



HUMILITAS

Promoting Lives of Virtue, Inspired by the Humility of
our Patron St. Charles Borromeo.



ISSUE 9, Advent Edition

www.stcharlesperu.org

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

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I never knew what I was getting myself into when I agreed to be the administrator here at St. Charles Borromeo. I knew it might be a difficult transition from one parish to another, but there are certain situations that one can never anticipate. About a month ago, one of these situations occurred here at the parish offices. The following is my testimony, as I relayed the situation to my family and friends.

Tonight as I tried to finish writing the intercessions for this weekend's Masses, something flew over my head! Was that a moth? Was it a reflection from the ceiling fan? There it was again... and I quickly discovered that a bat was flying around our parish offices (our old rectory). After it flew out of my office, I closed my door and finished my work! It was too late and I didn't have time to spare. But having grown up with three sisters, as I prepared to leave the office, I thought I could at least be courteous enough to close my co-workers doors to ensure they didn't also get a surprise.

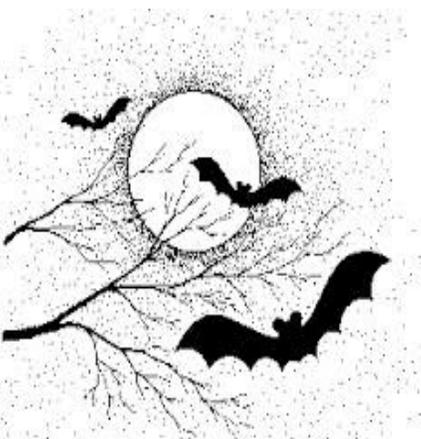


In the midst of this charitable act, my little furry friend decided he should dive bomb me which led to a memorable scene I won't recount for everyone... but in hindsight, it was like the scene from *"The Great Outdoors"* (if you haven't seen the movie, it's a classic)! Needless to say, I thought he was in the hallway, but after I closed the last door I realized I couldn't find him, and so the hunt was on.

I armed myself with an air cannon from our youth minister's office (thanks Luke) and I began to walk cautiously from one end of the hall to another. Where had he gone? Did I inadvertently lock him in one of my co-worker's offices? I all but gave up and proceeded downstairs, but as I was preparing to leave he buzzed me again! After stumbling over our conference table in the dark, I located a towel from a cleaning closet and an old tablecloth from our sacristy, as I was now determined to capture this bat.

After a short chase I had cornered him in our front office, but he was strong! Like a World Cup soccer player he would dodge left as I defended the doorway to the stairs... but I knew I couldn't let him escape back upstairs. It was torturous! He was tired. Sweat was dripping from my brow (ok, maybe I'm embellishing) and I had all but given up the chase... But then he rested. He took up a roost on the floral arrangement above our secretary's desk.

What should I do? I couldn't get close enough to capture him while also defending the doorway leading to the stairs. If only I had the gift of bilocation! Lacking the necessary holiness for this move, I opted instead to staple the sheet over the doorway (as there isn't a door, in case you were wondering why I didn't just close the door). It seemed like a logical plan, but then I realized I didn't have a second sheet in which to capture the rabid beast. No way could I approach him with the hand towel that remained.



So it was down with the sheet. Down with my last defense. And the whole time this little guy was just taking a nap! Armed with my Marian blue sheet I felt a new confidence. With Mary on my side, I snapped the bat with the towel from his perch, and the chase was on.

He was slower. I was determined. And finally, at last, I captured him in the sheet. Heading God's commandment to care for all of creation, I peacefully released him outside and kindly asked him not to return!

Fr. Adam

How I Got Stabbed By A Spoon.....

When I was a freshman in college, I lived in the residence hall that was farthest away from the main part of campus. Being a twenty minute walk away from any kind of substantial entertainment, it was very common for everyone in the building to remain there to hang out. My RA decided that sitting in our rooms doing nothing wasn't benefitting anyone, so he decided to have us "kill" each other. He organized a game where we would follow each other around campus looking for the perfect time to stab our target with a plastic spoon.

The game was a great deal of fun. I chased one of my targets out of the mail room, two of the guys on my floor got into a plastic spoon duel in a lecture hall, and my roommate slayed his target with a drive-by stabbing on a bicycle. Every day people would (carefully) wander into the hall to discuss who had died, and how.

Even though the game required us to be stealthy and (literally and figuratively) stab our friends in the back, it brought our floor closer together. I was able to meet other guys at the end of the hall, learn about what they liked and disliked, and what classes they were taking. It was all in the name of winning the game, of course, but I learned a great deal about those guys in the process.

So, years later, I have decided that getting high school students to pretend murder each other is a great way to show our love for Christ. In about a week and a half of playing, I have seen the students talk to each other more than before, had them stop by my office more than before, and have them all be more aware of what is going on here at the church. They've been chasing each other around school with plastic spoons, and everyone there knows what those crazy Catholics are up to.

There are many different ways to love Christ, and to show others our love for him. Sometimes that means that we kneel silently in front of the Blessed Sacrament, sometimes that means distributing food and clothing to the impoverished. Other times, that means chasing a good friend down the hall to stab them with a plastic spoon.

Luke Hoefler

Why do we call it the "Jesse Tree?"

The name "Jesse Tree" comes from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah said, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11:1)



Jesse was the father of King David, and David was the many times great-grandfather of Mary and Joseph—Jesus is the shoot from the stump and the branch from the root of Jesse. The Jesse Tree is a devotional that introduces us to the stories of the Old Testament. Each story is about a person in the family tree of Jesus.

When you remove an ornament from our "Jesse Tree" which will be located in our church, read the story that the ornament symbolizes before you attach it to the gift and return it.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Advent ends officially on the afternoon of December 24th and the Christmas Season begins on the evening of December 24th and ends on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 4th? The Feast of the Epiphany also called the Three Wise Men or Three Kings, traveled from the East to pay homage to the newborn King, Jesus Christ. This time frame is also referred to as the twelve days of Christmas.

What do you do to celebrate the twelve days of Christmas?



Can Willpower Get Me Through the Holidays?

From November to December, do you begin to wonder if you have any willpower at all? There are sweets and snacks everywhere and many temptations galore to spend more than you had budgeted for. Do you find that perfect gift to give someone, only to discover that it is more than you want to spend, but you buy it anyway because you really want that individual to be impressed by your gift? What about that wonderful sale that is so great you just must buy that special something for yourself whether you really need it or not?



Then you have hauled everything home, do you look at your pile of wonderful purchases and mutter.....If I only had more willpower.

Willpower is difficult to have when you are in a blah mood or depressed. **Philippians 4:13** tells us that we can do everything through Christ, who gives us strength. It doesn't tell us that we can do all things through our own willpower.

When we are honest about our failings and weaknesses, it gives God a chance to work in our lives. Our weaknesses give us a chance to seek God's grace, and grace is what we need to press onward. Willpower says keep pushing, keep pushing, and don't stop. Grace says trust and when we mess up, Grace will help us get back on track.

Our brokenness should remind us that we need a Savior. The wise men and the shepherds so many years ago, bent their knee to Jesus out of adoration, thankfulness, and praise. So also, anything that we attempt to do should become an act of worship coming from our grateful hearts.

Some days we will find that we need strength from the Lord. There will be some days that we will work with our own strength. It is this inconsistency that keeps us relying on our relationship with God more than ever in order to keep improving ourselves. We are always a work in progress.

Each time he said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me." (**2 Corinthians 12:9**)

Mary, The Immaculate Conception

As we head into the Advent/Christmas cycle of the Church calendar, there are several themes we naturally think about. First and foremost, we think of the long awaited Savior Jesus Christ—the one who is, who was, and is still to come. Closely linked to this theme is that of Mary—Mother of God made man. In fact, one of the most celebrated Marian feasts and holy day of obligation occurs during Advent: The Immaculate Conception.



Some people believe the term Immaculate Conception refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without human intervention; but that is the Virgin Birth. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit" in the same way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect. The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that's what "immaculate" means: without stain. Original sin deprives us of Sanctifying Grace and creates in us a sinful nature. Through God's Grace, Mary was preserved from these defects from the moment of her conception.

When we look at the angel's greeting to Mary in Luke 1:28, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you," full of grace implies a total absence of sin. A person with a fallen nature could not possess a fullness of grace. Note also, the angel did not use her name...instead he identified her with the phrase "full of grace." Mary, quite simply, was created to be "God-bearer" and therefore was pure and holy from her conception. Could the woman chosen to be God's mother be anything else?

Immaculate Mary, all holy, all pure, most innocent, without sin, pray for us that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

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**January 4th, 10:00 a.m.,
in the gym**

**Start the new year out practicing
your stewardship by sharing your
gifts of time and talent!!**

Come stop at the various tables and
discuss ministries in more depth with
other parishioners.



*St. Charles Borromeo Parish
Epiphany Brunch*

Join us on Sunday, January 4th at 10:00
a.m. in the gym.

If you are able to donate a breakfast
casserole or any other breakfast item,
please contact the parish office at
765-473-5543. It is important to know
how much food can be expected.

Thank you.