

# BUILDING A CIVILIZATION OF LOVE

Official Family Newsletter of the Archdiocese of KCK



## LOVE BEYOND MEASURE

BY ANNIE KYLE

He finally let go the moment she walked into the hospice room. His health had declined since the stroke he had three months earlier. He received last rites, the apostolic pardon, and was nearly ready to go home to eternal rest. The only thing he must've wanted, was to see his bride of over 50 years one last time. As soon as she entered the room, his monitor flatlined and he was gone.

My grandfather always knew that my grandmother was the one from the moment he laid eyes on her. Although she could hardly stand him the first time they met, with a little persistence she agreed to go on a date with him...then on another...and another. Until one day, when she agreed to spend the rest of her life with him. They were married in the Church where they vowed to love one another in good times and in bad. It was these vows that not only shone throughout their marriage but proved their love to be truly beyond measure.

They struggled with infertility and waited eight years before welcoming my mother into the world, and later would lose their second child to a miscarriage. They donated innumerable amounts of time, talents, and money to their parish and sat in the same pew every week at mass. Devoting their lives to their community and family, they not only housed my great grandmother for 20 years until her death but also provided for my great aunt and her children after her husband left when she was diagnosed with MS. They doted on my brothers and me as their pride and joy grandchildren and would find any opportunity to brag about us! They enjoyed early morning cups of coffee, growing tomatoes in the summer, and hosting every Christmas. They struggled, grieved, laughed, hoped, and devoted every day of their married lives to one another. To this day, they are the greatest witness of love and sacrifice I have ever known and truly demonstrate the theme of this year's NFP week "Love Beyond Measure".

Every year in July, the Church invites us to reflect on the beauty of NFP and how it calls married couples to love one another freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully. This year, Pope Francis has also called us to recognize Grandparents and their crucial roles in society by designating St. Anne & St. Joachim's feast day (July 26th) as World Grandparents Day. As I reflect on the love and witness of my own grandparents I cannot help but think of all those who have gone before us as witnesses of sacrifice and commitment, especially in a world where that has become more and more fleeting. This NFP week I pray that we may reflect on not only the richness of the calling to marital love but the great love stories that surround us from our grandparent's generation. May they awaken the yearning in our hearts to love and to be loved as God truly intended: beyond measure!

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# Worthy of Heaven

9 Days of Reflection on Marriage

inspired by the lives of Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin

By Brad & Libby DuPont

*Marriage and family life can be challenging. Lucky for us, we have friends in heaven who encountered many of the same struggles as ours, and who can lend us their prayerful support. The next nine days will be part retreat, part novena, with a chance each day to learn a little bit about Sts. Louis and Zelig, to reflect on your own experience, and to pray for yourself and others. Whether you time these reflections with the Martins' Feast day of July 12th or not, we hope you will be greatly blessed by their example and their intercession.*

*Set aside a time each day for these meditations. If you have a regular prayer time, that would be perfect, but it could be before bed, while sitting at a kid's practice, while eating your breakfast, etc. You can spend as much or as little time with these as you need or have, but having the time set in advance will make a big difference. As much as you think you'll just "get to it sometime", if it's not set, you probably won't!*

*Do you journal? Jot down one small take-away each day.*

*Do it together. If you and your spouse work through this material during the same 9 days, it could lead to some great discussions. Your spouse not on board? That's okay! Stick with us. One partner's steps will change the dance.*

*Miss a day? Just pick up where you left off. There's no wrong way to do this retreat. Don't be tempted to give up because you think you're not doing it perfectly.*

## DAY 1: UNANSWERED PRAYERS

Garth Brooks once sang, "Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers." This is surely true in the case of Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin, who both desired to enter religious life as young people. When that path didn't work out for either of them, they stayed close to God, and soon met one another. As a result, they ended up sending five daughters to the convent and, in 2015, became the first married couple canonized together. God certainly has a sense of humor!

Reflect:

- How do I react when God doesn't answer my prayers in the way that I want?
- What "unanswered prayers" am I grateful for?
- What difficult situations right now can I surrender to God's perfect will?

Let us pray:

Lord, please bless all of our loved ones and all married couples facing difficult circumstances. Through the intercession of Sts. Louis and Zelig, turn all their disappointments into a plan more wonderful than they could have imagined. Give us the strength we need to face our own "unanswered prayers" with trust in you. Amen.

**Want the rest of the retreat? Click [HERE!](#)**

"God gave me a father & mother more worthy of heaven than of earth."

-SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX



# COVERED IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS

BY ANNIE KYLE

As a person who has struggled in the past with crippling anxiety, I often found comfort in reflecting on the First Sorrowful Mystery of our Lord's Agony in the Garden. Not only was it a place that I could sit with our Lord and unite my own mental suffering with His but it also drew me into the immense emotion that He felt to the point of sweating blood. This most precious blood which would later be spilled at the scourging of the pillar, seep into the cloth of Veronica, gush with water from His pierced side, and above all pay the price of our sins became a place of refuge and comfort for me.



In recent years, this devotion to His most Precious Blood and the power that it holds has provided me with confidence in our Lord's compassion for my anxieties and fears. In fact, I continue to call upon the power of the Most Precious Blood in times of need and ask Jesus (sometimes multiple times a day) to cover me and my loved ones under its protection and mercy. It is a small action that has proven to increase my faith and confidence in His goodness.

The month of July, dedicated to The Most Precious Blood, is the perfect opportunity to not only grow closer to Our Lord but to dive deeper into this devotion and the impact it can have in our lives. (Especially during this year of the Eucharistic Congress!) By teaching our families and friends to call upon the Blood of Jesus in times of trouble we will hopefully begin to release control of our lives into His gentle and compassionate hands. Let us ask ourselves, "Do we truly believe in the power of the blood of Christ? Are we willing to give into it's abundant sweetness? What are the places in my life that I need to offer up to His protection instead of my own grasping?" I pray that this devotion may bring you comfort and peace, especially in a world that offers so little. Blood of Christ, Be our Salvation!

## RESOURCES AND MORE INFORMATION:

- [Litany of the Most Precious Blood](#)
- [The Precious Blood Devotion- 5 Ways to Pray \(Catholic Mom\)](#)
- [Chaplet of the Precious Blood of Jesus](#)
- [Novena to the Precious Blood](#)
- [The Precious Blood Devotion - Living Divine Mercy TV Show \(EWTN\) Ep. 43](#)
- [Scientific Evidence for Eucharistic Miracles- Pints With Aquinas](#)
- [Eucharistic Congress Website](#)

# KEEP THE FEAST!

"ON THE FEASTS OF THE SAINTS CONSIDER THEIR VIRTUES, AND BESEECH GOD TO DEIGN TO ADORN YOU WITH THEM."

-ST. TERESA OF JESUS

## July 3rd, Saint Thomas, Apostle

- St. Thomas is known by many as doubting Thomas and above all as one of Jesus' apostles. Thomas would later go to India and spread the Gospel to the people there until he was martyred with a spear. Remember this Indian missionary by making a traditional [Mango Lassi](#), a dessert drink much like a smoothie.

## July 4th, Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati

- Celebrate this vibrant Italian saint by making a favorite Turin dessert, [Panna Cotta](#). This [recipe](#) with a raspberry sauce could also be topped with fresh blueberries to make a nod to the Red, White, and Blue colors of Fourth of July! Verso L'alto!

## July 6th, Saint Maria Goretti

- After her death Maria Goretti appeared to her killer when he was in jail and presented him with 14 lilies. Forgiving him for each time he stabbed her. Not only did he confess and reconcile with God but later he would go to her canonization alongside her mother in 1950. Celebrate this merciful saint by making these [Lily Cookies](#) filled with sweet cream and jam. (Note: Be sure to convert from Celsius to Fahrenheit)

## July 11th, Saint Benedict

- There is an old tradition that one time St. Benedict was given poisoned bread by a priest who was jealous of him. Knowing the bread was poisoned, Benedict gave it to a friendly raven that he often fed, ordering him to dispose of it. The story goes that the raven flew off with the bread in his beak and got rid of it as requested. Honor this miracle and saint by making your own [Italian Loaf of Bread](#) and retelling this story to your little ones.

## July 12th, Saints Louis & Zelie Martin

- St. Zelie reflects that when she first saw her future husband walking on a street she heard a voice say, "This is the one I have prepared for you." They would later become the first married couple to be canonized together. In honor of the lace maker and clock maker try making these [Lace Cookies](#).

## July 22nd, Saint Mary Magdalene

- Mary Magdalene was known for her great capacity to love and her faithfulness to our Lord even at his death on the cross. She would later be the first person he appeared to after His resurrection. Remember this tender saint with this [sweet treat](#) namesake for her,

## July 26th, Saints Joachim and Anne (World Grandparents Day)

- Celebrate the grandparents of Jesus by making time for your own grandparents today! Visit them and offer to take them out to dinner. Invite them over for an old movie that they enjoy or offer to come do work for them at their house. If your grandparents have already passed away spend an hour in adoration or a church praying for their souls, or visit their gravesite and bring flowers in remembrance of them!

## July 29th, Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

- Did you know Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were some of Jesus' best friends? Celebrate this day by spending time and serving your closest friends and family members. Devote an hour to simply catch up with a friend you have not heard from, like Mary of Bethany would. Or offer to cook a friend a meal or help them with a house project as Martha would. Regardless of what you do, be sure to thank God at the end of the day for the gift of friends in our life! You can even try making this recipe for [Friendship Bread](#) which makes two loaves so that you can share one with someone close!

# The Striving Saint: Resources that Inspire the Road to Sainthood



## FEATURED RESOURCE

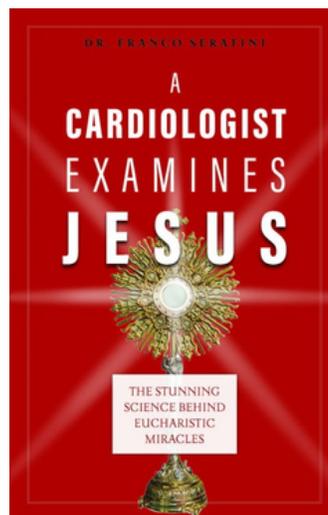
### THE CATHOLIC MONEY SUMMIT

“From the earliest days of the Church, the faithful have been given guidance on how to use our finances as disciples of Christ. The Catholic Money Summit was designed to make the financial wisdom of the Church easy to understand and easy to learn. We've gathered dozens of Catholic leaders and financial experts to explore how the timeless beauty of Catholicism can illuminate our decisions and habits with money.” Get your FREE ticket [HERE!](#)

## FEATURED BOOK

### A CARDIOLOGIST EXAMINES JESUS

“In this astounding book, prominent cardiologist and author Dr. Franco Serafini walks us through the extensive medical and scientific research into five Eucharistic miracles, unveiling the stunning testimonies of hematologists, oncologists, neurologists, geneticists, molecular biologists, and more who all concluded the same thing: the five Eucharistic miracles are undeniably authentic.”



## FEATURED SHOW

### THE CHOSEN - SEASON 4 NOW AVAILABLE

“Finally! "Soon" is now. We not only have some great news for you about Season 4, but we also have some great and important news about our future. Thank you for your patience as we've had to navigate through this challenging legal situation. We've hated that you've had to wait, especially after the incredible response from those who saw Season 4 in theaters. [Here](#) Dallas gives you the WHEN and, most important, the HOW to watch these upcoming episodes. He also takes you through the truth of how we got here and why this delay was essential to our future. This is our most intense and impactful season yet, and we're so excited to bring it to you free and easy.” Watch The Chosen [HERE!](#)





## Catholic Mom

HOLY CROSS  
FAMILY MINISTRIES

## FEATURED ACTIVITY

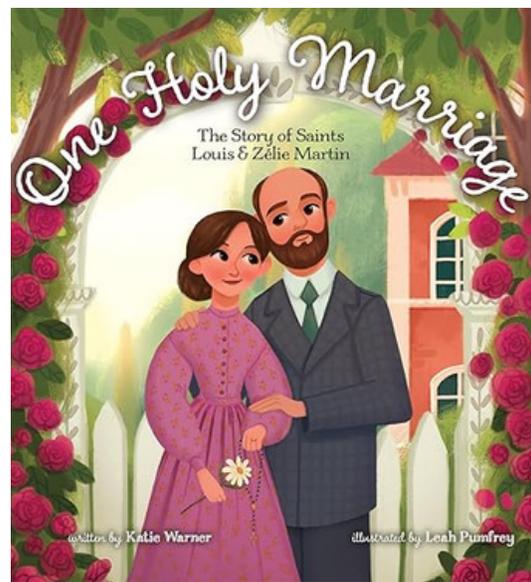
### CATHOLIC MOM- SUNDAY GOSPEL ACTIVITIES

“Enjoy Catholic coloring pages, lesson plans, Mass worksheets, puzzles, and more to help you prepare for Sunday Mass. These activities, prepared by our Sunday Gospel Team, are free for you to print and share with your family, classroom, or parish. Thank you for your support and prayers for the volunteers who compile these activities and provide them freely.”

## FEATURED BOOK

### ONE HOLY MARRIAGE

“Uncover the beauty of the Sacrament of Marriage through the quiet, virtuous lives of Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, the first married saints in history to be canonized together. This beautiful picture book biography captures the hearts of both child and adult readers, introducing them to the inspirational parents of the Little Flower, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, and bringing to life G.K. Chesterton's observation: “The most extraordinary thing in the world is an ordinary man and an ordinary woman and their ordinary children.”



## FEATURED VIDEO

### HOLY KIDS: EUCHARIST SERIES

“Help your child learn about the Holy Eucharist with the help of the Sisters of Pro Ecclesia Sancta.”

E1 The Last Supper - Watch [HERE](#)

E2 The Mass - Watch [HERE](#)

E3 Finding Jesus - Watch [HERE](#)

E4 Sent on a Mission - Watch [HERE](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## HEAR WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT OUR LEAD COUPLE TRAINING & INVOLVEMENT

“ Each time we mentor another couple we are more connected and at peace and “in love” like we were when we first met, but even better. At our age and with grown kids (and one grandchild), people ask us if we are newlyweds. ”

### THE OFFICE OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE



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**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!**  
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- ♥ **-EVERMORE IN LOVE WEEKEND IMMERSIONS**  
Formerly called the Living in Love retreat, this weekend is packed with insights and exercises that will help you experience the wonder of being more in love!
- ♥ **AUGUST 17-18, CHRIST THE KING, TOPEKA**  
Cost: \$150 per couple  
Scholarships available contact [ruth@evermoreinlove.org](mailto:ruth@evermoreinlove.org)  
Register [HERE!](#)
- ♥ **AUGUST 24-25, PRINCE OF PEACE, OLATHE**  
Cost: \$150 per couple  
Scholarships available contact [ruth@evermoreinlove.org](mailto:ruth@evermoreinlove.org)  
Register [HERE!](#)
- ♥ **-MENTOR COUPLE COME AND SEE**  
JULY 15TH 7-8:30 PM  
QUEEN OF THE HOLY ROSARY IN OVERLAND PARK
- ♥ **-RETROUVAILLE KC MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND**  
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25-27, 2024  
Retrouvaille is a lifeline for marriages...to help couples heal and renew their hurting marriages. It's a practical program to improve communication, and help couples reconnect. Presenters are not marriage counselors, but rather couples sharing their personal stories of marital struggles and the tools they used to rediscover their love. It's Catholic in origin, but all faiths are welcomed. Registration closes October 24th! Register [HERE!](#)
- ♥ **-WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**  
SAVIOR PASTORAL CENTER, KCK  
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024  
Over a weekend or in seven three-hour sessions, the Marriage Encounter experience will give you the tools to remain strong as a couple and be a united force to provide a stable and loving environment for your children. As you become empty-nesters, you can use the same tools to continue growing and thriving in your relationship, living a lifetime love. Register [HERE!](#)

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AND OTHER EMAIL LISTS  
ON OUR FLOCKNOTE!**

