

Fall 2023

# belong



*Newsletter of the*  
**Concord-Carlisle Catholic Collaborative**

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**CC-Catholic.org**





## Autumn's Descent

a poem by **Janet Martin**

In dusty blues and rustic hues  
Her steps at first descend  
Then her hand sweeps all the land  
As glorious colors blend  
And, as we gaze at autumn's blaze  
Which sets the world a-fire  
It's like a breath of Heaven on earth  
To calm us and inspire

The red and gold that we behold  
O'er-takes the green and brown  
And each hillside so far and wide  
Is decked in autumn's gown  
The geese that fly across the sky  
In spite of autumn's smile  
Have felt the call of chilling fall  
Within each lofty mile

Man can't use or ever choose  
This perfect artistry  
Although they've tried with skillful pride  
To paint her pure beauty  
For up above a God of love  
Is in perfect control  
His touch will crown this glorious gown  
Which claims all nature's soul



# Thank You from Elwakana

Elwakana Community now has access to clean water! Thanks to your donation, we transformed their spring into a flowing source of naturally filtered water. We also installed a chlorine dispenser to provide added protection and trained the community on improved sanitation and hygiene practices. Together, these components will unlock the opportunity for community members to live better, healthier lives.

"Having access to reliable water will significantly improve our health and hygiene. We can now easily practice proper handwashing, which is crucial for preventing the spread of diseases. We can also maintain better personal hygiene, especially when it comes to cooking, cleaning, and sanitation, [and I] am saying this as a mother. Sometimes I used to fear for the health of my ten and 12-year-old [children] because of the water we used to drink," said 35-year-old farmer Christine Atinga.

Christine continued, "The availability of clean water opens up possibilities for various income-generating activities ideas I had. Some community members have small businesses, such as hotel food kiosks



Christine collecting water.



Community members collect grass for transplant.



Oliver at the spring



## Beginning Brickwork



kiosks at the market near the primary school. I can supply them with clean water at a fee to use for cooking and offering their customers after meals."

Children were just as excited as adults about the new water point.

"Things have become easier. I have a medical condition on my leg. Going to get water was so much [more] difficult [for me]. Sometimes, when it became difficult, I had to stay thirsty [and] wait until one of my family members was back from the farm, but now I can even go and get water during the night," said 13-year-old Oliver W.

"I know drinking clean water improves health. I will drink as much water as possible and be healthy," concluded Oliver.

## Preparing for Spring Protection

Community members worked together to source and carry all locally available construction materials to the spring. These included bricks, sand, stones, and fencing poles. Some people also chiseled away at large rocks to break them into gravel. Because people have to carry most items by hand, the material-collection process can take anywhere from a few weeks to months.

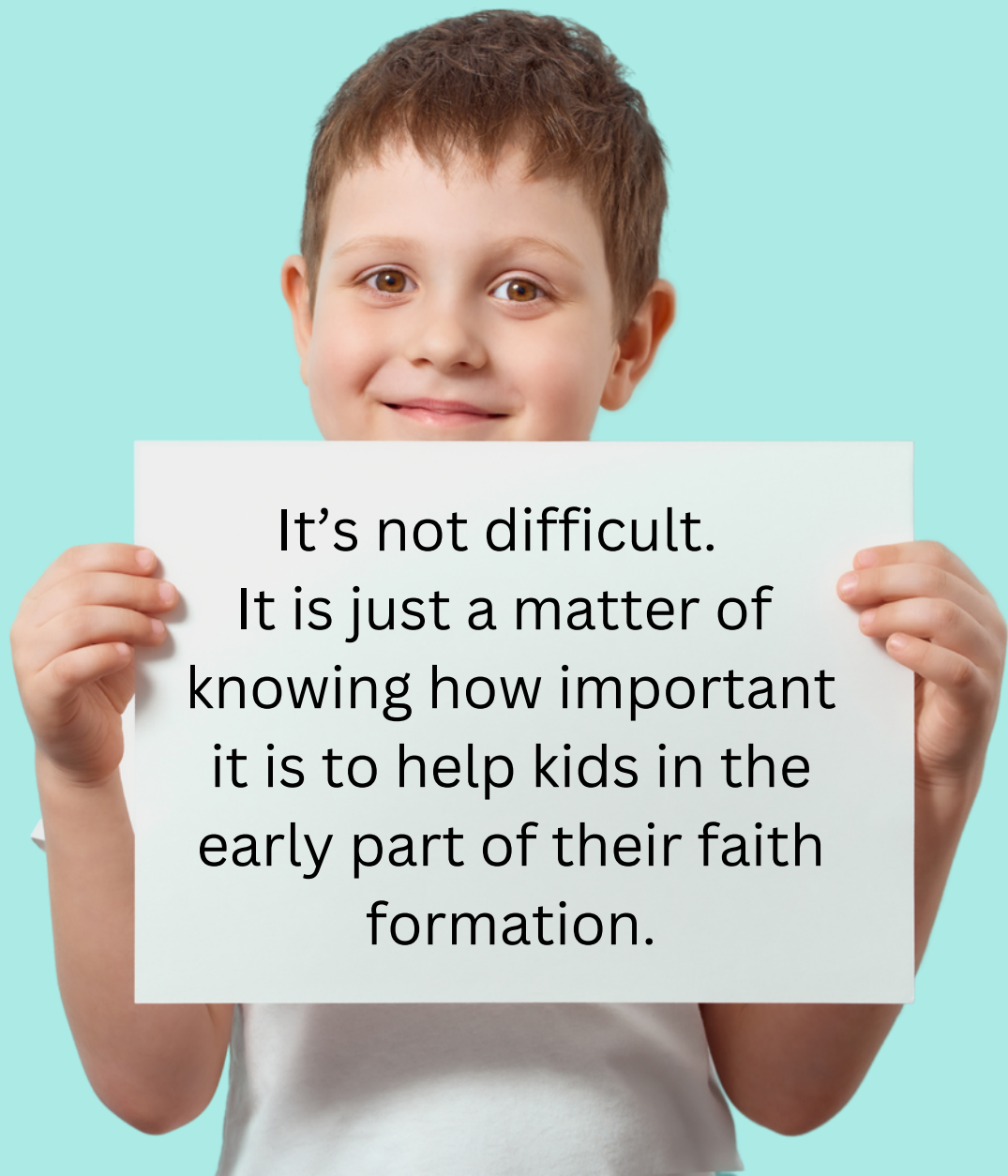
**[click to finish reading article...](#)**



# Catechists Needed

For more information, please  
contact Maria Rosen.

[MRosen@CC-Catholic.org](mailto:MRosen@CC-Catholic.org)



It's not difficult.  
It is just a matter of  
knowing how important  
it is to help kids in the  
early part of their faith  
formation.



# Review of Mass Questions of the Week

Hopefully you have been reading the parish's weekly bulletin and becoming more aware of some of the aspects and elements of the Holy Mass. If you have missed a couple of weeks or are just now learning of this opportunity, here is a review of the questions and answers thus far.

## **What is the “Collect”?**

The “collect” (pronounced KOL-ekt) is the proper name for the prayer concluding the opening rites of the Mass. The collect invites people to pray in silence for a moment and then offers a prayer to God drawn from the readings or feast of the day, or the purpose for which the Mass is being offered. The root Latin word for "collect" means “gather together.” The prayer was a means of gathering the faithful for worship and, thus, the opening act of the liturgy.

## **What are the Censer and Boat?**

Also known as the Thurible, the censer is sometimes used on solemn occasions to lead processions, incense the altar, the offertory gifts, the funeral casket, the clergy and congregation. The Boat holds the incense until it is placed in the censer. The smoke of incense is symbolic of sanctification and purification and of the prayers of the faithful rising up to God

## **What are the Corporal and Purificator?**

The corporal is the white linen cloth upon which the Eucharistic species (bread & wine) rest during Mass. All sacred vessels that hold the Blessed Sacrament are placed on the corporal to ensure no fragments of the Eucharist are lost. The purificator is also a white linen cloth (usually marked with a cross in the center) that is used to wipe the rim of the chalice following reception of the Precious Blood and to clean the sacred vessels after Holy Communion.

## **What are the Chalice and Ciborium?**

The chalice is a sacred vessel into which wine is placed to be consecrated as the Blood of Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass. The ciborium is a sacred vessel containing the Eucharistic Hosts distributed to the faithful at Mass during Communion. The ciborium is reserved in the tabernacle of the church with consecrated Hosts for distribution, above all, to those who are sick or near death, and also to encourage devotion and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass.



## **Mass Questions continued...**

### **What is the Tabernacle?**

The tabernacle is a liturgical furnishing used to house the Eucharist outside of Mass. This provides a location where the Eucharist can be kept for the adoration of the faithful and for later use (e.g., distribution of communion to the sick). The word tabernacle means “dwelling place.” The tabernacle in the church is so named because it is a place where Christ dwells in the Eucharist

### **What is the Paschal Candle?**


The Paschal (or Easter) Candle is a large ornamented candle which is first lit at the Easter Vigil and used during all Easter season liturgies. This candle is one of the primary symbols of the risen Christ. It is also lit for Baptism and funeral liturgies as a reminder of the centrality of the Paschal Mystery in the Christian life

### **What are the Roman Missal and Lectionary?**

The Roman Missal is the large book used by the celebrant that contains the prayers, directives, and rubrics for the celebration of the Mass. The Lectionary is a liturgical book containing the Scripture readings proclaimed at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word

### **What are the Paten & Ciborium?**

The Paten is a shallow dish that holds the unleavened bread which becomes the Body of Christ at the consecration of the Mass; it must be gold or gold-plated. The Ciborium is the bowl to hold hosts for communion and also to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle



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for the Weekly Bulletin](#)



# Walking with Purpose

This study provides a firm foundation to stand on no matter what life throws our way. With an emphasis on healing and wholeness, Fearless and Free is the most personal and transformative study that Walking with Purpose offers.



**Weekly Fall session  
runs until January 10**

**[Click Here to learn more](#)**



A large, detailed bronze statue of St. Michael the Archangel, standing with wings spread wide, holding a sword aloft in his right hand and a staff in his left. The statue is set against a clear blue sky.

# Knights of Columbus Into the Breach

A call to battle for Catholic men, urging them to embrace masculine virtues in a world at crisis.  
Join us in discussion of the Apostolic Exhortation: **Into the Breach**.

All men of Holy Family and St. Irene Parishes  
are invited to join us for fellowship.

Monthly Tuesday evening sessions will be held at both  
Monument Hall, Concord & St. Irene Parish Hall

[Click Here](#)





The St. Irene's Women's Club was established in 1946 to give the parish women an opportunity to meet socially and to work on projects that helps the church, both financially and socially, and provides for people in need in the local area.



A number of activities are planned for the coming year. These activities include a combination of religious, fundraising, and social activities.



Religious activities include an outdoor rosary in honor of Mary's birthday. It will take place in the Mary Grotto at St. Irene's in October. Another rosary in the grotto is planned for Mary's month, May. Two Soup and Bread Suppers are planned before the Stations of the Cross for Lent.

Fundraising activities include making apple pies for Thanksgiving and boxwood trees for Christmas. Proceeds from these events will go to local food pantries and area families in need during the holiday season.



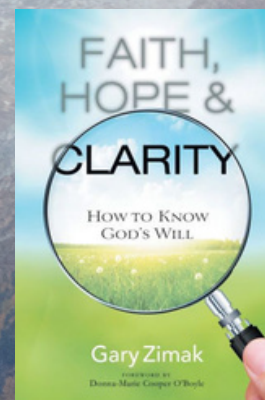
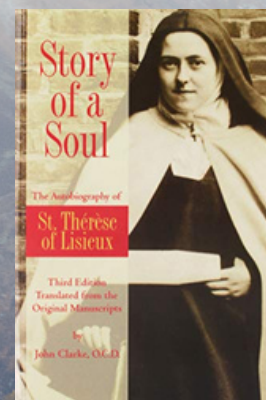
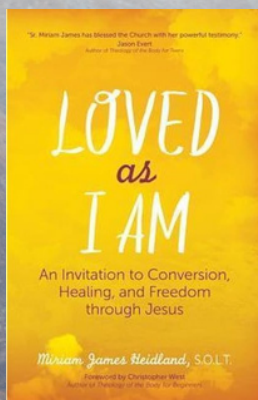
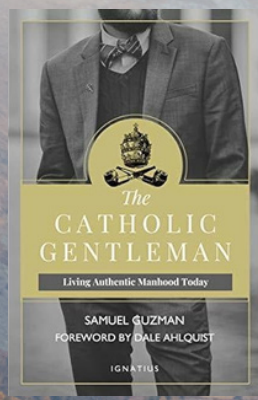
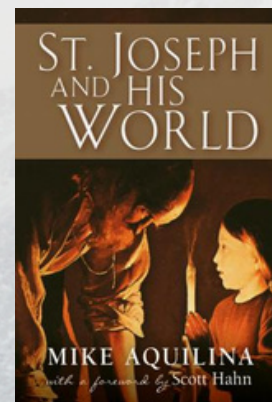
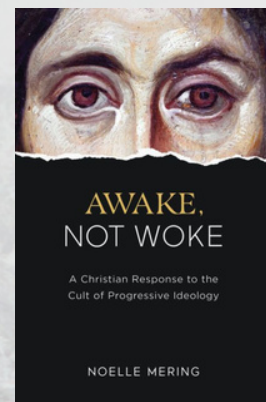
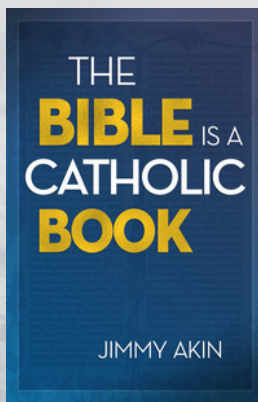
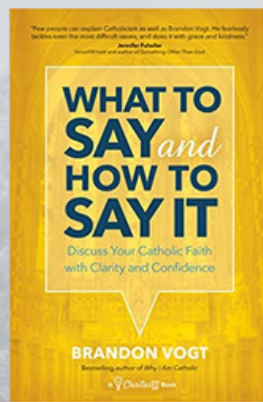
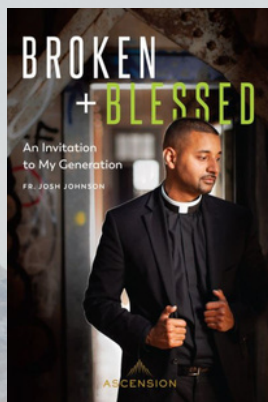
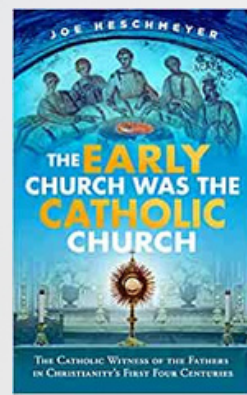
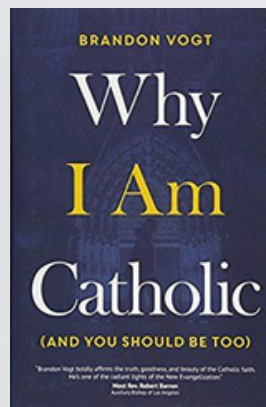
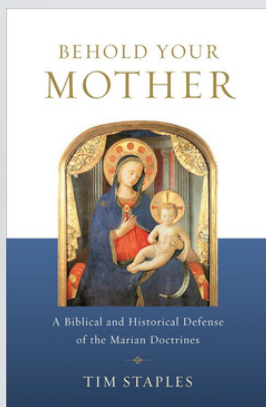
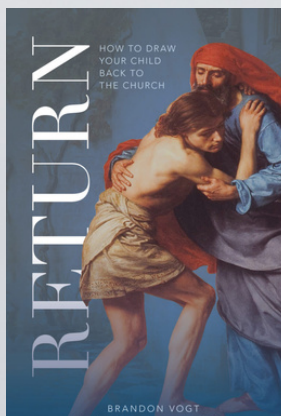
Fun activities include a pot luck supper in September, a craft night in October, a Christmas Party and Yankee Swap in December, a pizza and bingo night in January. An end of the year banquet for members is planned for May.

A fun activity for the Concord Carlisle Collaborative parishioners, an Italian Dinner, is also part of our program in April. Proceeds from the dinner will also go to local causes.

Please consider joining the Women's Club. All women in the Holy Family/St. Irene's Collaborative are welcome. For more information, please contact us via email – [womenclub@cc-catholic.org](mailto:womenclub@cc-catholic.org).



# Recommended Reading



JUST CLICK  
THE COVERS



Some of these titles as well as many others  
are available for free as E-Books on

**FORMED**

Click Here



# ST. JOSEPH: THE MODEL OF MANHOOD

Author: Sam Guzman

*St. Joseph was an ordinary sort of man on whom God relied to do great things. He did exactly what the Lord wanted him to do, in each and every event that went to make up his life.*

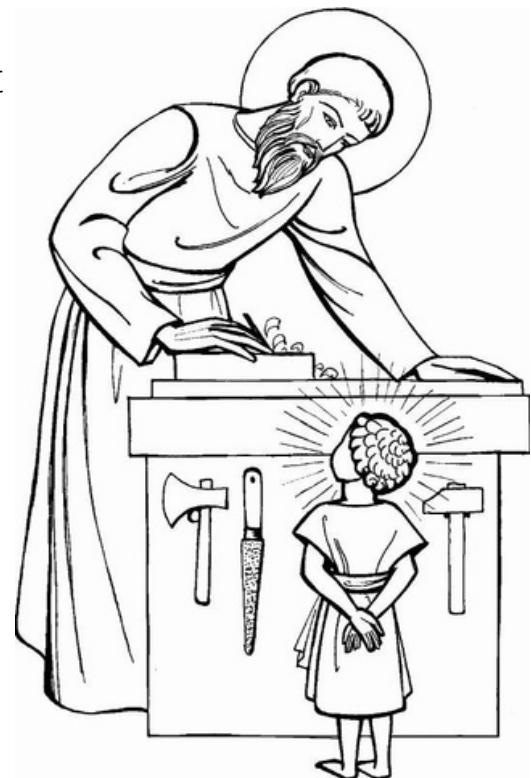
*– St. Josemaria Escriva*

Recently, I have been growing in devotion to St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. St. Joseph is the model for every man. But, you might say, we know so little about him! How can we imitate a man we barely know? Actually, we know more about St. Joseph than you might think. Here are five attributes of St. Joseph that every man can imitate.

**1. St. Joseph was a righteous man** – Scripture refers to Joseph as a “righteous” man (Matthew 1:19). In other words, he was a holy and devout Jew who fulfilled the two greatest commandments— he loved the Lord his God with all his heart and strength, and he loved his neighbor as himself. He was also a man of prayer who knew the Psalms and the Mosaic Law inside and out, and, like all devout Jews, he prayed at least 3 times daily. He fulfilled all that was required of him with a humble heart of worship, not legalism. Unlike the Pharisees, he understood the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

As Catholics, we can imitate St. Joseph by giving God the first place in our lives and by loving our neighbor selflessly. We can fulfill the commandments of Holy Mother Church without grumbling or complaining. After all, the law of the Church is incredibly easy to fulfill, especially in comparison to the Mosaic law. We should be men of prayer, reading Scripture and sanctifying each day with prayer.

**2. St. Joseph loved Jesus** – Joseph was entrusted with the care of Jesus, the Son of God. While this is an awe-inspiring thought, his encounters with Jesus were those of a normal father. He held Jesus lovingly in the stable at Bethlehem. He helped him learn to walk.





When Jesus hurt himself (as all little boys do), he comforted him. They prayed together, they talked together, they spent many long hours in the shop together working with their hands.

In short, St. Joseph had the deep love a father for Jesus. If you've ever had children, you know the kind of love I'm talking about. And guess what? Jesus loved St. Joseph, and he loves you and I with all the fiery intensity of Divine Love. We can imitate St. Joseph by loving Jesus fervently and by giving our lives to him.

**3. St. Joseph loved Mary** – Imagine being married to the perfect woman. You could say, “My wife is the Queen of the Universe” with a straight face. In one sense, it must have been the most humbling job ever given to a man. In another sense, though, Joseph loved Mary devotedly as his wife— because that’s exactly what she was. He would have died to protect her honor. When she was distraught, he comforted her. When she was tired, she leaned on him. He patiently listened to her and he worked long hours to provide for her. He was the best husband to the greatest woman who ever lived.

Every man should have a devotion to Mary (I will write more on this in the future). She is our mother and our Queen. Let’s love her, protect her honor, and give ourselves to her like St. Joseph did.

**4. St. Joseph embraced work** – St. Joseph is known “the worker.” He worked so hard that work is forever identified with his name. He wasn’t a lazy procrastinator, and he didn’t idolize comfort and ease as we so often do. He labored with his hands to provide for his wife and Son, and no task was too insignificant for him. He poured his body and soul into his daily duties, and this work was an act of worship and prayer.

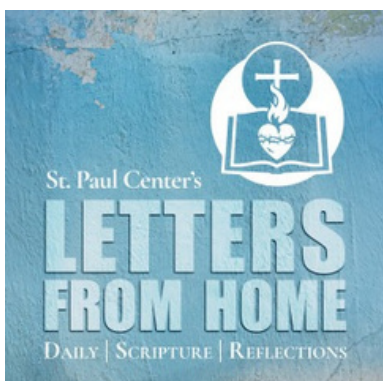
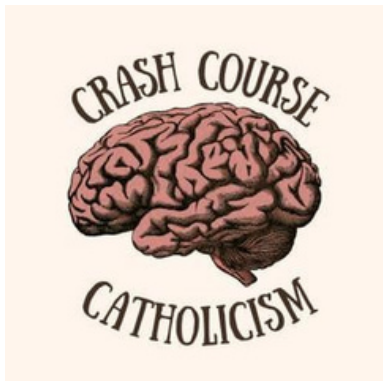
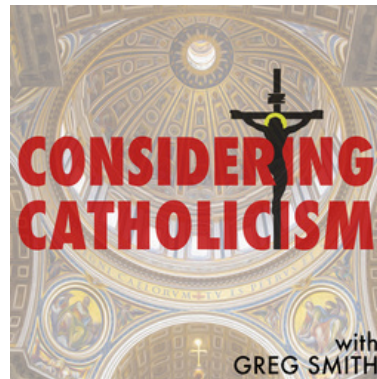
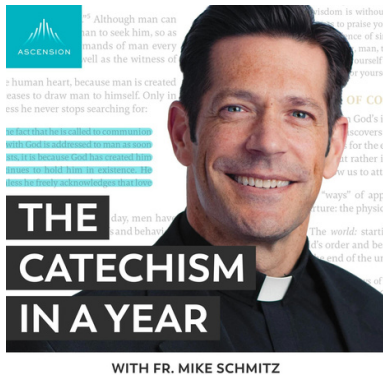
As men, we are called to embrace our work like St. Joseph, no matter how mundane it may be. Whether we are business professionals, in the military, craftsman, graphic designers, professors, writers, or anything else we can glorify God with the labor of our minds and bodies.



# Community Picks: Podcasts

The single easiest thing any of us can do to breath new life into deepening our relationship with Christ, beside prayer of course, is to listen to Catholic podcasts while driving...or working or sitting around. Just synch your phone and invite the Spirit along for the ride.

Here are eight podcasts chosen by members of our faith community that serve them well in their day-to-day efforts to grow closer to our Lord.





# Why do Catholics Venerate Relics?

by Michael R. Heinlein - Article used with permission of SimplyCatholic.com

Although more than a common part of Catholic culture and practice, the veneration of relics has been practiced less during the last 50 years or so. But that seems to be changing in recent years, as a number of saintly relics have been traversing the United States, attracting large numbers of the faithful. Relics seem to be making a comeback, and in a big way.

And yet the veneration of relics in the Catholic tradition can be misunderstood easily. At first glance it can appear to be displaced praise. Critics would falsely claim that praise or worship is accorded to the relic or saint rather than God himself, who, of course, is rightly the only subject of all worship.

A proper understanding of relic veneration, however, is best achieved with an appropriate approach. It would simply be incoherent to think that a Catholic or Christian would offer praise and worship to anyone other than God. And yet, honoring the saints — and their relics — is also an important part of what we do.

In order to develop a proper understanding of the place of relics in the Christian tradition, it might be helpful to consider them within a different context — that of family. It's not uncommon for many people to honor the memory of their loved ones by keeping pictures of family around the house. Nor is it uncommon to keep cherished belongings of our deceased loved ones, like grandma's jewelry or grandpa's Bible. These belongings likely are treasured, and treated with honor and reverence. They're kept in safe and honorable places. They're well-packaged when we move. They're often handed on from one generation to the next. These secular "relics" assist us in recalling the person and his or her life, and the memories that remind us of who they were and what they were about.

It is not rare to honor remnants of relatives' bodies, or those of notable people. Often parents will keep first teeth that are lost or save clippings of



*continued from previous page...*

of their child's first haircut. We build monuments to great men and women, and set up grave markers to memorialize them. And so it seems almost second nature for us to honor members of our family and those dear to us as well as the objects that belonged to them.

And so why wouldn't a similar reverence translate into our family of the Church? The saints are those men and women from our family who are deserving of our honor for their life of spiritual greatness. Moreover, they have put on Christ in baptism and become members of his body.

Catholics see the members of the Church as members of a family. Of course, as human beings — composites of body and soul — the Church honors their bodies after death. We, of course, do this as well in our families when we visit and decorate graves on birthdays, death dates or holidays. Made in God's image and likeness, we recognize the dignity of the human person by honoring their earthly remains — that is why the Church demands of proper disposal of a person's remains (burial of body or cremains).

Within this context, then, we should understand that relics are meant to be honored and venerated, not worshipped. In fact, the saints lead us to fuller worship of God in spirit and truth. By honoring their memories, bodies and belongings, we give thanks to God for the saint's holy witness. Relics are physical, tangible, concrete reminders that heaven is obtainable for us — so long as we recognize what made the saints holy and work to apply those qualities to our lives. When venerating relics we express gratitude to God for those members of our spiritual family. In the presence of the relics we recall their holy lives and we pray for the grace to achieve what they've achieved — eternity with God in Heaven.





