



Catholic Charities Affiliates

Of the Diocese of LaCrosse
Good Samaritan News Letter

October 2009

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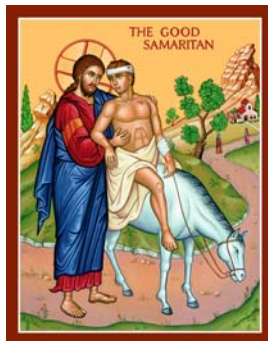
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Prayer

Prayer for Healing

O God who are the only source of health and healing, the spirit of calm and the central peace of this universe, grant to me such a consciousness of your indwelling and surrounding presence that I may permit you to give me health and strength and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reflection



"I was sick and you came to visit me"

Matthew 25:36

St. Damien of Molokai special prayer

Year of the Priest

Year of the Priest David Allen Catholic Charities

"On the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus let us fix the eyes of our minds and hearts with a constant loving gaze on Christ, the one Saviour of our lives and of the world. Focusing on Christ means; focusing on that Face which every human being, consciously or not, seeks as a satisfying response to his own insuppressible thirst for happiness."

These are the words that the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI used to declare a year of the priest in an effort to encourage "spiritual perfection" in priests. During this jubilee year, the pope will also proclaim St. John Vianney to be patron saint of all the world's priests. At present he is considered the patron saint of parish priests.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of this 19th-century saint who represents a true example of a priest at the service of the flock of Christ. St. John

Vianney is widely known to Catholics as the Cure of Ars (parish priest) who won over the hearts of his villagers in France by visiting with them, teaching them about God and reconciling people to the Lord in the confessional.

In his address, Pope Benedict said the priestly ministry consists of total adherence to the ecclesial tradition of participating "in a spiritually intense new life and a new lifestyle which was inaugurated by the Lord Jesus and which the apostles made their own." Priestly ordination creates new men who are bestowed with the gift and office of sanctifying, teaching and governing.

The pope said he was calling for the special year for priests in an effort to foster the priest's yearning for spiritual perfection, upon which the effectiveness of their ministry principally depends. The awareness of the radical social changes over the past decades must stir the best ecclesial energies to look after the formation of priestly candidates.

Priests must be "present, identifiable and recognizable -- for their judgment of faith, their personal virtues and their attire -- in the fields of culture and charity which have always been at the heart of the church's mission," said the Holy Father. "The centrality of Christ leads to a correct valuation of ordained ministry," he said, adding that, without priestly ministry, there would be no Eucharist, no mission and even no Church.

Let us remember the words of the Holy Curé of Ars, Patron of Parish Priests: "If I already had one foot in Heaven and I was told to return to the earth to work to convert sinners, I would gladly return. And if, to do this, it were necessary that I remain on earth until the end of the world, always rising at midnight and suffering as I suffer, I would consent with all my heart" Such is the love that the Priest has for us.

Enclosed is a Holy Card for the year of the Priest. Please remember those who do so much for us during this year.

Catholic Saint Inspires Us

Executive Director Deacon Richard Sage

St. Damien of Molokai

On Sunday, October 11, 2009, Pope Benedict declared Damien de Veuster (1840-1889) to be a saint. Due to the somewhat famous story of his ministry to the poor and ostracized victims of leprosy in Hawaii, Father Damien has been revered as the modern-day, unofficial patron saint for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS and our society's outcasts in general. Here at Catholic Charities we're very proud to have an HIV/AIDS ministry outreach headquartered in our Stevens Point office that supports people throughout central Wisconsin.

For ten of the sixteen years that Father Damien served the settlement of Kalaupapa, he was their only priest. He tended the sick, buried the dead, built homes, administered the sacraments and besieged the health authorities and his own superiors for better living conditions and medical facilities. Father Damien

Catholic Charities Office Locations:

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built chapels, founded orphanages and formed religious groups to counter the lewd behavior and lawlessness that he found among these abandoned people. He changed bandages and ate poi, a Hawaiian staple food, from the same bowl as his patients. He put up no barriers between himself and those he ministered to.

In commemoration of St. Damien's declaration of sainthood, and in celebration of our HIV/AIDS ministry program, Catholic Charities has published a commemorative prayer-card of St. Damien of Molokai. The card pictures a young Father Damien and an inset of him as an older man. As a member of the society of the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, those images are imposed upon his chest, as a sign of the charity of heart, surrounded by the crown of thorns of adversity. Below is an illustration of the card and prayer. An initial, small supply of the cards was quickly exhausted and a new, larger order will soon be received and available for distribution. St. Damien of Molokai, pray for us!

Catholic Charities News

MONEY SMART WEEK-Across Wisconsin

Please visit: www.moneysmartwi.org
to learn about events all around the state.

October 13th

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority-Predatory Lending Presentation;
Wisconsin Rapids
Contact: Jeff Hoffman

October 15th

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority -Credit score Interpretation;
Marshfield
Contact: Jeff Hoffman

October 22nd

LA CROSSE AREA STAND DOWN- American Legion Post 52 at 711 S 6th, La Crosse; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.-To reach hundreds of veterans to learn about community resources
Contact: Shannon Parker

October 12th

Elder Abuse Conference, Prairie du Chien, Co-sponsored by Crawford County Interdisciplinary Team and PDC Memorial Hospital; Poladna Center, Prairie Du Chien Memorial Hospital
Contact: Randi Harris

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