

# Humilitas

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Newsletter of Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church ~June, 2025

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## "Let Go Into the Mystery"

So, you are sitting there, curled up reading the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and you get to PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY. You say to yourself, *What? This book is a mystery?*

In the Symbol of the faith the Church confesses the **mystery** of the Holy Trinity and the plan of God's "good pleasure" for all creation: the Father accomplishes the "**mystery** of his will" by giving his beloved Son and his Holy Spirit for the salvation of the world. . . . Such is the **mystery** of Christ, revealed and fulfilled in history according to the wisely ordered plan that St. Paul calls the "plan of **mystery**" and the patristic tradition will call the "economy of the Word incarnate. . . ." (CCC 1066)

Mystery is used **four times in one paragraph**, which suggests it is worthy of contemplation *and* there must not be a synonym for this word. (I mean, really, four times in one paragraph? I'd be taking points off for that if I was an English teacher.)

The mystery is Christ. (Sorry to give away the ending there.)

We are not detectives though, trying to get the bottom of this whole divine-incarnation-salvation Christ mystery. No, we are detectors of it. In other words, the mystery is known, not unknowable.

The liturgy, the Celebration of the Christian Mystery, is a traditional still point of knowing the mystery: the encounter of Christ in the Eucharist. Those celebrating—the church gathered as people—participate in the mystery and reflect it in our proclamation.

How the mystery is known will reveal itself continually and differently because God is a living God who is in relationship with us. "Mystery is not something you *can't* know. Mystery is *endless knowability*" (Fr. Richard Rohr)

—Kathy Judge

Richard Rohr quotation citation <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/mystery-endless-knowability-2016-08-23/>



## Traveling In the Footsteps of Saints John and Paul in Greece and Turkey

Sometime in 50-52 A.D., short, balding, middle-aged Saint Paul stood on Mars Hill, a 400-foot high rock outcropping in Athens, Greece, where murder trials and other civil affairs took place. From the hill named for Mars, the Roman god of war, Saint Paul shouted to the crowd below. His words are recorded in Acts 17.

Directly across from Mars Hill was the Acropolis, with massive, colorfully painted temples that seemed so powerful and permanent in the first century. The temple ruins are still famous today as the Parthenon and Temple of Athena.

It took guts to challenge the ancient people's belief in 6000 gods plus one more. Saint Paul started with a compliment, "Men of Athens, I see that you are extremely religious. . . . I found an altar with this inscription: to the unknown god. What you worship in ignorance I proclaim to you. God who made the world and all that is in it . . . does not dwell in temples built by hands. Neither is he served by human hands as though he were in need of anything . . ." Acts 17:22-31. After making a few converts and hearing some mockery, Saint Paul traveled to Corinth (pop. 30,000).

This Easter our 40 person group of travelers strolled through the present day archaeological site of Corinth, the Las Vegas of the ancient world, with our Greek guide Maria. We also visited archaeological sites in Philippi and Ephesus where Saint Paul preached to gentiles and Jews. The once populous cities were often destroyed by earthquakes that destroyed the water infrastructure. Over the centuries, local people also cannibalized the stones to build their own dwellings. The stones of the archaeological site are what is left.

In Ephesus, Turkey, we visited Mary's House, where tradition says Jesus' mother may have lived, based on visions received by a German nun in the 19th century. St. John traveled to Ephesus and took Mary with him as he was tasked with her care by Christ on the cross.

Eventually John was exiled to the island of Patmos in 95 A.D. (presumably Mary had died). We visited the dark cave on the island where he wrote Revelations and marveled at a tiny, uncomfortable opening in the rock cave where he slept.

Each town we visited had a bema, a "soapbox" or the Internet of the ancient world, consisting of stone steps or a platform where anyone could proclaim the news of the day. Saint Paul often used bemas as a platform to preach, not always with positive results (see photos of a bema and other sites online at [www.stcharlesokc.org](http://www.stcharlesokc.org), link *Humilitas* newsletter).

We prayed and read Bible accounts in significant places: where Paul baptized Lydia in a rushing brook (the first person in Europe to be baptized), (Acts 16: 13-15) and the place of Paul's imprisonment in Philippi. Easter Sunday was spent at a small Catholic church on the island of Crete, where the Sunday Mass crowd spilled out the back door, onto the porch and out onto the street.

Saint Paul endured insults, threats, imprisonment, beatings, shipwrecks and a martyr's death by beheading as well as many conversions. His zeal and courage are even more striking when walking in his footsteps. His encouragement, certainty in his mission and corrections in his letters to fledgling churches instruct us still and tell us how to live.

—Monica Knudsen



### Totus Tuus is coming to St. Charles!

Programming for the youth begins June 1 and continues through June 6.

Register through website or call Carmen.

We need **Volunteers** as we have in the past for food, etc.

Contact Carmen: (405) 384-3807

## The Four Missionary Journeys of Saint Paul

Imagine traveling 1400 miles from Oklahoma City to Boston. Then after completing that, travel 2800 miles from Boston to Seattle. Once reaching Seattle, take on another 2700 miles to Miami. The last trek is 2,250 miles from Miami to Phoenix, Arizona. No cars, planes or trains in the first century. Mostly walking and sailing by wooden ships. Stop to preach along the way. Just to put it in modern perspective, these are the distances covered by Saint Paul by walking and sailing during his four missionary journeys.

The first journey (A.D. 46 or 47) lasted two years and is covered in Acts 13:1-14:28. He traveled with Barnabas and John Mark in Cypress and Turkey.

His second journey, (A.D. 51) took three years with eighteen months spent in Corinth (Acts 15:36-18:22). He traveled with Silas, Timothy, Priscilla, and Aquila. Their route was Syria, Turkey, Greece, Jerusalem.

In A.D. 54, he undertook the third missionary journey of four years with three spent in Caesarea Philippi (Acts 18:23-21:16). His fellow travelers were Timothy, Luke and others.

On the fourth journey in A.D. 58 (Acts 21:17-28:31), Paul endured a trial and arrests. His final journey was through Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Crete, Malta and finally Rome to his death in 67 A.D. under the escort of Roman guards. These weren't his only travels!

\*[www.theologyfortherestofus.com/Paul's four missionary journeys the complete guide](http://www.theologyfortherestofus.com/Paul's%20four%20missionary%20journeys%20the%20complete%20guide).



**Totus Tuus**  
means "Totally yours"  
and was the papal motto  
of Pope St. John Paul II.

## I Can See God With My Eye

As the wind blows and the clouds go by . . .  
I can see God with my eye.  
In the earthly creatures He has sent . . .  
All that crawl and the ones Heaven bent . . .  
I can see God with my eye.  
Trees that reach to the sun all day . . .  
Even in the shadows as day fades away . . .  
I can see God with my eye.  
In children at play with each new day . . .  
In the bustle of workers on their way . . .  
I can see God with my eye.  
In church as I kneel and pray . . .  
I know He is with me in every way . . .  
Yes! I can see God with my eye!

Dorothy Taylor

## Prayer of Saint Boniface

*Feast day, June 5*

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your  
children, we praise you for all you have given us,  
for all you have done for us,  
for all that you are to us.  
In our weakness, you are strength,  
in our darkness, you are light,  
in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace.  
We cannot number your blessings,  
we cannot declare your love:  
For all your blessings we bless you.  
May we live as in your presence,  
and love the things that you love,  
and serve you in our daily lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ written by St. Boniface (ca. 672-754)





St. Paul preached here; Berea, Greece. 2000 year old steps.



Mary's House, Ephesus, Turkey



Acts 16: 14-15; where Lydia was baptized.



Entrance to cave, Patmos.





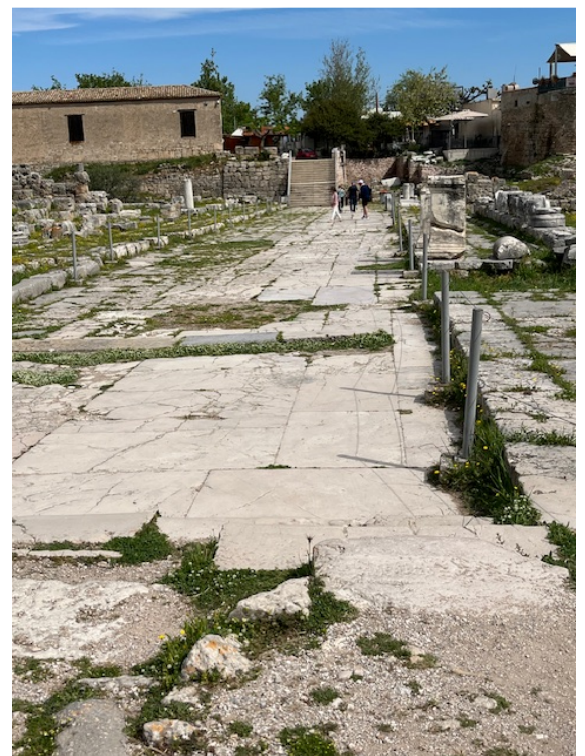
Cave where St. John wrote *Revelations*,  
Patmos, Greece.



Our guide, Maria.



Mars Hill, Athens, Greece



Archeological sites , Ephesus, Turkey

## Parish Life

### New Parishioners- April

Juan Velasco & Maria Loera  
Jose Escalera & Alexia Cardona  
Oscar Silva & Karla Guerrero  
Ulises Hernandez & Angelica Mendez  
Alberto Salgado & Rosa Gonzalez  
Hector Peralta & Erica Cuevas  
Oscar Herrera & Claudia Najera  
Anselmo Salgado & Ana Bautista  
Eva Loera Bonavideas  
Manuel Velasco & Mayela Aranda  
Jose Loera & Maria Moran  
Javier Lopez & Jasmin Mendoza  
Esai & Ana Cristina Rubio  
Edgar Roman  
Carlos & Yuliana Bravo  
Sandrine Mba  
Fabian Gonzalez & Laura Verdoza  
Kathia Oviedo  
Eduardo Contreras & Katani Hernandez  
Diego Sotelo & Jessica Llerena  
Jorge Serna Diaz & Claudia Salazar

### New Parishioners- May

Adrian Contreras & Fabiola Velasco  
Martin & Monica Flores  
Fernando Flores & Yesenia Esparza  
Oscar Landeros & Alejandra Magallanes  
Adelmo & Jacqueline De Leon  
Jose Juan Luevano  
Jose Montante & Maria Portugal  
Jenifer Lopez De La Rosa  
Marvin Rodriguez & Zalma Ponce  
Arturo Salazar Chavez & Silvia Landeros  
Ricardo Martinez

### Anniversaries-June

09 Felix & Felecia Igbeka 24  
10 Jason & Jennifer Edds 8

16 Richard & Charlene Smith 35  
16 Terry & Peggy Flinton 41  
22 Christopher Hardy & Gretel Gomez 1  
23 Santos & Geneva Guerra 59  
24 Mike & Carol Bertels 36  
24 Oscar & Maricela Hernandez 11  
27 Benny & Angela Meier 57  
30 Horacio & Gabriela Avila 25

### Baptisms-April- May

Davian M  
Wilson B  
Javier  
Maritza  
Juan E  
Esmeralda R  
Victoria T  
Edgar R  
Evelyn R  
Somali A  
Miguel L  
Xavi P  
Eva-Louisa N  
Isaias M  
Mathew M  
Max G  
Lucas H

### Anniversaries-July

02 John & Marilyn Smalley 37  
05 Albert & Mary McCutcheon 51  
05 Steve & Sally Nash 40  
05 Cesar & Jenny Cano 40  
16 Tim & Stacie Guerra 31  
18 Victor Morales & Mayan Sanchez 5  
26 Joe & Mary Ann Brueggen 51  
26 Oliver & Karen Douglas 45  
26 Sabino & Martha Calderon 12  
31 Roger & Andrea McCoy 43



### Weddings- April & May

Joshua Terry & Holly King  
Jose Juan Raya &  
Dolores Adriana Sanchez

### Deaths-May

Carolyn Highfill  
Luella MarieCornelius  
Thomas Michael Cullman  
Tom Kilgallon

## Humilitas

We submit this issue with thanks to God and humility, your Newsletter Team:  
Michael Carpenter, Kathy Judge, Monica Knudsen, Margaret Phipps, and Dorothy Taylor,  
print shop: Marilu Romo, Jennifer Hernandez