

Saints Peter & Paul
Byzantine Catholic Church
107 South Fourth Street
Minersville, PA 17954

St. Mary's (Dormition of the Mother of God)
Byzantine Catholic Church
131 South Morris Street
Saint Clair, PA 17970

Saints Peter & Paul Rectory: (570) 544-2074

Website: www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com

Email: tvrgjn@outlook.com

Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

SS. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus

St. Mary Cantor: Dr. Peter Yassenchak

CONFESSIONS: Sts. Peter & Paul: Saturday 2:45-3:30 PM

St. Mary's: Saturday 1:00 – 1:30 PM

SICK CALLS: As scheduled, or anytime in case of an emergency. If anyone is homebound or hospitalized, please call the rectory (544-2074)

Bulletins are sponsored by

Mahal-Ritzel Funeral Home

Minersville, PA 544-5111

Mark J. Mahal – Funeral Director

Carrying Your Cross or Your Cross Carrying You?

Turn, rather, to these teachings, my very dear friend: take up your cross and follow the Lord. For, when I noticed that you were being slowed down in your divine purpose by your preoccupation with domestic cares, I felt that you were being carried and dragged along by your cross rather than that you were carrying it.

What else does the cross mean than the mortality of this flesh? This is our very own cross which the Lord commands us to carry that we may be as

well armed as possible in following him. We suffer momentarily until death is swallowed up in victory. Then this cross itself will be crucified. The cross will be nailed to the fear of God. We would hardly be able to carry it now if it forever resisted us with free and unfettered limbs. There is no other way for you to follow the Lord except by carrying it, for how can you follow him if you are not his?

From the Letters of St. Augustine

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of Simon Carrying the Cross of Christ

Volume 2022
Christ is among us!

Number 37
He is and will be!

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Tone 6

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clair, 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 18 – September 24, 2022

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p. m. +

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +**Gloria F. Tokarick** req. by son, Bruce Tokarick (at St. Mary)

10:00 a.m. **Health & Blessing of the Parishioners** (at SS. Peter & Paul)
livestreamed

Tuesday

8:00 am +**Jeanette Lohin** req. by Walter Miscavage

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. +**Joseph Lohin** req. by Elaine Lohin Kunze

Thursday

8:00 a.m. +**Charles Kostura** req. by Pauline, Eugene & Girmaine Kostura

Friday

8:00 a.m. **No Divine Liturgy**

Saturday Vigil of Sunday (at SS Peter & Paul)

4:00 p.m. +**Michael Popovich** req. by Joey DeConcini

Epistle Readers: 9/3 – Madeline Dinich; 9/4 – Laura Mitchell; 9/8 – Ellen Sinkovich; 9/10 – Dolores Kramer; 9/11 – Jennifer Keer; 9/14 – Paulette Murphy; 9/17 – Gail Burgess; 9/18 – Anna Keer; 9/24 – Marie Wanchick; 9/25 – Ellen Sinkovich; 10/1 – Judy Kostura. (If you cannot be present for any time, kindly contact another reader to cover for you).

Candle Offering: Mother of God; Prayer and Peace.

Schedule Change: Beginning October 9 the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at SS Peter and Paul at 10:00 a.m. The Saturday Vigil Liturgy will be discontinued. The Sunday Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Church, Saint Clair will be suspended and the parishioners are invited to attend the Divine Liturgy at SS. Peter and Paul, Minersville.

This schedule will remain in affect until I return from my surgery and recuperation period. Any announcements of consequence will be posted to our website and face book page.

Кресту Твоему поклоняемся Владыко, и святое Воскресение Твое славим!

SEPTEMBER 14

It has been so arranged by the Lord God, that in His care for the salvation of our soul, each person in this life has a cross which he must humbly carry to our Heavenly Father from his childhood, calling to Him from the depth of his soul: "Our Father! May Thy Holy Will be done in all things, only do not deprive me of Thy Heavenly Kingdom."

St. Anthony the Great

=====

To bear the cross does not mean only visible, external sorrows, but also internal spiritual ones. One must endure darkness, faintheartedness and similar things as well. For God sends this for the destruction of our pride and acquiring of humility.

St. Macarius

=====

We seek and desire sweet, spiritual enjoyment; I do not argue, it is pleasant - but it is lower than the cross. It is granted to us through the cross and without the cross it cannot last. It comes to us and leaves us according to the degree that we travel the way of the cross and humility.

St. Macarius

INCARNATE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

Wisdom Of
The



Byzantine
Fathers

The poor are the treasures of the good things that we look for, the keepers of the gates of the kingdom St. Gregory of Nyssa.

Defend widows, protect orphans, liberate captives, heal the sick St. Basil the Great.

The aim which everyone ought to have in working is to help the needy, more than to provide for oneself....So anyone who works day and night to give relief to the destitute is nearing perfection St. Basil the Great.

For You, O Lord, are the helper of the helpless, hope of the hopeless, saviour of the afflicted, haven of the voyager and physician of the sick St. Basil the Great.

You who fast, come to the help of those in need. Become generous to the unfortunate brethren. That food which you fasted from, give to the hungry. Let the just fear of God equalize all St. Gregory of Nyssa.

One feature that occurs over and over again in the Creed is its dependence on Sacred Scripture. We might even describe it as a hymn of glorification of the Word of God. Our faith truly arises from divine revelation, from what God himself has told us about himself.

The statement of the creed that Jesus Christ "is incarnate from the Holy Spirit," is found explicitly in the gospel according to the holy apostle Luke. Here he describes the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary, who is to become the mother of the Lord. In response to Mary's question about how this could be so, since she had no relations with a man, the angel answers, "...the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" Luke 1: 35.

We thus see that; our heavenly Father always acts in our behalf, his creatures, as the Holy Trinity. The Most High, overshadowing Mary, acts in the power of his Holy Spirit, so that she gives birth to the Word of God, the Son of God. The Church, understanding the significance of

this event, made it a part of its proclamation of faith.

From the beginning, the Church, as the community of believers, felt the uniqueness of Jesus. Though, as we have seen, our faith is that He took on himself all that is essential to our human nature, particularly the mind, the soul, the body, the will, and though He was born of human flesh as we are, as Scripture again affirms, "...born of a woman, born under the law" Galatians 4: 4, yet in one way He is quite different from us. This difference is revealed to John the Forerunner as he baptized this human man who came to him, for he saw the Holy Spirit descend on the Lord in the waters of the Jordan, the very same Holy Spirit who overshadowed Mary to make her pregnant with her holy Son, and he heard the voice of God the Father, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased..." Mark 1: 11.

The father of Jesus is God the Father, for at the age of twelve He tells Mary and Joseph in the temple, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Luke 2: 49.

The uniqueness of Jesus, that his father is the Eternal Father, was certainly expressed explicitly in the stories of his birth and in the Gospels of SS. Matthew and Luke, and in the theological terms in the Gospel of St. John the Theologian, who describes the experience of the Lord by first believers: "And the Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth" John 1: 14.

This reality is also expressed implicitly, as in the gospel of St. Luke, "Jesus was the son, as was thought, (but not according to the flesh) of Joseph, the son of Heli." Luke 3: 23.

Not having a human father might tempt someone to say that Jesus was not human as we are. This tendency has always existed in the Church and it has sometimes led to heresy. The struggle to define who Jesus is was the center of ideological battles from the first Council of Nicea to the struggle against iconoclasm. This tendency remains a temptation for us, and the danger in it is that we will make Jesus so wholly other that He is no longer the model of humanity whom we can follow.

This teaching about Christ, however, is important for us. God is the father of Jesus, but God the Father is the model of all fatherhood, as St. Paul taught. "That is why I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name and I pray that he will bestow on

you gifts in keeping with the riches of his glory" Ephesians 3: 14, 15.

If this is so, then the salvation of Jesus Christ is precisely that He became a human being so that we might become in turn, adopted children of God, as St. John taught, "...to those who did accept him he gave the power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name" John 1: 12.

The incarnation of Jesus by the Holy Spirit, then is the foundation of our faith in deification. Because Jesus has accepted completely our humanity, by accepting him in faith, we become children of God, and God-like. The difference is that Jesus is the Son of God by nature, while we are children of God by adoption.

There is something more involved in this article of faith. That Jesus is incarnate by the Holy Spirit makes the Mystery of the Eucharist possible. After his Resurrection, our Lord told his followers, "I am with you always until the end of the world" Matthew 28: 20. This is so through the power of God, one in the Holy Trinity, manifested in the Spirit of the Son. This is the "Promise of the Father," the "power from on high" revealed to the disciples at the time of the Ascension (Luke 24: 49).

In revealing the Eucharist to his apostles, Jesus tells them, "Do this in memory of me" Luke 22: 19; and St. Paul further instructs us, "...as often as you eat this

bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes" I Corinthians 11: 26.

The Mystery of the Eucharist is the real presence of our Lord among us, acting again for our salvation through death to sin and Resurrection to eternal life. This, too, happens in the power of the Holy Spirit, God's power working in the Church today, in our present faith communities.

Therefore, in the anaphora, the priestly celebrant prays to the Eternal Father, "Send down your Holy Spirit upon us and on these gifts before us," that they might become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the fullness of his kingdom.

St. John Damascene explains this present mystery by comparing it to the incarnation of our Lord by the Holy Spirit "...so also now the energy of the Spirit performs those things that are above nature and which it is not possible to comprehend unless by faith alone. 'How shall this be,' said the holy Virgin, 'seeing I know not man?' And the archangel Gabriel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you.' And now you ask, how the bread becomes Christ's body and the wine and water Christ's blood. And I say to you, 'The Holy Spirit is present and does these things which surpass reason and thought'" On the Orthodox Faith 4: 13.

The concelebrating priests and deacons say these words to the celebrating priest in the Divine Liturgy even today to show the connection between the mysteries of the incarnation and the Eucharist. The confession of faith we make in the Creed that Jesus is "incarnate of the Holy Spirit," becomes a profession of our precious faith in the Eucharist, that now our God is truly with us.



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.

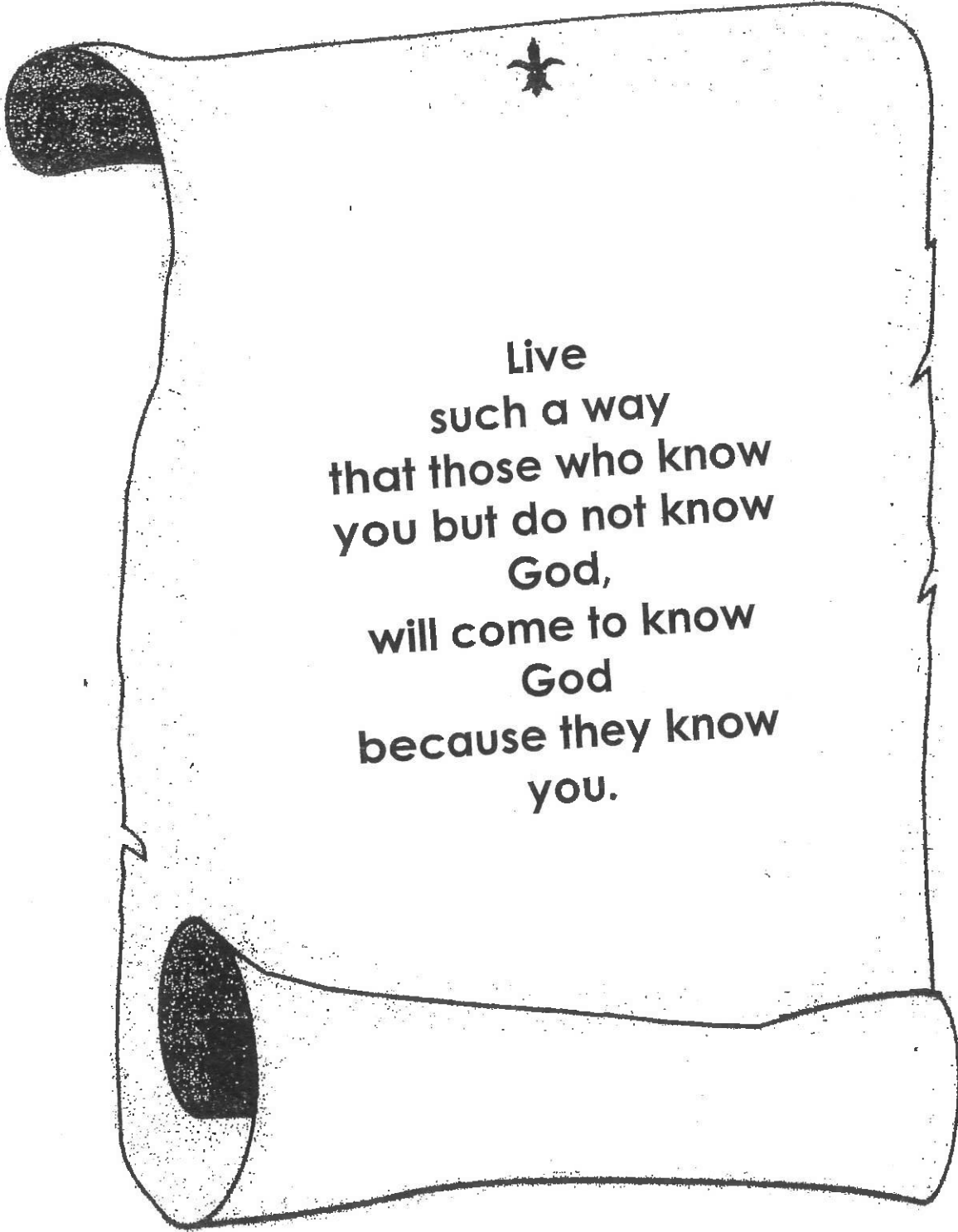
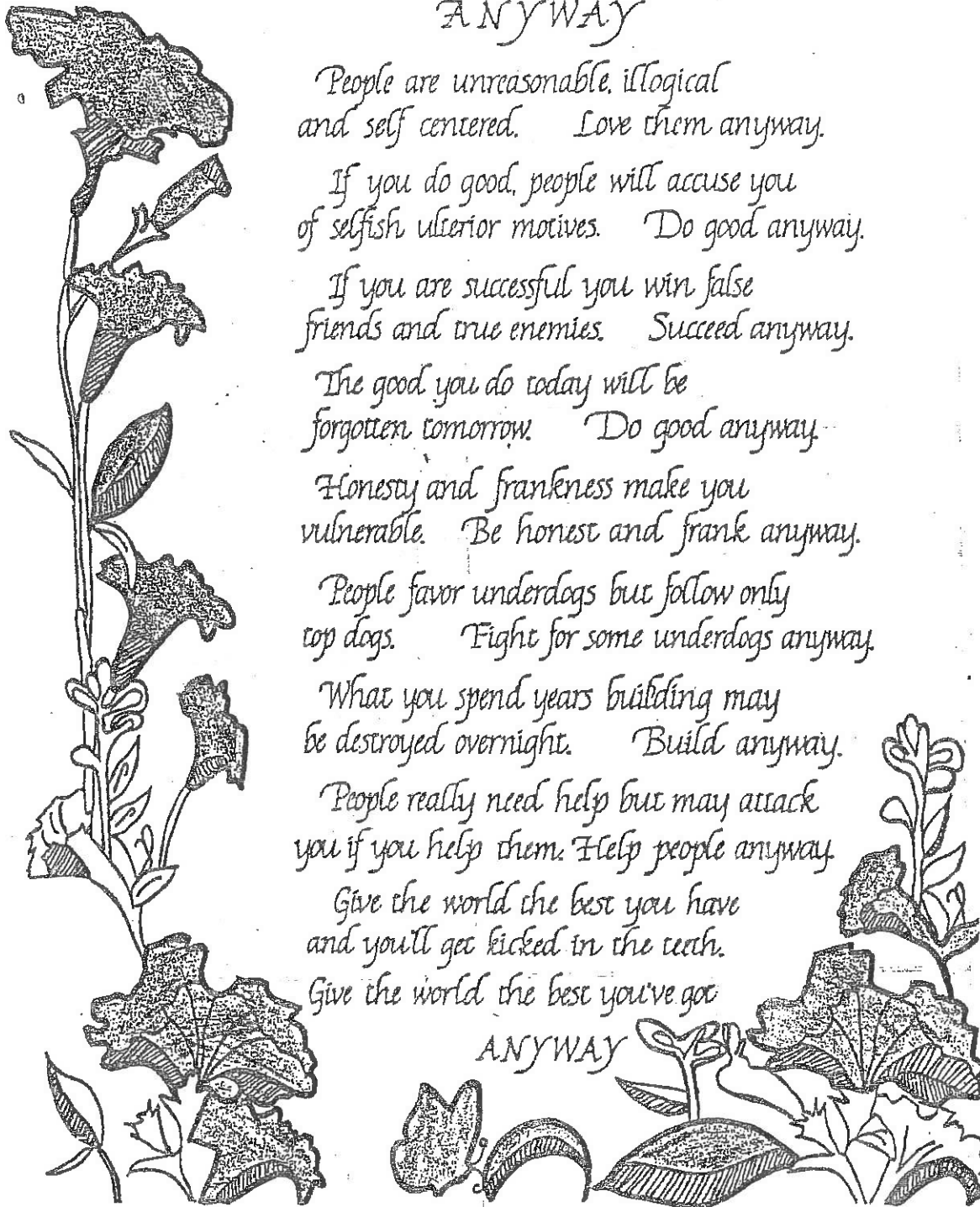
What you spend years building may
be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

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



Live
such a way
that those who know
you but do not know
God,
will come to know
God
because they know
you.

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?

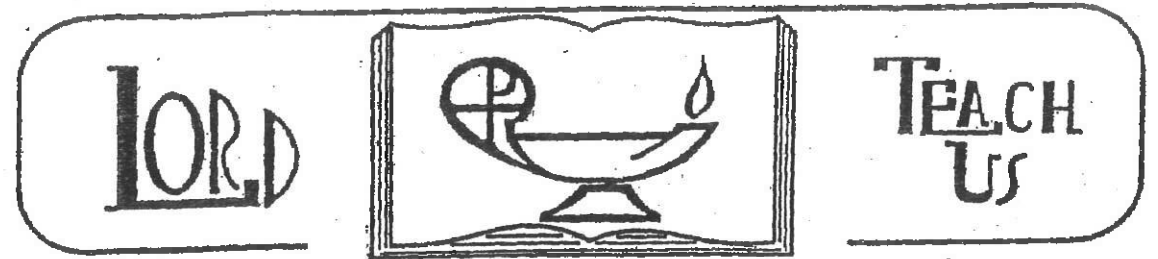
...a vision of the universe tells us undeniably how tiny and insignificant and how rare and special man is?

...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.