

**LITURGIES FOR THE SIXTH WEEK IN
ORDINARY TIME AND THE SEVENTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

February 17 - 23, 2025

**Monday, 2/17 † Weekday, The Seven Holy
Founders of the Servite Order**

6 pm: Michelle Havens by Jacalynn Ciboch

Tuesday, 2/18 † Weekday

8am: Aiden

9am: A.S. Joann Scamerhorn

Wednesday, 2/18 † Weekday

9am: A.S. Mary Daly by Ellen Brennan

6pm: David Lukac by Cathy Hennigar

**Thursday, 2/20 † Weekday, Saint Gregory of
Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church**

8am: Ella

9am: A.S. Sis Scutchfield by Kevin & Pat Goin

**Friday, 2/21 † Weekday, Saint Peter Damian,
Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

8am: Gary & Annette

9am: A.S. Peg Daly

Saturday, 2/22 † The Chair of Saint Peter

8:30am: Noelle (Birthday)

**Saturday, 2/22 † Vigil, Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

4:30pm: Parishioners

**Sunday, 2/23 † Seventh Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

7:30am: Alice Johnson by Don & Sharon Barker

9am: A. S. Debbie Vincent by Mother, Joan

11am: Addie

This week at SS. C & M & All Saints

Thurs., Feb. 20 – 2:15pm – Legion of Mary

Thurs., Feb. 20– 4pm – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sun., Feb. 23 – 9:30am – Religious Education,

Starke County Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter, pancake mix & syrup, canned fruit,
laundry soap, dish soap, toilet tissue, salt, pepper,
small packages sugar & flour, sanitary pads, fresh
fruits & vegetables, canned meat, canned pasta with
meat.

Very important message!

For those of you who already submitted your payment to the Northwest Indiana Catholic Newspaper for this year, a reminder that recently the Diocese of Gary sent out letters stating that the NWI Catholic was only going to be available online. Please, disregard the envelopes in your packets for the NWI Catholic. The notice occurred well after we received our envelopes. For those who already paid for the paper, you will be re-imbursed by your church.

If you have any questions, you may e-mail (preferably), kdcoppage@dcgary.org or if you don't have access to a computer, you may call Kelly Coppage at 219-769-9292 ext. 250.
Thank You

**SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS
FEAST DAY CELEBRATION**

This Sunday, February 16, CST
Carry-in dinner in the church parlor
After the 11am Mass

Parishioners are encouraged to bring
main dishes and sides
A celebration cake will be provided

Parishioners from our sister parish, All Saints,
also invited

In the Gospel today, Jesus gives us the blessings of serving the poor, hungry and weeping people, for you will then rejoice and leap for joy.

But Jesus also teaches us the decisiveness of choice: blessing or woe.

Choosing to help those who are suffering will fill your heart with the blessing of Jesus and indeed your reward will be great in heaven.

Dear Padre

February 16, 2025

I have always been an "every Sunday" Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn't feel that special. I believe that it's the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels "routine." Sometimes I'm even distracted while receiving. Help?

Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don't always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don't feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other's company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don't already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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"Blessed are you when people hate you...exclude and insult you, and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man." - LUKE 6:22

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

Good News!

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Jeremiah 17:5-8 / 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 /

Luke 6:17, 20-26

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Where we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage "Bloom where you are planted" may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won't do much blooming. We'll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week's gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What's so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that's where we put down our roots. In other words, if that's what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn't come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream" (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

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Valentine from God

Gary
Ziuraitis, C.Ss.R.

Dearest Ones,
I hope you don't think all this Valentine's Day sharing of love is silly. I don't. It is not enough for people to know they are loved—they must hear it too. Speaking of love, have your priests told you lately how much I love you? If they haven't, I will. There is no greater message I have to share with you.

I've been thinking about our relationship and how it affects the rest of my family, the Church. I was remembering how precious you all looked at your baptism and how close we were at your first Communion. I smiled at the memory of you as young, struggling adolescents. You stood so bravely at your confirmation and boasted of being my soldiers, my defenders against all enemies.

Those were happy times, good times, and I hope you don't think you have outgrown them. We should be even closer today. If you do not feel this closeness, I wonder why. What happened to change your mind and your love?

You who have become my disciple, do you have any doubts about the vocation I have called you to? I know in my heart this was the best possible way for us to share our lives with others. I realize that things can get tough and that you get disillusioned at times,

but remember, my grace is yours. You have only to ask for it. We don't talk together the way we used to. How long has it been since you asked me for the things you need to be strong and loving in your call?

You who have been called to grow closer to each other in marriage, you are slowly drifting apart. I don't understand. Your wedding day was to be the beginning of your closeness, not the end. When was the last time you held hands? When was the last time you said "I love you" to each other? I mean, actually used the words *I love you*? When you do it for one another, you do it for me.

And those I have called, by choice or by providence, to be single, I hope you are not giving in to discouragement. If only you knew what an important part you play in my Church. I need you, my family needs you, to spread my love to the whole world in a way that only you can do. I know what you are thinking... *How can I spread your love to the world when I can't even spread a little around my city? Everything is so cold and impersonal.* But the cold weather holds in it my promise of a lovely spring. I know cities can hold more grief than joy, but together you and I can overcome this. I've handled cities before: Nineveh, Gomorrah, Babylon, pagan Rome—they come and they go. My love endures forever.

Did you know that only half my people visit me in my church? If only those who stay away could know how much I miss them. Some of them are your neighbors or members of your family. Maybe if you personally reminded them of my love for them, they might come home again. At least they couldn't say they weren't invited.

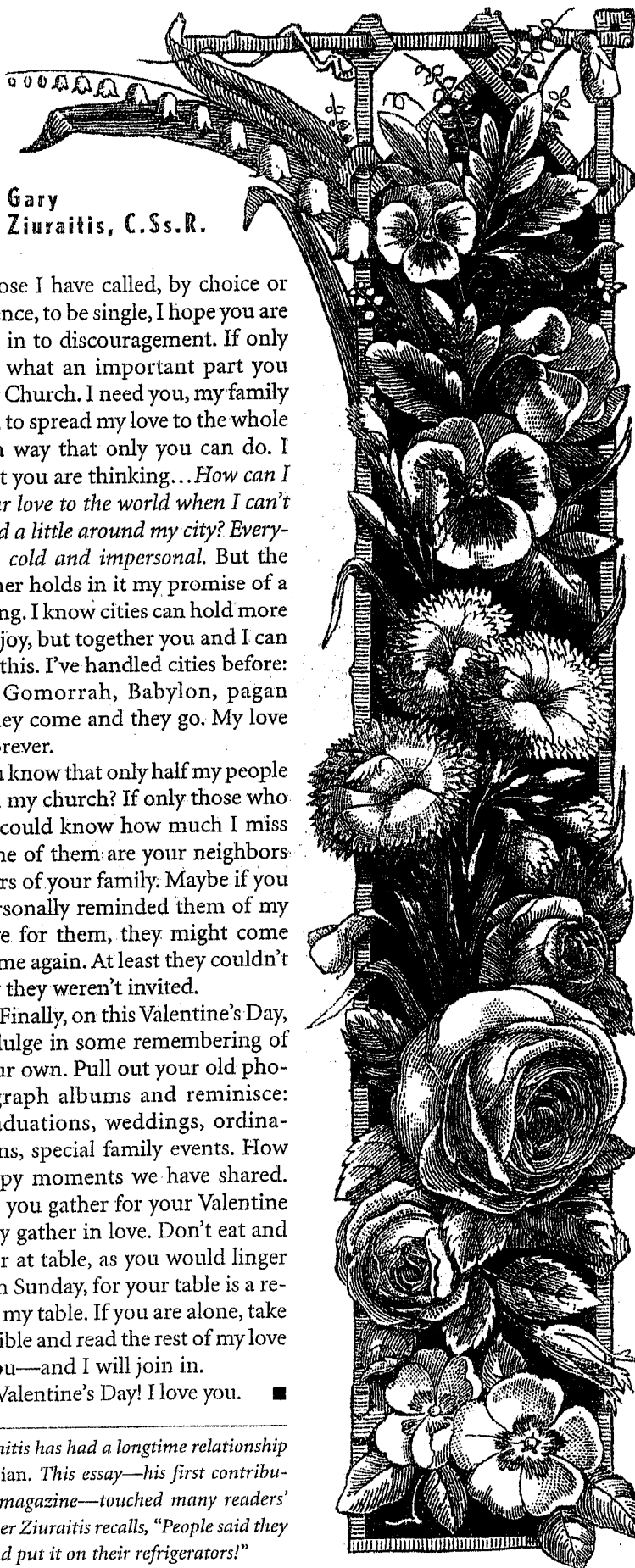
Finally, on this Valentine's Day, indulge in some remembering of your own. Pull out your old photograph albums and reminisce: graduations, weddings, ordinations, special family events. How many happy moments we have shared. And when you gather for your Valentine meal, really gather in love. Don't eat and run. Linger at table, as you would linger with me on Sunday, for your table is a reflection of my table. If you are alone, take out your Bible and read the rest of my love letter to you—and I will join in.

Happy Valentine's Day! I love you. ■

Father Ziuraitis has had a longtime relationship with Liguorian. This essay—his first contribution to the magazine—touched many readers' hearts. Father Ziuraitis recalls, "People said they cut it out and put it on their refrigerators!"



(Originally published in February 1984 Liguorian)



PRAYER TO STS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS

O Holy Saints Cyril and Methodius: you led our forefathers, and us with them, from the darkness of pagan error to the light of the true Faith of Christ, and now you rejoice with Christ in Heaven. Sincerely, we rejoice in your glory, with which God has rewarded your untiring zeal, and we humbly thank Him for the great gift of Christianity which our heavenly Father has bestowed upon us through your efforts. Intercede with God for us who are unworthy descendants of Adam, that he may strengthen us in the True Faith, which you preached to our forefathers. Amen.