but there can be a second Mass for those who could not come in the night for different reasons. However, this is not as festive as in the night, which is so delightful a celebration. At the second Mass, the participants are few; most of them are elders or those who could not come to the Vigil Mass for whatever reason.

The Easter feast in Eritrea is really the most joyful time and every believer feels so happy and excited. Everyone exchanges a good wish and texts with family, neighbors and friends, “ብሩኽ በዓል ትንሣኤ ይግበረልና፡ እንቋዕ ‘ሓሴስና! Happy Easter, Congratulations!” Therefore, this is really the most beautiful time of grace, a time of peace and reconciliation with God, with oneself and with others. Praised be Jesus Christ for His endless mercy in that He paid for the whole world with His Precious Blood and conquered death with His Resurrection! Alleluia!

In this year, when Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated in the West on 16 April 2023, we are also celebrating our Easter feast in the Eastern Churches. So, let us join together in our prayers. May the Risen Christ shine His light upon us and give us His peace! Amen!

N.B. Christmas and Easter in the East and the West are on different dates, since there is not yet an agreement to celebrate them at the same time. In this year, celebrating Easter differs within one week. But in every four years, the Easter feast falls on the same date. For us Catholics, we do not have any problem, but for ecumenical reasons, we celebrate the feasts at the same time with our brothers, the Orthodox Christians. It is our prayer for Christian unity that one day we may reach an agreement that the whole world may follow the same calendar and celebrate these two great feasts together.

*All translations from Ge’ez to English were done by Abba Tesfu Asghedom, SDB.



Highlands between [Asmara](#) and [Massawa](#). Photo by Hansueli Krapf - NOTE: This image is a panorama consisting of multiple frames that were merged or stitched in software. As a result, this image necessarily underwent some form of digital manipulation. These manipulations may include blending, blurring, cloning, and colour and perspective adjustments. As a result of these adjustments, the image content may be slightly different from reality at the points where multiple images were combined. This manipulation is often required due to lens, perspective, and parallax distortions. CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7106475>

THE LOVE ROSARY - A SHORT AND POWERFUL PRAYER

By Maria Smith

Begin with the Creed, the Our Father, three Hail Marys, Glory Be.

On each bead of the first decade say:
God the Father loves me immensely.

On the Our Father bead say: Jesus, Mary, Joseph I love you.

Second decade:
God the Son loves me intensely.

On the Our Father bead say Father Son and Holy Spirit I love you.

Third decade:
God the Holy Spirit loves me with a love beyond all telling.

Fourth decade:
The Blessed Virgin Mary, my Mother, loves me with a most tender, most comforting love.

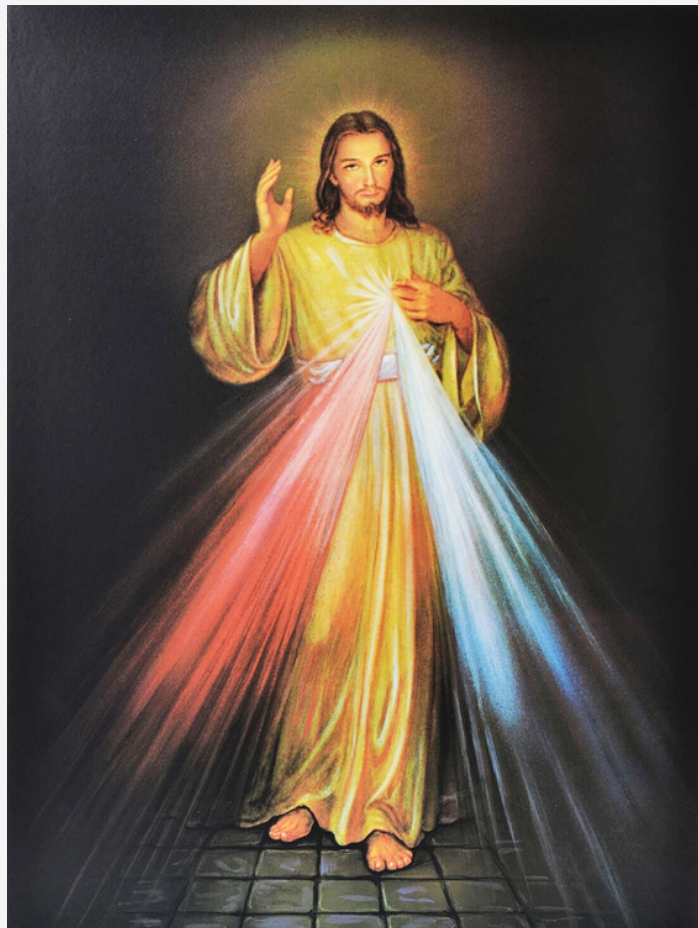
Fifth decade:
Saint Joseph loves me with the most protective and paternal love.

End with a Hail Holy Queen.

Please Note: You can vary this Rosary with your own words. In the description box of [the video](#) there's a slightly different version. The essential aspect is to become aware and convicted of God's immense and personal love for each one of us. For the video version, [click here](#).



The Italian countryside. Photo by J. M. Slegmund. All rights reserved.



From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Mercy_image#/media/File:Divine_Mercy.jpeg, "Hyla's version of the Divine Mercy image has been recognised and is used throughout the Roman Catholic Church." Public Domain

Beginning with our first issue of *Into the Deep* in the spring of 2020, we announced our consecration of the Pastoral Studies Department to God's Divine Mercy. May He continue to bless and protect you always!

Thank you for being part of the
Pastoral Studies family!



"A Catholic education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in shory it is about imparting wisdom... A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints.

Pope Benedict XVI



CROSSROADS 4 CHRIST

CROSSROADS 4 CHRIST YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

By Crossroads 4 Christ Director of Formation, Katie Purple

Reprinted with permission from Crossroads4Christ Executive Director, Alex Soucy

In March, seventy young adults gathered in Putnam, Connecticut for the annual C4C Young Adult Retreat, pursuing the reality of their redemption in Christ. Coming mostly from various parts of Connecticut, but also from as far as New Hampshire and North Carolina, retreatants had a hunger to step away from their daily lives to focus intently with their peers on encountering Christ. This hunger, among an age group that historically has less retreat opportunities available to them compared with high school or college students, was evident when the C4C Retreat sold out after just one week of registration.



Young adults at the Immaculate Conception Center on the 2023 C4C Retreat
Photo taken by Aaron Joseph and used with permission from Crossroads 4 Christ.

Organized by a team composed of six young adult volunteers and C4C staff members, the retreat weekend began to be carefully planned in fall 2022 yet was still full of surprises that only the Lord can bring. “I was unprepared for what I would encounter on the retreat,” Mike Frulla, a retreat team member, shared. “From friendly faces to those running headlong to find Christ, to building deeper relationships with those serving, the universality of Christianity was on full display.” Many retreatants testified to the welcoming atmosphere of the retreat and to being able to “come as you are.” When glory stories were shared at the end of the retreat, many participants testified to encountering the tenderness of God, as He stooped to bring healing, deepened identity in Him, confidence in vulnerability, and so much more. Many retreatants also shared about growing a deeper appreciation for Eucharistic Adoration, as well as to finding friendships and (continued on next page)



Alex Soucy, Crossroads 4 Christ's Executive Director, MC'ing the retreat
Photo taken by Aaron Joseph and used with permission of Crossroads 4 Christ.

(continued from previous page) Catholic community that are edifying in their faith journeys.

God worked through many instruments on this retreat, not the least of which were the various speakers and confessors. Fr. Anthony Federico of St. Mary Parish in New Haven, a member of the C4C Board of Directors, was present for the full weekend and spoke on grounding oneself in the truth of being redeemed by Christ. Other speakers included Sam Kelley, the founder of FIERCE Athlete, who gave a beautiful witness on being known by Christ, and Sr. Colleen Mattingly, ASCJ, the Vocations Director for the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Hamden, Connecticut, who incorporated the spirituality of St. Thérèse in a powerful sending-forth talk. Travis Moran, the Board Chair of C4C, and Katie Purple, C4C's Director of Formation, also gave keynotes. Several priests accompanied retreatants through spiritual chats and through offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which were powerful sources of grace to those present.

Through opportunities to profoundly encounter the Lord through Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and Confession, as well as keynotes, small group discussions, and prayer workshops that helped young adults unpack how God was present and working in their lives, the Lord worked in beautifully personal ways in each young adult's life. As Mike put it, "I realized how widely the Lord's net is cast and was so inspired and humbled by the faith, hope, and love shown on this retreat." Glory to God, and may He bring to completion all the good works He has begun!

Want to see more of the C4C Young Adult Retreat? Check out the [retreat photo album here!](#) Crossroads 4 Christ is a Catholic apostolate based in Connecticut whose mission is to develop communities of young adult missionary disciples. To learn more about Crossroads 4 Christ, check out their website at crossroads4christ.org.



Queen of the Apostles Chapel, Graduation Weekend, 2023. Used with permission.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JENNY RISLEY

Pastoral Studies student, Jenny Risley, has recently done a few YouTube / podcast interviews. The links to her podcast interviews can be found at:

<https://www.jennydubay.com/articles.html>.

The three latest are:

"Author to Author"

with Dr. Cynthia Toolin-Wilson

"Journeys in Faith" with Anne DeSantis

"Catholicism for the Modern World"



Queen of the Apostles Chapel, Graduation Weekend, 2023. Used with permission.

TENTATIVE CAMPUS-WIDE HOLY HOUR AND ROSARY

Tentative Fall dates for the Pastoral Studies Department initiative for on-campus and online students, alumni, faculty and staff to come together for a Rosary and Holy Hour.

- September 21
- October 19
- November 16

There are many blessings attached to praying the Rosary!



TENTATIVE UPCOMING LIVE EVENTS IN THE GRADUATE PASTORAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

- **SEPTEMBER 13 M.DIV./NE STUDENT, DR. PAUL BOLUS, EXPLORING THE RICHNESS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH**
- **OCTOBER 11 M.DIV./NE STUDENT, MR. KEVIN KIEFER, A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THIRD ORDERS**

The Rosary and Holy Hour will tentatively be live-streamed at 7:30 PM Eastern time. The other events will tentatively occur at 7:00 PM Eastern time via Zoom.

WHAT IS A THIRD ORDER?

Have you wondered what it might be like to deepen your prayer life and live according to a specific charism? Or, have you ever considered what it means to be in a religious order while living in the world, even while married? If so, then please join HACS M.Div. student Kevin P. Kiefer, OP, as he shares with you a brief introduction to third orders in the Roman Catholic Church. Kevin is a life-professed Lay Dominican (third order), and he will share with you how participation in a third order is a way to more deeply live out one's spirituality and commitment to Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church. Kevin will also discuss the history of and formation in third orders, while also providing references for those who may be interested in learning more.



Photo by Raphael - Own work, J1m1mayers, 1 January 1518, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=63865341>

"LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND
PRAY FOR THOSE WHO
PERSECUTE YOU, SO THAT
YOU MAY BE CHILDREN OF
YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN
HEAVEN.

Matthew 5:44-45 (RSVCE).

Visit us online at <https://holypostles.edu>

Please keep all our students,
faculty and staff in your prayers.



STUDENT AND ALUMNI APOSTOLATES

CROSSROADS⁴CHRIST

Executive Director, Pastoral Studies graduate student, Alex Soucy.



**Domestic Abuse
Awareness and Healing
Ministry**



Consider supporting Holy Apostles
College and Seminary.

<https://holypostles.edu/giving/>

Consider supporting Catholic Radio, an
Outreach of Holy Apostles College &
Seminary

<https://wcatradio.com/support/>

Welcome to all of our new M.Div./NE and MAPS students!
May God bless you!