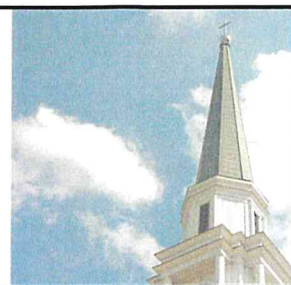


Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

October 5, 2025 - Respect Life Sunday



Dear Family and friends

October month is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. I ask you my parishioners to pray the rosary before every mass. The Rosary was, and has been, so impactful for me as a priest of Jesus. To help gain interest in this activity, Jesus said, "follow me," many times, and the Rosary is a outstanding way to do that.

In addition to this being the month of the Rosary, **October is also Respect Life Month in the Church**, and perhaps this is not the result of chance, since the mysteries of the Rosary are meant to draw us into the life of Jesus Christ, who is "*the Way, the Truth, and the Life*" (Jn 14:6). Only

by following Him which requires frequent meditation on His life do we begin to experience what it means to be fully alive, for Jesus said, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

For Jesus' followers, this abundant life is experienced when we love one another as He loved us (John 13:34), which is the foundation for Respect Life Month. Jesus, as we know, loved everyone, Jew and Greek, slave and free, man and woman. He dined with tax collectors and sought out sinners. He showed no partiality. He only asked that we follow him, imitating him, who said, "no one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Fr. George Nellikunnel (gnellikunnel@dio.org)	Pastor
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Mrs. Debbie Mandeville	Parish Administrative Assistant
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Mrs. Sarah Williams	Liturgy & Music
Mr. Dave Klestinski	Homebound Ministry
Ms. Mikki Buhl	Ministry Schedule
(mikkimoose@clients.rotundasoftware.com)	

Mass Times: Saturday (vigil) 4:00pm
Sunday 7:00am & 11:00am
Holy Days: As announced

Daily Mass: Tues, 8:20am (School Year)
7:00am (Summer)
W, Th, 7:00am
Fri, 6:00pm (Rosary 5:30pm)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday, 7:00am - 5:00pm

Parish Office Hours: M - F: 9:00am - 4:00pm
School Office Hours: M - F: 7:45am - 3:30pm
2000 E. Sangamon Avenue (mailing address: 2125 N. 21st Street) Springfield, Illinois 62702

Church: (217) 544-4554 Fax: (217) 544-1680
School: (217) 544-4553 Fax: (217) 544-1680

This is our mission. This is why we pray the Rosary together. So that by developing the habit of meditating on our Lord's life we can truly imitate him. This is what Respect Life Month reminds us of, that we are called to offer the same radical, selfless love that Jesus did, a love that requires that **we turn away from the sins of individualism and indifference, and the mindset that it is someone else's responsibility to love the other.** This month challenges us to see the other as God sees them, as beloved, no matter what differences separate us.

These beloved ones are the homeless and the poor, the migrant and the refugee, the widow and the orphan, the sick, the elderly and the handicapped. Ultimately, Respect Life Month calls our attention to the most vulnerable in our society, the unborn.

As we pray the Rosary during October, the month dedicated to this most special and powerful prayer, **let us turn to St. Joseph, who defended the life of our Lord and His Mother; let us turn also to Mary, our Lady of the Rosary, and Mother of Mercy** and entrust to their loving care our lives and the lives of all people. This is how we truly become God's, disciples.

Thanks for your generous contribution and sacrifices for our churches and our school.

Fr. George Nellikunnel
Pastor, St. Aloysius
St Cabrini





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Principal's Page

Mrs. Denise Reavis

We shared a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist last Sunday with our **Family Mass and for Priesthood Sunday**. The student choir sounded amazing, the music uplifting, and the ministries of the Mass performed by our children so special. The teachers and staff were given a blessing for a school year filled with faith and wisdom. Thank you to Father George and Father Saji for all they do for our parish!

There are many great things coming up in **October** that benefits our school... Fall pizza fundraiser, October Family Mass, and Parish Picnic. Thank you for all your support.

All-school Mass will be Tuesday, October 7 at 8:20am. All are welcome!

Fall Fundraiser... **Turbo Fire Pizza!** While this fundraiser is not mandatory our hope is that each family will sell at least 10 items. This goal totals a profit over \$3,500.00. Each family that meets the goal of selling 15 items will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card. Money is due at the time of ordering. All orders are due by Monday, October 6. Pick-up is Thursday, October 23.

Family Reading Night was a blast with the book fair, stories, crafts, and games. Our evening started with a shared dinner of corn dogs provided by Downey's Concessions. We had mystery readers from our local heroes in the Police Department, the Military, Animal Care, and the Fire Department!

Parent Sacramental Meeting... An informational meeting for parents of students receiving their sacraments this year directly following Mass on Sunday, October 19 for those interested in the Sacraments for their children. Second Grade families with children preparing for Reconciliation should plan on attending, as well as Third Grade families with students preparing for Confirmation and First Holy Communion. All others wishing for their child to receive a sacrament this year are encouraged and welcome to attend.



All Are Welcome... When you registered your child at St. Aloysius you became part of an amazing family! Part of that family life happens in our church every weekend! Mass times are Saturday@ 4:00pm, and Sunday@ 7:00am and 11:00am. Every month at one of the weekend masses will be a Children's Liturgy. Students will participate in all the ministries... lector, server, usher, and choir! Our next Family Mass is next Sunday, October 19th.

Thank you to all the volunteers for helping to make **Bingo** a great success! The program always needs workers to ensure the continued success of this most important fundraising event. Don't forget to join us for Bingo at Caritas Hall, 909 E Converse, on Saturday, October 11 at 11:45am for Early Bird, other games begin at noon. Play bingo during our times, help make this a fun and profitable activity for St. Aloysius School!

Please consider volunteering. Volunteers are always needed. You can text or call Rhonda (217) 670-4458. Thank you for your support!

Super Food Drive Challenge... Let's fill our shopping carts with food for Holy Family Food Pantry!

Win \$100,000 with the **SHG MEGA RAFFLE!** Tickets are on sale! Purchase your ticket(s) at SHG.org. Thank you in advance for your support of SHG!

*"Love is the True North
that always leads us home."*

— Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR				Weekly Offering		
October 4	11:45am	Bingo		<u>Week 12</u>	<u>September 22</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
October 4	3:30pm	Confessions		Weekly Offertory	\$8,463.00	\$71,395.75
October 4	4:00pm	Evening Mass		Shepherd one Student	\$420.00	\$3,563.00
October 5	7:00am	Morning Mass		Building Fund	\$250.00	\$19,668.00
October 5	11:00am	Morning Mass		Bingo	\$144.00	\$9,879.00
October 5	2:00-3:30pm	Life Chain		The budgeted amount is the minimal required to maintain services, employee benefits, utilities, and maintenance at current levels and provide for debt payment, unbudgeted repairs or improvements for the Parish. Weekly Offerings budget for the month of September is \$40,000.00. We have received 61% of needed funding to meet essentials.		
October 7	8:20am	Morning Mass (All School Mass)		Parish Community Tithe		
October 8	7:00am	Morning Mass		As you have read in the Catholic Times, the Annual Catholic Services Appeal has been discontinued. The diocese will be assessing its parishes on a monthly basis, based on 10% of its income each month to provide the needs of our diocesan church. Please consider increasing your giving to the parish by the amount you previously gave to ACSA, so that we can handle this new monthly, pay-as we-go obligation. Tithe - August - \$2,632.00		
October 8	9:00am	Legion of Mary		Debt/Accrued Deficits		
October 9	7:00am	Morning Mass		Unpaid Diocesan Liabilities		
October 9	6:00pm	School Board		Paid		
October 10	7:00am	Adoration		Amount owed	\$229,997.03	
October 10	5:00pm	Benediction		(September 16, 2025)		
October 10	5:30pm	Rosary		Parish Ministry Schedule - October 11-12		
October 10	6:00pm	Evening Mass		Saturday 4:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 11:00am
October 11	8:30am	Street Ministry (St. Cabrini)		Cantor		
 Special Prayers and Blessing <i>Louie Troy Washko</i> baptized into the Catholic faith. We profess, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.				Lector	Gary McCandless Brad Mills Pam Brown	
				E.M.	Tom Kohlrus Erin Rachford Paul Brown, Sharon Jones	
					Gary McCandless Pam Tipps Matt Noonan	
				Servers	David Klestinski Earl Schroeder Brayden Blakley Jayden Blakley	
In charity, please remember in your prayers... 2023... Bert Viola Jr., James Farrand, Mary Schroeder, Gene Adams, Virginia Broccardo, Mary Ellen Daniels, Joann Lee, Ron Hull, Florence Galassi, John Risse, Josephine Albright, Peter Campo, Mary McKibben, Michael Barnard. 2024... Steven Young Patricia Durako, Regina Rakers, Sandra Scott, David Daniels, Halfred Hildebrand, Jr., Joseph Perkinton, Charles Bedolli, Samuel and Bonnie Falzone, James Selinger, Tom Stevens, Frank Tucker, James Bartlett. 2025... Larry Forbes, Marilyn, Gustafson, Kenna Diaz, Kay Morrow, Judith Guinn, William Bredemeyer, Annette Raffa and David Jones.						

Parish Bulletin Board

October is Respect Life Month! Please bring your friends and families to the Life Chain



Event today, Sunday, October 5 from 2:00-3:30pm. We will gather at the corner of Sangamon and 19th Street to hold up signs and pray for the unborn, their mothers, and all of those impacted by the abortion industry. *Bring your whole family! Rain or shine! *Posters are provided with various pro-life messages. Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community, that abortion kills children and hurts us all, and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Family Parish Picnic. Sunday, October 26 at Lincoln Park from 12:30-4:00pm. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy fellowship and fun! Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. A-M bring a dessert, and N-Z a side dish. Please RSVP to the Parish office @217-544-4554.

The usual way by which an un-baptized person (those seven years of age and above) becomes a full, participating member of the Catholic Church is through a faith formation process called the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** and the reception of the sacraments of initiation at Easter. Persons who have been baptized in another Christian Church and who wish to become a member of the Catholic Church are also encouraged to participate in the



RCIA before receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. We are now planning for those who want to inquire about the process or simply find out what RCIA is all about. If you are interested or know of someone interested, please call the Parish Office at 544-4554.

St. Aloysius Centennial Celebration! Can you believe it? St. Aloysius Parish is turning 100 years old in September 2028. A century of faith, family, and community! We're kicking off the journey to this historic milestone, and we need your help to make it unforgettable. Join us for the next Centennial Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 23 at 6:00pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Be part of the excitement, the planning, and the memories in the making.

Each year, Catholics across the United States join in supporting the **Black and Indian Mission Collection**-the oldest national collection of our Church. Since 1874, this collection has helped bring the Gospel to African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities by sustaining parishes, schools, catechesis, and the formation of future leaders. This collection strengthens vibrant faith communities that often face poverty and limited resources, reminding them that the wider Church walks with them. As St. John Paul II reminded us: "Faith is strengthened when it is given to others." When we contribute to this collection, we not only bring Christ's love to those in need, but we also deepen our own faith by sharing it. You will find an envelope in your bulletin, for this second collection. Thank you for your generosity.

2025 Super Food Drive Challenge... During the month of October, St. Aloysius School is participating in the 9th Annual Super Food Drive Challenge benefitting Catholic Charities' Holy Family Food Pantry here in Springfield. Our school has a chance of winning \$500 and a Pease's gift certificate! The school that brings in the most items will win the challenge. Items will be accepted all through the month of October. Monetary donations will be accepted as well to purchase meat/dairy items. Monetary donations will be converted to "food items" so our school will get credit



for these! No bulk/large size item donations are being accepted as they are difficult to use in Thanksgiving baskets. All food items go toward building Thanksgiving baskets for families in need.

Parish Calendar... Please let the parish office know of events, meetings, etc. for the church calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts. This includes the church basement.

Thank you... The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

St. Aloysius Prayer Chain... If you have a special intention or someone whom you would like prayers offered please email Mrs. Vikki Warren... whomper5@aol.com

Stewardship ... Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to use your gifts wisely and to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship be the hallmark of our discipleship, a visible sign of our commitment to Christ. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Mass Intentions

October 6 Weekday

October 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
8:20am Steve Tapocik+

October 8 Weekday
7:00am All Souls+

October 9 Weekday
7:00am Mary Lou Woloshyn +

October 10 Weekday
6:00pm John Titone+

October 11 Weekday

October 12 28th Ordinary Sunday
Sat 4:00pm Kenna Diaz +
James Bartlett+

Sun7:00am Kay Morrow+
All Parishioners +

Sun11:00am Wally Phelps+
David Jones +

Around the Church

Thank you for your generous support of the **St. Aloysius Street Ministry** summer sock drive. Our brothers and sisters on the streets main means of getting around is by walking. Clean dry socks are greatly appreciated and a necessity to healthy feet. Your generous donations have given us enough socks to provide for the rest of the year. St. Aloysius Street Ministry.

A **playpen** will be placed in the vestibule of the church next weekend (October 11-12). Springfield Pregnancy Care Center needs these items in our playpen collection... All size diapers, baby wipes, all size clothing/sleepers, pacifiers, baby wash, lotion, shampoo and women's care products (shampoo, lotion, body wash). Thank you!

2025 Respect Life Mass, Rosary Walk, and Luncheon Saturday, October 11. Join Catholics from across the Diocese of Springfield as we celebrate Respect Life Month with a morning of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration. The day will begin with the Respect Life Mass at 9:00am at Holy Family Catholic Church (2606 Washington Ave, Granite City). Following Mass, participants will take part in a Rosary Walk through the community, giving witness to the dignity of every human life. A complimentary luncheon will follow, featuring guest speaker Kristi Hofferber, Executive Director of A Beacon of Light. All are welcome. No registration or fees are required.

Legion of Mary Rosary Rally, October 11, 2025, 1:00pm Christ the King Church (1930 Barberry Dr, Springfield).

Prayer Warriors are welcome to pray in front of Springfield Planned Parenthood 601 N. Bruns Lane. For more information... www.springfieldrtl.org

Be Counted... October Count Begins this weekend. Attendance will be taken at each mass for the 4 weekends of October. Why do we count? It tells the proportion of the registered population who would normally be expected to attend Mass. Pastors, parish council members and diocesan staff use this for long-range planning of how best to allocate the limited resources of the Church. We chose October because it is a fairly typical month, unlike Lent or Advent or summertime. All parishioners should make every effort to attend mass at their home parish every Oct weekend. Interested in the numbers, go to <https://dio.org/chancellor>.

Stewardship Reflection... 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. "For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7. Many of us compartmentalize our Faith, we bring it out only when we attend Mass or when we attend a parish event. Being a good steward requires discipline and striving to put God first in everything – all the time. The next time you are at a neighborhood party or at work or out shopping, would your words and actions signal to others that you are a good and faithful servant of our Lord?

We invite everyone to participate in the **Bible study Jesus and the Eucharist**, a series of seven sessions that explores the mystery of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith. The meetings will take place on Mondays from 6:00 - 8:00pm in the Library of the Cathedral School of the Immaculate Conception, October 6, 20, and 27 (there will be no session on October 13 due to Columbus Day). All sessions will be conducted in **Spanish only**. All are welcome!

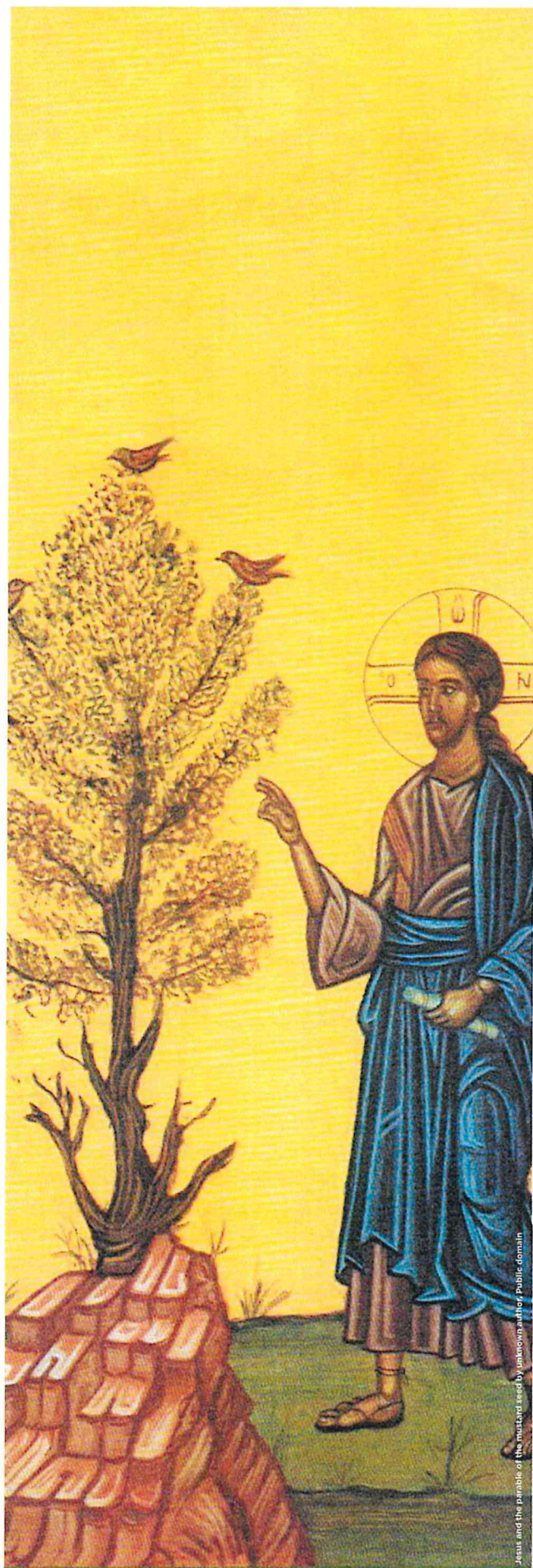
Documents of Vatican II, Continued... Mark your calendars for Oct 23 as Fathers Brian Alford and Daniel McGrath discuss the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. On Nov 20 and Dec 11, they will cover the remaining documents of the Second Vatican Council. Cathedral Atrium @ 7:00pm.

The Letter... A Faith in the Future Event. Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach is launching Faith in the Future, a series of events that will be focused on Catholic social teaching (care for creation and care of those who are poor or vulnerable) and specifically be geared toward young people in our Diocese who are Catholic or associated with a Catholic entity. We are delighted to invite you to our first Faith in the Future event, which will be a screening of the film *The Letter*, a movie documenting Pope Francis' invitation to Rome for four young environmentalists. This stunning film not only shares the stories of these advocates, but it also calls all of us to care for the Earth and celebrate the blessing from God that nature is. Wednesday, November 19 at 5:30pm, Mission Outreach Warehouse (4930 LaVerna Road).

Springfield Deanery Council of **Catholic Women** Meeting, Saturday, November 8th @ 10am. St. Peter's, Petersburg. Speakers: Gina Gillmore -Wolter, on Saving New Salem, And Mary Stewart, on Pastoral Council and Subcommittees. Lunch provided by the St. Peter's Ladies Group, donations appreciated! Deadline to RSVP is October 31st! Contact Mary Stewart at 217-341-7808 for more information. Deborah Pilapil, President, Spfld. Deanery CCW. Register for the meeting on Signup Genius! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CACAC2BABFEC43-58907086-springfield>.

December Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat... Step away from the noise of daily life and renew your soul at the Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat, led by Norbertine Father Herman Joseph Johanneck, O. Praem. at the beautiful Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield. Father Herman Joseph will present his series, "Sons of the Father, Men in Christ," guiding participants into deeper prayer, reflection, and brotherhood. The retreat will include talks, personal prayer, Rosary, Adoration & Benediction, Confessions, group discussion, Holy Mass, and time for rest and silence. Saturday, Dec. 13 – Sunday, Dec. 14; \$150 (includes single-occupancy room, meals, and materials); Register by Nov. 21 at events@dio.org.

Eucharistic Adoration... • EVERY Friday • 7:00am - 5:00pm. Come spend an hour with the Lord.



October 5, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4 | 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14 | Lk 17:5-10

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples: "When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'" I think what Jesus is drawing us to see is the humility we need as his disciples. It's easy to get puffed up, thinking, "Well, I've done this" or "I've done that" in service of God. We can even start to feel that God owes us. But we are called to love God for God's own sake, not for the accolades or even the reward that comes from faithfully serving him. St. Ignatius of Loyola penned a beautiful prayer called the Prayer for Generosity that expresses the sentiment that I feel is at the heart of our Scriptures today: "Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, teach me true generosity. Teach me to serve you as you deserve. To give without counting the cost ... to sacrifice myself without thought of any reward save the knowledge that I have done your will." Let's ask God to help us to serve him with generous hearts.

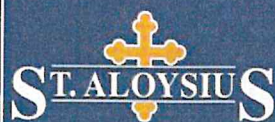
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul calls us to "bear [our] share of the hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God." Serving the Lord requires that we rely on the gift of the Spirit within us who empowers us to serve courageously and generously. The good news, Paul tells us, is that "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." In our efforts to serve God and to share our faith with others, let's remember that it is God's grace that is at work within us, equipping us and strengthening us. Let's remember Jesus' promise that even if we only have faith the size of a tiny mustard seed, we can still do great things for God. Indeed, through the gift of faith and the gift of his Holy Spirit, God has truly given us immense spiritual power.

PRAY

Take a moment to examine your own heart. Is your discipleship fueled more by a hope of reward (heaven), or, by pure love of God? Take some time to pray with St. Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity (the full text can be found online), asking the Lord to increase your generosity in serving him.



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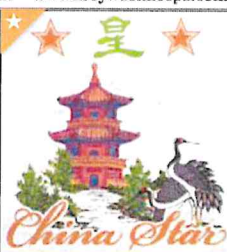
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