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Exalting the Cross

For each of us, salvation means no more and no less than taking up daily the same cross of Christ, accepting each day what it brings as the will of God, offering back to God each morning all the joys, works, and sufferings of that day. But those are abstract words. What it means, in practice, is spelled out as always by the poor old body. It means getting up each morning and going to bed exhausted. It means the routine, not the spectacular. It can mean drudgery, pain, putting aside pleasures, happiness, or the love the human heart craves until another time, so that what is necessary at the moment can be done.

It means working for others, touching the lives of others, through the medium of the body. How many times, tired and worn out and near collapse from the slave labor conditions of the camps, did I think I could not ask another step of the body, did I think in pain and irony of those words "The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak"? Truly, man is a creature composed of body and soul, and we work out our salvation in this vale of tears through the medium of the flesh.

It is the first gift God and our parents fashion for us; it sustains and supports us through a long life and makes possible both joys and sorrows; and when at last we are parted from it in death, it surely deserves whatever rest it can get before it rises to be glorified at the last judgment.

Father Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Icon of the Holy Martyr Eustace and his Companions -- September 20th

1SS. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church
107 South Fourth Stret
Minersville, PA
570-544-2074
Father Gregory J. Noga, pastor

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
131 South Morris Street
Saint Clair, PA
tvrgjn@outlook.com

Volume 2026
Christ is Among us!

Number 39
He is and will be!

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Tone 8

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clare, Pennsylvania. We greet and welcome you to our Church. Our Church is a holy place. Our Church is where we get together in Jesus' Name. it is holy because we come here to worship, to be nourished in faith through Sacred Scripture and preaching, to open our hearts and minds to celebrate the mystery of salvation in Jesus Christ and to dedicate ourselves to a life of holiness and service to the Lord and others. The church building itself reflects this faith and calls us to enter into communion with God. We invite you to share our faith in Jesus Christ, to experience our worship and to live a life dedicated to the service of God and one another in Jesus' Name.

September 20– September 26, AD2026

Vigil of Sunday		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**Private Intention***
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	**Health and Blessings of the Parishioners**
Monday	9:00 a.m.	**No Divine Liturgy Today***
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	**No Divine Liturgy Today***
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	**No Divine Liturgy Today***
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	**No Divine Liturgy Today***
Friday	9:00 a.m.	**No Divine Liturgy Today***
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	**+Rev. Francis T. Gera** req. by The Estate *

*St. Mary
*SS Peter & Paul

Epistle Readers: 9/6 – Ellen Sinkovich; 9/8 – Dolores Kramer; 9/13 – Paulette Murphy; 9/14 – Marie Wanchick; 9/20 – Laura Mitchell; 9/27 – Jennifer Keer; 10/1 – Gail Burgess.

Pilgrimage to St. Therese at Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf, PA on **Saturday, September 26** beginning at 8:00 a.m. and concluding with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 11:00 a.m.

Turkey Dinner: The annual Turkey Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 1. More details will be forthcoming soon.

Breakfast With Father: **Sunday, November 8** following Divine Liturgy.

Bible Study: **Sunday, November 22** following the Divine Liturgy.

The Annual Eparchial Priests' Retreat will be held September 21 to September 24. I will monitor the phone for any important item that needs to be addressed during that time. Prayerfully, nothing of consequence will occur while I am, with the other clergy of the eparchy, being spiritually refreshed.

Bishop Kurt has requested that beginning on October 1 and continuing daily, that prayers for the mid-term elections be said in every parish and filial parish for the good of the Republic. These prayers may be led by priests, deacons or lay persons. For example, he stated, groups of people may gather in church to pray the Rosary or other appropriate prayers. This may be done prior to the Divine Liturgy or immediately afterwards. Our church is opened forty-five minutes prior to the Divine Liturgy on weekdays and one hour on Sunday, making it convenient to fulfill the bishop's request.

Did You Know That ...

...we always come home to the child, to play and creativity, because the child is promise of what we may yet become?

...all of life sings in us; for we are the voice, the music, the dance, the dream of create n coming true?

...there God is...everywhere and in all people and things ?

...the Child is fulfilled in the universe and the universe is fulfilled in the child, while stars ring out in the heavens?

...God writes the gospel message...on trees, flowers, clouds, stars and the manger straw?

...for the only time in human history we have a cosmic story that is not tied to one cultural tradition, but instead gathers every human group into its meaning?

...in the innermost and deepest aspect of the soul, our God creates the whole cosmos?

...if we remain in the eye of the Holy Spirit, every object is one of radiant beauty?

...the dance of thanksgiving starts with energy, the substance of life, the unrelenting wellspring of pure possibility?

...faith is the spark that extends into a vivid flame, and like a star in the heavens, glows in our soul?

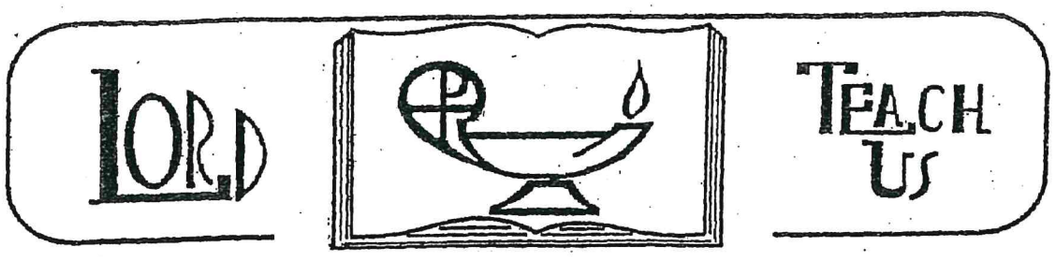
...a vision of the universe tells us undeniably how tiny and insignificant and how rare and special man is?

...having seen earth from space, the things we share in our world are far more valuable than those which artificially divide us?

...our God writes us messages of love on the petals of flowers and leaves of trees?

...each individual life needs its own quiet place in the life of the Body of Christ?

...the smallest space within our soul is as great as the vast universe?



Persecution of the Righteous

But Peter and the apostles replied, we must obey God rather than men. The Council accepted his advice, called in the apostles and had them beaten and then told them never again to speak in the name of Jesus and finally let them go. They left the Council chamber rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer dishonor for his name. And every day in the temple and in their assembly, they continued to teach and preach that Jesus is the Messiah Acts of the Apostles 5: 29, 40 - 42.

Name one prophet your ancestors did not persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One, the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered Acts of the Apostles 7: 52.

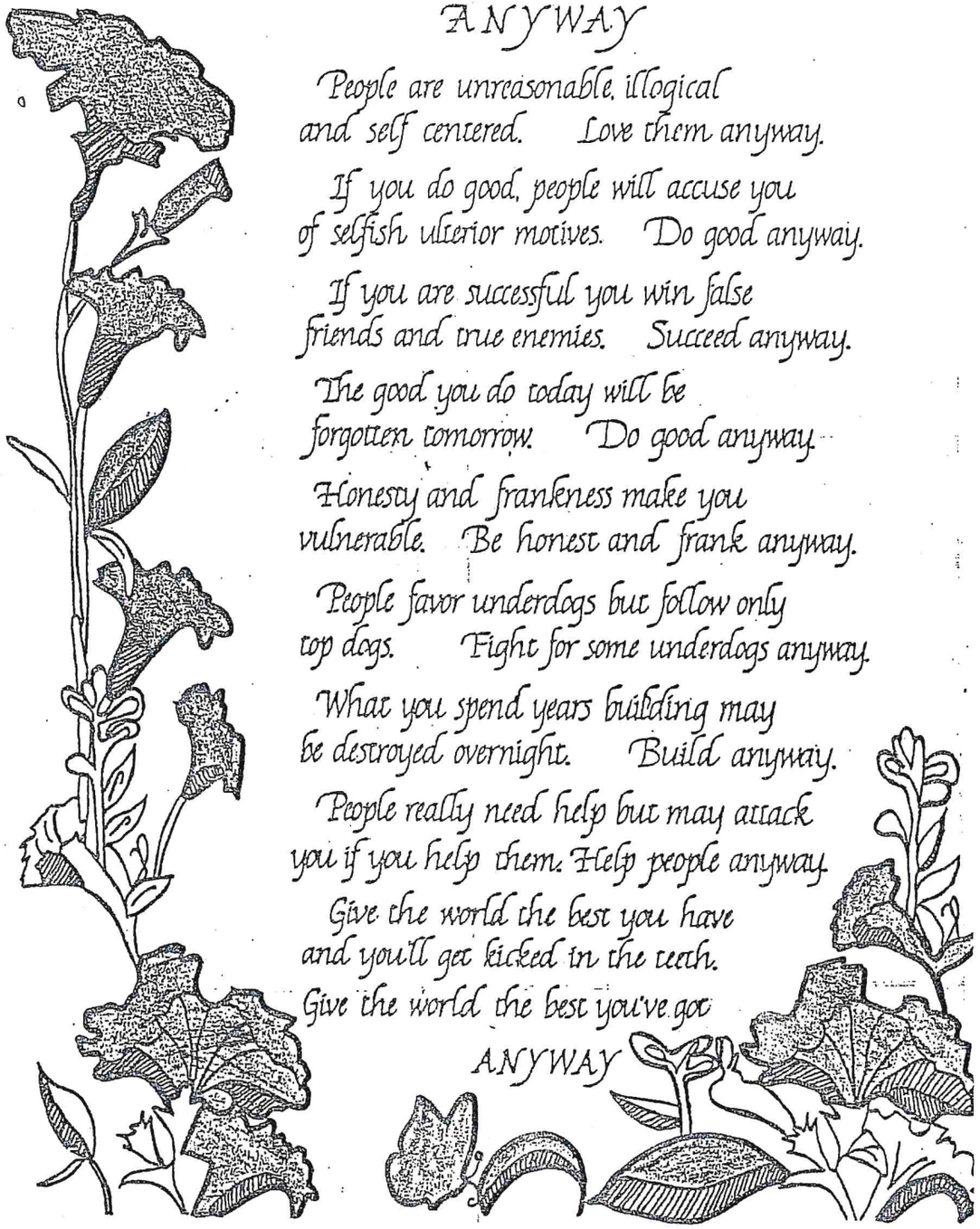
But the believers who had fled Jerusalem went everywhere preaching the Good News about Jesus Acts of the Apostles 8: 4.

But we want to hear what you believe, for the only thing we know about these Christians is that they are denounced everywhere Acts of the Apostles 28: 22.

If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who offer their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it really means to live Mark 8: 35.

So we who are born of the Holy Spirit are persecuted now by those who want us to keep the Jewish laws, just as was Isaac, the child of promise was persecuted by Ishmael, the slave wife's son Galatians 4: 29.

by Mother Teresa



ANYWAY

People are unreasonable, illogical
and self centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you
of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful you win false
friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

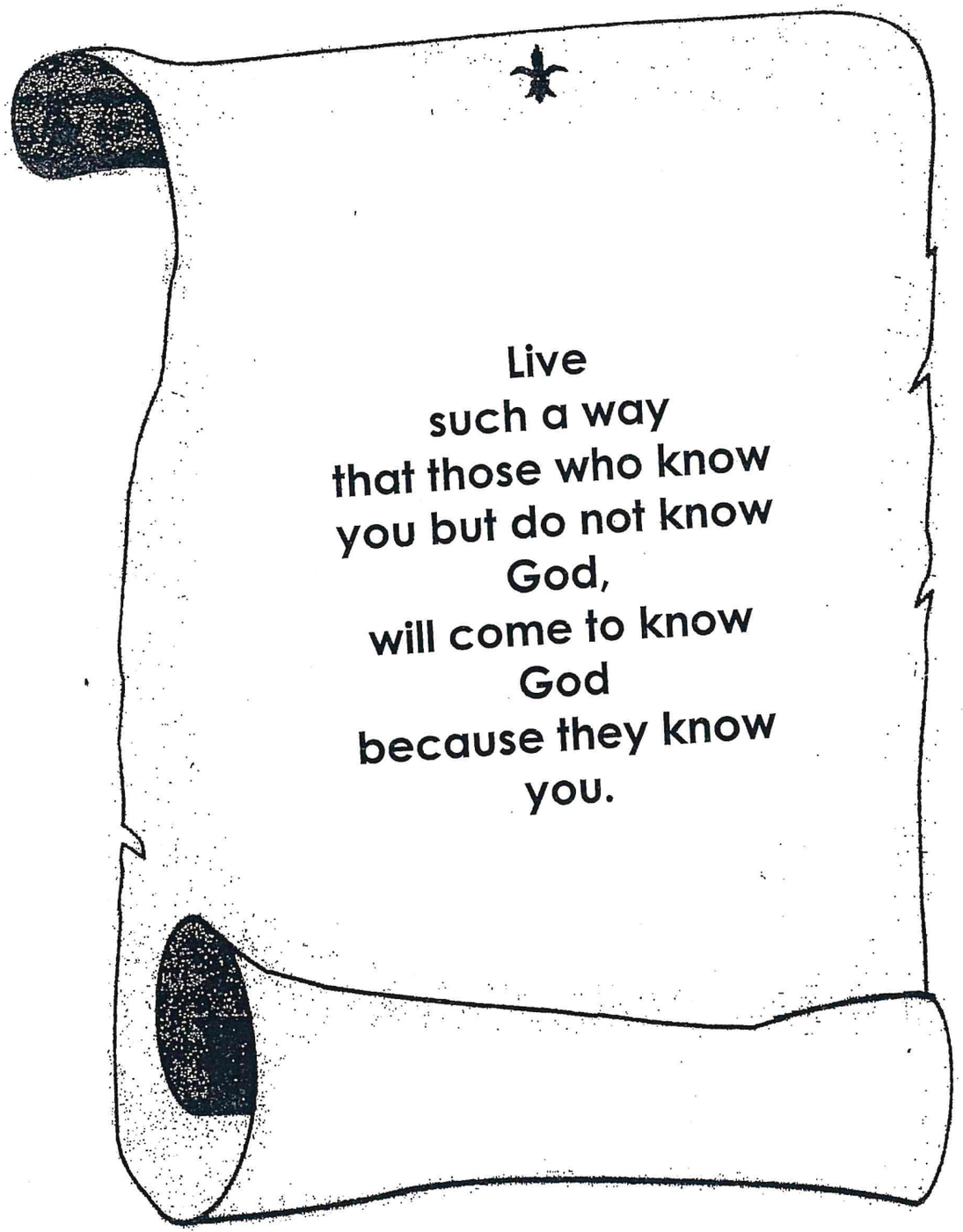
The good you do today will be
forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you
vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only
top dogs. Fight for some underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may
be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack
you if you help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have
and you'll get kicked in the teeth.
Give the world the best you've got

ANYWAY