

## Do You Ever Wonder...

“Who killed JFK?” “Where is Jimmy Hoffa’s body?” We may have heard people say that is the first thing they are going to ask God when they get to heaven. I have questions that linger in my mind that I would someday like to ask God too—such things as, “Who delivered Baby Jesus?” or “How could Noah and his family survive in the ark with that many animals, including skunks, and the 200-300+ days of manure?” (Read Genesis 7 and 8.) Or this one: **“Why did You give us free will, God? Why, when You already knew we would mess it up, would You entrust us to run things on this earth?”**



Certainly our free will in the world today has been abused in many ways. If God wanted this to remain a perfect world, He could have done that. So why did He give us free will? I believe God didn’t want us just to be his pawns. He wants for us to **CHOOSE HIM**. We, on the other hand, need to recognize the need to choose Him, and the importance of dependence upon Him.

Most parents give their children the opportunity to fly on their own. Sometimes children sink and sometimes they soar. But children know that mom and dad are there to catch them when they sink and smile upon them when they soar. Certainly it is no different with us being children of God. When we sink, He is there to pick us up and heal us. And when we soar, God must smile. As true Christians, when we soar, we soar not for ourselves, but to give glory to God for his goodness to us.

When Jesus came, He proclaimed, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.” (Mk 1:15) If we repent and if we **CHOOSE HIM**, heaven will be our some-day home. And when we reach it, I believe our minds will be opened to all truth. Senseless questions won’t matter. The only question that I may still want to ask is, “God, how can I thank You?”

### Six Little Stories (from the internet)

1. Once all villages decided to pray for rain. On the day of the prayer, all people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is **FAITH**.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is **TRUST**.
3. Each night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarm to awaken. That is **HOPE**.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is **CONFIDENCE**.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is **LOVE**.
6. On an old man’s shirt was written, I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.” And that is **ATTITUDE!**

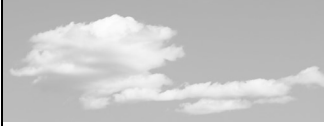
### Catholic Trivia

**What is used to hold the Holy Eucharist when we take Communion to the homebound or the sick? Answer: A metal container called a PYX.**

**What year was the Catholic Church founded? Answer: Approximately 33 A.D. According to Catholic tradition, Jesus founded the Catholic Church when he was about 33 years old.**

## Watching the Clouds Pass By

Summer is a wonderful time to sit and watch the clouds pass by on a beautiful sunny day. As I did so this summer, I was reminded of how, as a child, I would use my imagination when looking at the shapes of the clouds. Some looked like an animal, a ship or a flower, or whatever my little mind dreamed up.



Our lives are a lot like the clouds. Some days we are light and billowy. We float along without a care in the world. Sometimes we carry on so quickly that we miss a lot of the beauty that surrounds us. Some days our lives are like a twister and we thunder about. Those are the days everyone best get out of our way! There are also gloomy and grey days. But if we pour out our hearts to God, we can be assured the rain will stop and the sun will shine in our lives again.

And so goes the cycle of the clouds and so goes the cycle of our lives. The Son (sun) never leaves us. It’s just that some days we don’t search for Him like we should. So, what kind of cloud are you today?

## Lipton Onion Soup—Aisle 11

I hate shopping for out-of-the-ordinary items at the grocery store. I usually end up back tracking before I find them. Today it was Lipton Onion Soup in a box. Three times I went back to look for it. First thought—the soup aisle. Then-by the spices. Then-by the gravy packets. Nope. After 2-3 times looking through the same aisles, I ran into my daughter-in-law. She pulled out her phone and searched for the soup on an app. “It’s in Aisle 11,” she said. My mind said, “What? That’s the soup aisle! It can’t be there (but it was). I’d better get that app.”

The Bible is our faith app. It leads us straight to God and all of life’s answers according to His Plan. By taking time each day to read Scripture, it can keep us focused. It will keep us moving closer to God, with less chance of having to go back and search for Him again. Meditating with Scripture gives us peace of mind—a calmness that is not always easy to find in today’s world. So, grab your Bible and read it daily. It will be time well spent.



## Summer-Detour Season

One unpleasant thing about summer travelling is the detours. It was difficult enough this summer with McComb Avenue (Main Street) being dug up in Rib Lake. People felt frustrated, avoided the area any time they could, walked on rocks and lawns to get to some of the places, and parked in what may have been a few illegal zones. But we survived, and it was worth waiting for!

Well sometimes in our faith life we may be on a detoured road. A detour sometimes seems mundane and never-ending. When our faith journey takes a detour, we may find ourselves praying, attending Mass and doing good deeds *externally*, but not *internally*. I believe this could be the cause of some leaving the Church and leaving their prayer life by the roadside. We want instant results. We want smooth sailing and nothing else—no rocks, no bumps in the road, no traffic jams—and certainly no detours!

We must not let a detour stop us on life’s journey. There will always be detours that can throw us for a loop. But remember...eventually the detour does end and we can continue on the road that leads to our final destination called heaven.

## Heaven & Earth Are Full of Your Glory

When Covid first hit, we watched the Daily TV Mass on television from Canada. We became so accustomed to this that we still watch it every day, besides attending Mass each week. One early morning all the windows were open at home when the Mass was on. The entire time, an oriole was singing very loudly close to the house.

As the Holy Eucharist was elevated during Mass, the bird sang even louder. It made me think how shameful I am that sometimes at Mass I don't give God my full-throated praise or express my joy-filled heart and mind like I should.

Think of these special words we say at Mass: **"Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts; HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY."** Yes, all of heaven and earth do truly praise God so beautifully and powerfully. The birds sing joyfully. The flowers and trees reach for the sky and return the beauty that God has given them. The beautiful sunrises and sunsets glorify God. The waters that rush down the river give glory to God. The moon and stars that fill the sky give glory to God. The frogs and crickets give glory to God. The wind that whisks through the air also glorifies God.

St. Francis of Assisi alluded to this same praise of nature in his Cantic of Creation. Read it, and be reminded how we are also called to praise God for the many, many blessings He gives us each and every day.

## Saint Corona

Some Catholics seeking spiritual solace during the coronavirus pandemic are turning to the 2nd century St. Corona (d. C. 170) as patron saint of plagues and epidemics.

St. Corona and St. Victor, a soldier who may have been her husband, were tortured and killed around 170 at the order of a Roman judge, according to an account that dates to the 4th century. Their feast day is May 14, according to the Roman Martyrology, the Catholic Church's official list of recognized saints and people who have been beatified. As Corona was dying, she "saw two crowns falling from Heaven, one for Victor, the other for herself," the martyrology says. Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Corona means "crown" in Latin.

While several Catholic publications in recent days have connected St. Corona to the coronavirus outbreak, sources including Catholic Online identify her as patron saint of gambling. It's unclear when people began associating St. Corona with plagues, given limited first-hand records of early saints. Sts. Victor and Corona were recognized as saints before the Catholic Church standardized its canonization process in the 10th century.

But St. Corona's name, the reference to crowns in the martyrology, and accounts of her suffering seem to provide reasonable justification to call on her intercession during today's unprecedented global health crisis. *By Renée K. Gadoua | Contributing writer of the Catholic Sun*

## Hot Diggity Dog!

We wonder how some idioms are derived. For instance: the "Dog Days of Summer." This implies a period of stagnation or inactivity—because of the hot, sultry weather. On the other hand, we say, "Work like a dog," implying we work tirelessly. With summer being a very busy time when people "work like a dog" making hay, gardening and canning, making firewood and more (despite the heat and humidity)...I think we can all agree that this should be cause enough to change the meaning of the "Dog Days of Summer" to mean a busy (not lazy) time—at least for the people of Central Wisconsin! Then again...just how hard do dogs work? Hmm.



## Cantic of Creation

*by St. Francis of Assisi*  
God,

to you belong praise, glory,  
honour and all blessing.

Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation  
and especially for our Brother Sun,  
who brings us the day and the light;  
he is strong and shines magnificently.

O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars

which you have set shining and lovely  
in the heavens.

Be praised, my Lord,  
for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather  
by which you, Lord,  
uphold life in all your creatures.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,  
who is very useful to us,  
and humble and precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the darkness:  
he is bright and lively and strong.

Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth

fruits and vegetables of many kinds  
and flowers of many colours.

Be praised, my Lord,  
for those who forgive for love of you;  
and for those

who bear sickness and weakness  
in peace and patience

- you will grant them a crown.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,  
whom we must all face.

I praise and bless you, Lord,  
and I give thanks to you,

and I will serve you in all humility.

## "Do not ask your children to strive"

*by William Martin*

Do not ask your children  
to strive for extraordinary lives.

Such striving may seem admirable,  
but it is the way of foolishness.

Help them instead to find the wonder  
and the marvel of an ordinary life.

Show them the joy of tasting  
tomatoes, apples and pears.

Show them how to cry  
when pets and people die.

Show them the infinite pleasure  
in the touch of a hand.

And make the ordinary come alive for them.

The extraordinary will take care of itself.

