



IN HIS NAME • FOURTH QUARTER 2021

— *From our officers* —

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**Peace be with you, brothers and sisters in Christ! A
very Merry Christmas to you and your families.**

It has been a while since a newsletter has arrived in your inboxes, my apologies for the delay. My family came down with COVID in September – including our then 6 month-old son, and we’ve only now caught up. September is mostly a fog now, as I ended up in a hospital bed for 5 days, and the couch for another 2 weeks when I came home. Difficult as this all was, this “down-time” still gave me a lot of time to ponder.

No suffering is without reason. God allows trials to befall us for our own good. Sometimes to teach us patience. Other times to teach us trust. Or to hope, or to humble ourselves, and to learn the value of offering up our own pains.

What I kept asking myself as I was recovering was – what was the lesson Lord? Did I do something wrong? What do you want me to learn from this whole experience?

I immediately started to pray for clarity and recited this prayer to my patron saint –

St. Therese of Lisieux – Prayer for Clarity

Dear Heavenly Father,
Give me clarity,
Of mind, heart, and spirit.
Let me see things for how they are,
As you see them.

Let me see my situation with,
Your eyes,
With the eyes of Christ.
Take away my fears and emotions,
And may your spirit shine through.

In your clarity, I find peace
Strength and direction.

When my eye is clear,
I see where there is hurt,
So I can show compassion.
I see where there is sin,
So I can give mercy.

I know how to protect my heart,
From those that may harm me.

When my eye is clear.
I see the great work,

Christ did for us all.
By taking all sin upon Him,
Then rising up victoriously.

Jesus is my King and Savior.
This is my clarity.
This is my home.
In His Holy name,

Amen

After weeks of prayer, I also reached out to my spiritual directors – priests whom I’ve known for many years and highly respected. Their counsel was much needed and gave me immediate peace. As I continue to pray, discern, I know there is one lesson I know I’ve learned – when my family needed prayer in our time of suffering, our Catholic community spared no time in keeping us on their lips during times of prayer. So many people reached out to share their support and love. People started meal trains so my husband and son didn’t have to worry about food. Our families came to help us clean our home and made sure we had groceries in our fridge. People in our community went above and beyond to make sure I pulled through. And as I sit here and reflect back on this event in my life, I don’t even know how to begin to express my eternal gratitude to so many who took care of us when we couldn’t.

With Christmas upon us, the same sense of gratitude resurfaces. How do we fully express our sincere and eternal gratitude to our Lord and Savior who came to save us in the form of a vulnerable child? The answer is we can’t! But He loves us anyways! I can’t imagine what it would take to give God back what He has given to us. It’s impossible because His love for us comes in the most pure and perfect form. It has no strings attached or fine print. God is love! Praise God! Let us rejoice and give

thanks, for our Lord is born! Let us gather with our families and embrace God's gift of joy and peace on earth.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and happiest New Year from yours truly. I can't wait to celebrate my son's first Christmas. May God bless all of you <3



MRS. HELEN NGUYEN, O.P.

Editor

