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******* NATIVITY FAST—ADVENT—SAINT
PHILIP'S FAST—PILIPKIVA*******

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Father Harry Linsinbigler [COVID-19], Archimandrite Raphael [COVID-19], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial,

Yvonne Christy, Father Deacon Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaele Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Trachine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczyk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer

Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Dollie Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [infant], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Linda Snow, Zack Blair [Pani Gina's nephew], Greg & Mary Lou Sheakley [Pani Gina's cousins—COVID], the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert & Eleanor Rodrigues & family, Don Menagon [COVID-19]. and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

**Chaplain Rachelle A. Zazzu, when asked, "Why did she die?"
I say...everyone who lives... dies, everyone, everyone,
everyone...It has always been this way. It is a heartbreaking
aspect of our frail and sacred lives. I am so grateful for the loving
legacy that she leaves behind, that she bestowed on our planet and
that will live after her. Tell me your favorite things about her...**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is NOTHING to keep us
from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most
of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters,**

police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well and be SAFE!!! God Bless!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and ALL American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

SUNDAY, December 19 **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**
**26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER-
ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**
Tone 1
Ephesians 4:8-19; Hebrews 13:17-21
Luke 17:12-19; Luke 6:17-23

SUNDAY, December 26 **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**
**27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; MARTYRS EUSTRATIUS, AUXENTIUS, EUGENE,
MARDARIUS, & ORESTES OF SEBASTE; VIRGIN-MARTYR LUCY;
VENERABLE ARSENIUS; VENERABLE NICODEMUS OF ROMANIA;
VENERABLE ARCADIUS; VENERABLE MARDARIUS-RECLUSE OF
PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**
Tone 2
Colossians 3:4-11
Luke 14:16-24

SUNDAY, January 02 **OBEDNITZA UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**
**28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY; SUNDAY OF
THE HOLY FATHERS; VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIANA OF NICOMEDIA & 500
MEN/130 WOMEN WITH HER; MARTYR THEOMISTOCLES OF MYRA IN
LYCIA**
Tone 3
Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Matthew 1:1-25

Litany for the Departed: Rose Zalenchak, Stephen Kuzman, Timothy Stutchell, Cecilia Pysh, Nicholas Vetosky, Robert Rohal, & Gary Atutes—Fr. Bob

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 19 DECEMBER 2021

**26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SAINT NICHOLAS THE
WONDERWORKER-ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

TROPARION—TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;
While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
Granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life:
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy Dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Troparion—Tone 4

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith,
A model of meekness, and a teacher of temperance.
Therefore thou hast won the heights by humility,
Riches by poverty.
Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

Kontakion—Tone 3

Thou wast a faithful minister of God in Myra,
O Saint Nicholas.
For having fulfilled the Gospel of Christ,
Thou didst die for the people and save the innocent.
Therefore thou wast sanctified as a great initiator of the grace of God.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished!
Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:
Thou are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 1

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

PEOPLE: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee.

READER: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

PEOPLE: As we have set our hope on Thee.

ALLELUIA VERSES

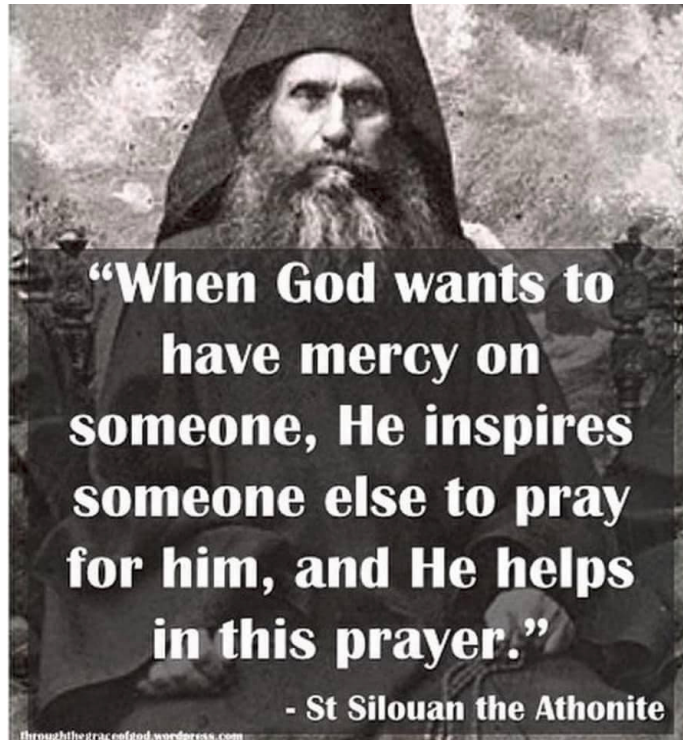
God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the king, and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever!

Father Stel Muksuris sent this to Fr. Bob:

WHY PRAYER IS VITAL

This is why St. Paul exhorts Christians to “pray unceasingly” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), precisely because everyone out there has some need to be loved and forgiven and cared for, and everyone out there charged with this command needs to love and forgive and care for those God brings into their lives. The benefits are mutual and vital for the salvation of all.



Our continual mistake is that we do not concentrate upon the present day, the actual hour of our life; we live in the past or in the future; we are continually expecting the coming of some special hour when our life shall unfold itself in its full significance. And we do not observe that life is flowing like water through our fingers, sifting like precious grain from a loosely fastened bag.

Constantly, each day, each hour, God is sending us people, circumstances, affairs, which should mark the beginning of our renewal; yet we give them no attention, and thus we resist God's will concerning us. Indeed, how can God help us? Only by sending us in our daily life certain people, and certain coincidences of circumstance. If we accepted every hour of our life as the hour of God's will concerning us, as the decisive, most important hour of our life—what sources of joy, love, strength, as yet hidden from us, would spring from the depths of our soul!

Fr. Alexander Elchaninov, Diary of a Russian Priest



The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Luke 8:41-56

And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laugh'd him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her

parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done. (KJV)

The present Gospel verifies the Lord Jesus Christ's ability to heal longstanding ailments and to restore life to the dead. God's Holy Church prescribes this Gospel to validate the hope in believers and to encourage faith and patience.

The woman with the issue of blood for twelve years had her hope and strong faith validated when she touched Jesus and was healed. Believers of every generation with long standing conditions find hope in this Gospel reading.

Jairus and his wife learned of Jesus' power over death when their daughter was restored to life. Believers always can turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in hope when death affects a loved one.

The Holy Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: " But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." (I Thess. 4:13)

The Orthodox Funeral service is a service of hope in the Resurrection. Every Sunday in God's Holy Church is a celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The Gospel reading for today makes clear Jesus' power over death.

Moments of gloom and negativity arise in the world with regularity. The present Gospel is a Gospel of hope overcoming despair. Believers with illnesses and struggling with the death of a loved one have reason always to hope.

When circumstances arise in life that are challenging, the Lord Jesus Christ brings light to the darkest moments of life. The Lord Jesus Christ lifts believers from despair and depression to hope and internal peace.

The woman with the long-standing issue of blood acted on her hope and faith. She reached out to Jesus and she was healed. Persons of every generation are able to learn from this woman to reach out to Jesus in strong faith and hope.

Jairus turned to Jesus and besought Jesus to heal his daughter who was dying. Jairus hope in Jesus was not in vain. Even after the report of the daughter's death, Jairus had reason to hope and found joy in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ brings joy in the most difficult circumstances of life for those turning to Christ in faith and hope. Jesus Christ does not disappoint believers dealing with difficult illnesses and even death.

Jesus Christ brings peace and order to life. Jesus Christ brings newness to life out of the darkest moments of life. The present Gospel is a lesson for believers to always keep in mind.

Hope and faith in Christ always have a place in life. During this time of the Nativity Fast, believers have the opportunity to strengthen personal faith and hope.

The Holy Gospel is filled with lessons of hope in Christ.

Nourishment for the soul rests in the Holy Gospel. The Divine services of the Church keep serious believers' hope and faith strong. The Lord Jesus Christ did not disappoint the woman with the issue of blood. He did not disappoint Jairus.

During this time leading to the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ, the Nativity Fast is an opportunity for believers to strengthen personal faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

Being attentive in the Church's Divine services, reading the Holy Scriptures, fasting and prayer prepare a believer for the difficulties arising in life. Honoring the Nativity Fast is a most beneficial investment.

Strength to deal with the difficulties in life comes best from the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus taught the woman with the issue of blood and Jairus the value of continuing to have hope and strong faith.

The present Gospel verifies that Jesus is stronger and dominant over longstanding illness and death. Order and hope for life are revealed in the present Gospel.

The present Gospel enables believers to have a positive outlook in life at all times. Joy in life is always present in Jesus Christ. The Holy Gospel is a constant message of faith and hope at all times and in all places.

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Apostles Philemon, Apphia and Archippu; Holy Marty Cecilia. November 22/December 5, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Gerardo Alminaza via Proto Stevo G. Rocknage

PRIESTS DO CRY...



Do the priests cry?

Yes. They do cry.

And why does a priest cry?

Priests cry for many reasons...

But are priests not men of God? Why would they have to cry?

Yes priests are men of God it's true but they are not super heroes nor stones. They are human beings.

But why does a priest cry?

Priests cry in solitude. Surrounded by people but alone.

They cry of nostalgia for their families, for being away from the ones they love, for not being able to be with them in the good times and in the bad times, for not being close to the friends who watched us grow up.

They also cry for misunderstanding. A priest cannot get sick, feel tired, have friends or be sad, the people demand him to be perfect and no matter how many good things he does, there will be a mistake to criticize him.

They cry over frustration that sometimes even if they try and give their best, people don't respond. It's like they're fighting alone.

They cry for powerlessness when they witness pain, problems, diseases, poverty and suffering of their sheep and they can do nothing but pray, accompany, understand, and feel compassion.

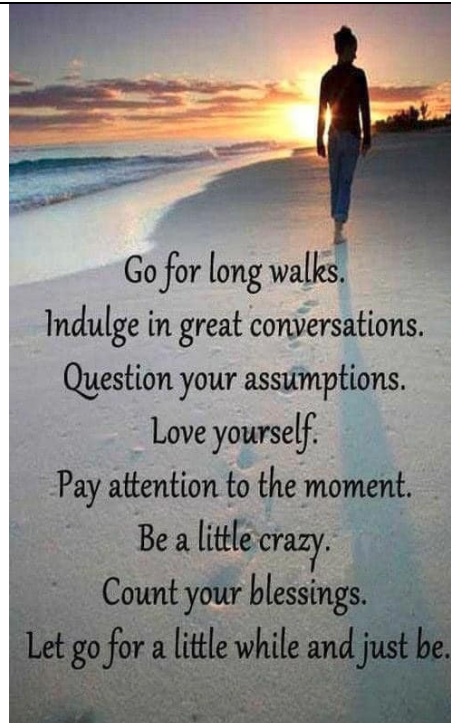
They also cry of happiness when they live their vocation, when they serve their neighbor, when they perceive the fruit of the mission.

They cry of love when they receive the true and selfless affection from some good people, when they feel the love of God in their lives.

Priests cry yes, alone and in silence. Refugees in the heart of God.

Also the priests weep in agony for their sins and miseries, because in spite of everything, they are also sinners.

That's why we pray for priests! 🙏
And more than criticizing a priest, let's bow our knees and pray for him.



"In 1965, Charles Schulz, a devout Christian and creator of the Peanuts comic strip, was asked to create a Christmas special for CBS featuring the Peanuts Characters. He agreed with one requirement, that they allow him to include the story of the birth of Jesus. Although the stations executives were hesitant and tried to convince him otherwise, Schulz was insistent. As a result, for the past 50 plus years, millions of people have watched and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and heard the story of Jesus and "what Christmas is all about."

It wasn't until a few years back that I realized a "hidden message" in the film. Linus, a child who seems to have some insecurities as he carries a security blanket with him at all times. In fact, Linus NEVER drops his blanket, except once...

While sharing the message of "what Christmas is all about," Linus drops his blanket at the exact moment he says the words, "fear not!" In this seemingly innocent moment, Linus delivers a powerful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. We are to "fear not", for Jesus is born. We needn't rely on material things for security, we have God with us,

“Immanuel”, (Matthew 1:23) Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior—the true meaning of Christmas.

Awhile back, someone informed me, indignantly so, that Linus picks up his blanket at the end of the speech so my interpretation must be wrong. Well, he was right, Linus does pick up his blanket at the end of his speech. However, he “drops” it again later...

Amid big, bright, colorful, shiny artificial trees, Charlie Brown chose the least of these, a little, wooden tree with just a few branches. Shortly thereafter, Linus uses his blanket to wrap about the base of the tree and says, “Maybe it just needs a little love.” In that moment, the tree “awakens”, stands tall and firm. A reminder that no matter who we are, how many mistakes we’ve made, a “little love” can make all the difference. Let’s strive to “fear not” (Luke 2:10) and “love one another” (John 13:34), not just at Christmastime, but the whole year through.”

Borrowed from Charlene M. Speer & 'Christian Life Ministry' on Facebook...

