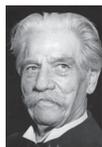




# MISSION ENRICHMENT

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*The Spirit of the Gospel in Service of the Mission*

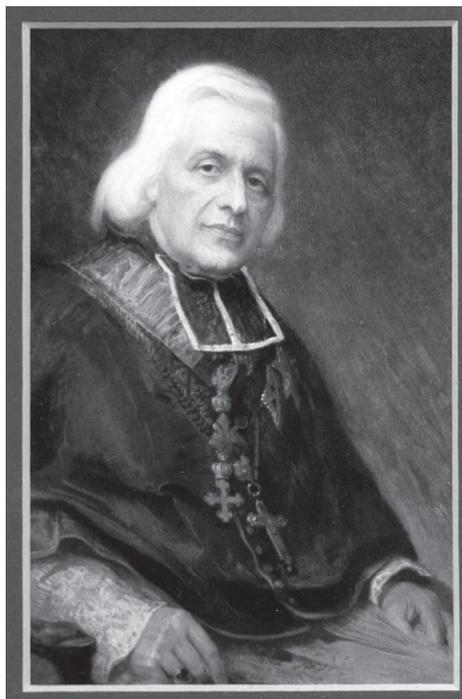


*Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who have need of help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.*

*~Albert Schweitzer*

## *From St. Eugene's Writings*

**August 1, 1854 (his 72nd birthday), extract from his Will:**



I the undersigned Charles Joseph Eugene de Mazenod, Bishop of Marseilles, see fit to make my will in my own hand as follows....

I implore God's mercy, by the merits of our divine Saviour Jesus Christ in whom I place all my trust, to obtain pardon for my sins and the grace of my soul being received in holy paradise.

... It would be my wish that the poor form part of the cortege that is customarily summoned for the burial of bishops. They will be represented by two of their number chosen by the parish priest in each parish of my episcopal city. These thirty-two poor people will be dressed out at the expense of my heirs. The dress given them will consist in jacket, waistcoat, trousers, a pair of socks, a pair of shoes and hat. Whatever time of year it is I die, these garments must be good for the winter.

While I do not doubt the charity of my heirs, who will certainly not overlook anything to procure the relief of my soul after my death ... they will have three thousand Masses said for the repose of my soul. A thousand of these Masses will be said by the priests of my diocese, and two thousand by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, distributed in the various countries of the world. †

Ideas or comments are welcome.

The Mission Enrichment Newsletter for those working with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate is published six times a year.

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## Male and Female God Created Them

(taken from *From Wild Man to Wise Man, Reflections on Male Spirituality*  
by Richard Rohr, OFM)

... For countless ages human culture and society have emphasized the differences between men and women rather than their underlying unity.... Our society has taught us to regard the opposite sex with suspicion, and our culture has bred in us a spirit of competition for different forms of power....

In recent years theologians in the Third World have made it very clear that much of the gospel proclaimed by Jesus and lived by the early church was concerned with liberation in this world. "As now, so later!" **The "good news" (which is the root meaning of the word gospel) is that people can be freed from the oppression, illusion and death that binds them.**

Heaven is only its continuation. The first people to accept and respond to the gospel message of liberation were, of course, the poor and the powerless. They were blessed because they knew that they were unwhole



continued on page 3

## Five Short Chapters on Change –Source Unknown

**Chapter 1:** I walk down a street and there's a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. It takes forever to get out. It's my fault.

**Chapter 2:** I walk down the same street. I fall in the hole again. It still takes a long time to get out. It's not my fault.

**Chapter 3:** I walk down the same

street. I fall in the hole again. It's becoming a habit. It is my fault. I get out immediately.

**Chapter 4:** I walk down the same street and see the deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

**Chapter 5:** I walk down a different street.

## Words of Wisdom - Native American Code of Ethics

1. Rise with the sun to pray. Pray alone. Pray often. The Great Spirit will listen, if you only speak.
2. Be tolerant of those who are lost on their path. Ignorance, conceit, anger, jealousy and greed stem from a lost soul. Pray that they will find guidance.
3. Search for yourself, by yourself. Do not allow others to make your path for you. It is your road and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you.
4. Treat the guests in your home with much consideration. Serve them the best food, give them the best bed and treat them with respect and honor.
5. Do not take what is not yours whether from a person, a community, the wilderness or from a culture. If it was not earned or given, it is not yours.
6. Respect all things that are placed upon this earth - whether it be people or plant.
7. Honor other people's thoughts, wishes and words. Never interrupt another or mock or rudely mimic them. Allow each person the right to personal expression.
8. Never speak of others in a bad way. The negative energy that you put out into the universe will multiply when it returns to you.
9. All persons make mistakes. And all mistakes can be forgiven.
10. Bad thoughts cause illness of the mind, body and spirit. Practice optimism.
11. Nature is not FOR us, it is a PART of us. They are part of your worldly family.
12. Children are the seeds of our future. Plant love in their hearts and water them with wisdom and life's lessons. When they are grown, give them space to grow.
13. Avoid hurting the hearts of others. The poison of your pain will return to you.
14. Be truthful at all times. Honesty is the test of one's will within this universe.
15. Keep yourself balanced. Your Mental self, Spiritual self, Emotional self, and Physical self - all need to be strong, pure and healthy. Work out the body to strengthen the mind. Grow rich in spirit to cure emotional ails.
16. Make conscious decisions as to who you will be and how you will react. Be responsible for your own actions.
17. Respect the privacy and personal space of others. Do not touch the personal property of others - especially sacred and religious objects. This is forbidden.
18. Be true to yourself first. You cannot nurture and help others if you cannot nurture and help yourself first.
19. Respect other's religious beliefs. Do not force your belief on others.
20. Share your good fortune with others. Participate in charity.



## Sad Minnesota Passing



Please join me in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday in Minneapolis of a yeast infection and traumatic complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71.

Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies, and Captain Crunch. The gravesite was piled high with flours. Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded.

Born and bread in Minnesota, Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not regarded as a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes.

Despite being a little flaky at times, he still was a crusty old man and served as a positive roll model for millions. Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough, three children: John Dough, Jane Dough and Dosey Dough, plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart.

The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 min.

If you smiled while reading this, please rise to the occasion and pass it on to someone having a crummy day and kneading a lift. †

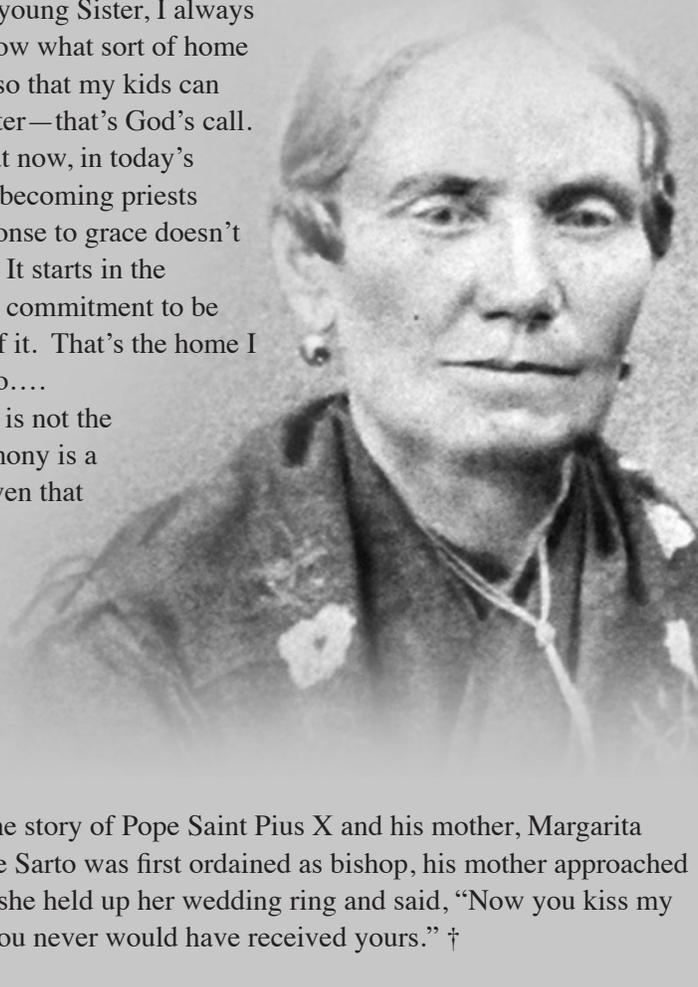
# BE IN THE WORLD – BUT NOT OF IT...

by Susie Lloyd (from *Catholic Digest*, December 2013)

Whenever I meet a talented young priest or a lively young Sister, I always want to know what sort of home they came from—not so that my kids can become a priest or Sister—that’s God’s call. I find it fascinating that now, in today’s world, people are still becoming priests and Sisters. This response to grace doesn’t come out of nowhere. It starts in the formative years with a commitment to be in the world, but not of it. That’s the home I am called to create, too....

A religious vocation is not the only vocation. Matrimony is a sacrament—one of seven that Christ himself reaches his hand into our materialistic world, touches it, and makes it fruitful. It is there that a child’s formation begins.

Famously, there is the story of Pope Saint Pius X and his mother, Margarita Sarto. When Giuseppe Sarto was first ordained as bishop, his mother approached to kiss his ring. Then she held up her wedding ring and said, “Now you kiss my ring—for without it, you never would have received yours.” †



## Courage To Face Up To Ethical Challenges

by Gen. C.C. Krulak, USMC,  
Commandant (USA TODAY, August 11, 1998)

“We are not born with character. It is developed by the experiences and decisions that guide our lives. Each individual creates, develops and nurtures his or her own character. Being a man or woman of character is no easy task. It requires tough decisions, many of which put you at odds with the more commonly accepted social morés of the times.

Making the right ethical choices must become a habit. Decisions cannot be situational, based on other’s actions or dependent upon whom is watching.

Cowardliness in character, manifested by a lack of integrity, or honor, will sooner or later manifest itself as cowardliness in other forms. People who have the courage to face up to the ethical challenges in their daily lives, to remain faithful to sacred oaths, have a reservoir of strength from which to draw upon in times of great stress—in the heat of battle.” †

## Prayer by Trevor Sutton

Long hours and even longer days have taken their toll on me, Lord. Work leaves me both physically and mentally drained; it is as if I live to work rather than work to live.

My God, strengthen me to carry the crosses of work so that I can more clearly see your work in and through me. You know of the struggles I have at work, even those that I hide from everyone else. Breathe new life into my vocation. Amen.

## Male and Female continued from front page



and in need of healing/salvation (Matthew 5:3-12).

Much of Jesus’ teaching, however, was directed not at the poor but at the rich; not at the weak but at the powerful. Jesus evidently saw the oppressors (often typified in the first three Gospels as “the scribes and Pharisees”) with an even greater need because they were trapped by their own self-sufficiency (Matthew 23:13-39). We know that it is still true today. The rich are deprived by their own wealth, the powerful are victimized by their own positions, the oppressors are oppressed by their own domination. They hardly ever see it that way, but try to think of a great spiritual teaching in any of the world religions who does not say such things.

The liberating gospel of Jesus is that salvation is found not in domination but in partnership, not in power-wielding but in power-sharing. The poor are not saved by robbing the rich. †

# IN-BETWEEN TIMES

(from *A Time for Being Human*  
by Eugene Kennedy, pp. 31-34)

These represent the no man's land of life, a place we have all visited but no one has successfully charted. We find ourselves there, like it or not, sometimes when it is the very last place we want to be. In-between times abound in everybody's life. They come in different shapes and under different headings, but the essential dynamic is similar in all of them.

In-between time is that space between the preparation and the event, between the over-and-done-with and the not-yet, the place we stand after we have given of ourselves but when we are not sure just how it is going to be received. It is something like waiting for your report card. Sometimes it is closer to waiting for the jury to come back or for your loan to be approved or for your X-rays to be examined by the doctor. Writer's live in it when they are waiting for the critics' reviews. There are elements of testing involved in it, but there is never any completely final exam. We just keep getting tested over and over again in a wide variety of ways throughout our lives.

This is not an experience to be ignored or overcome, not one to be branded as evil although it has elements of discomfort and tension. In-between times do offer us an occasion to learn more about ourselves and to deepen our grasp on our identity and on the meaning of our lives....

There is no doubt that we can pretend that an in-between time does not really affect us. We can whistle though the dark or play it cool, consciously distracting ourselves but neither interrupting nor delaying the unconscious processes that are at work within us. We make ourselves more vulnerable by failing to acknowledge the possibility of our own disappointment. We complicate our lives by trying to shield ourselves

from living in the midst of the crowding, hard truths of our existence....

It is not easy to live with hard knocks and disappointment, but if we can hold on to a sense of ourselves, building on the fact that we have done our best with as much integrity as possible, we can emerge with a deepened sense of ourselves. **In-between times and their tensions allow us to gather ourselves together so that we can face the emerging truth more honestly. We have to look it straight in the eye so that we can live with an integrated sense of ourselves. Believing in ourselves in these moments does help to make us whole, perhaps on a smaller scale than we would have liked, but whole nonetheless....**

An in-between time makes us sure of one thing. When it is over we will be different, one way or another. And the direction and the meaning of the change are uncontrollable only if we ignore ourselves or shrug off the experience or fail to take it as a time to learn the lessons of life.

Life is filled with such gaps. Sometimes it seems that there are more gaps in life than closed places. We are always living in the gaps, in the spaces

"If 50 million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing."

~Anatole France  
(1844-1924), Writer



in-between, in the hard-to-track open areas where everything that is important happens to us. One gap closes and another one opens with a subtlety of timing that is mysterious. Life is like a vast, shifting field, rippled now this way and now that by the wind. Something is always opening as something else closes, and it is our willingness to inhabit the gaps of our existence that enables us fully to come to terms with the meaning of our lives. We can look elsewhere but we will never find ourselves more truth than in the in-between times. †



**MINISTRY IS WHAT WE LEAVE IN OUR WAKE  
AS WE FOLLOW JESUS.**

~ Gerald Hartis