

S.M.A.R.T. NEWS

A Saint Mary's Youth Newsletter | Youth.icStMary.org

DEAR FRIENDS,
by Patti McTaggart

**I HAVE LOVED YOU WITH AN
EVERLASTING LOVE...
JEREMIAH 31:3**

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little boy.

Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him.

"I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles," she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful."

The boy looked up, "Really?"

"Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

That's love.

FEBRUARY

2 - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

3 - Feast of St. Blaise (Patron Saint of Throats)

12 - Confirmation session in the parish hall 5:00-6:15PM

14 - CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL - 7PM in the church

19 - SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2PM in the church

22 - ASH WEDNESDAY - BEGINNING OF LENT

WHAT IS LOVE?



A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year olds, "What does love mean?" The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

Love is when my daddy makes coffee for my mommy and he takes a sip before giving it to her, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss" Emily - age 8

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen," Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate," Nikka - age 6

"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them." Jenny - age 8

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day." Noelle - age 7

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." Tommy - age 6

"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore," Cindy - age 8

"My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." Clare - age 6

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Tom Brady." Chris - age 7

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." Mary Ann - age 4

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." Lauren - age 4

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you." Karen - age 7

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget," Jessica - age 8



Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child.

The winner was a four-year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

ON JANUARY 18-22, 2023, THIRTEEN YOUTH AND THREE ADULTS FROM ST. MARY'S IN SOLON, ST. MARY'S IN IOWA CITY, ST. PATRICK'S AND ST. WENCESLAUS TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON DC FOR THE MARCH FOR LIFE. THE FOLLOWING ARE FIVE YOUTH SYNOPSES OF THE EXPERIENCE.



When we first got to DC, it was so beautiful. But then we went to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and that was even more amazing!! Literally everything was immaculate in the basilica! Then the Mass began and the organ was GREAT! It sounded like angels. The next morning, we had Mass at the LifeFest Arena and we listened to many people talk –like Sister Mary Casey. Then we went to the March and listened to even more people speak. We began marching and I visited with many great people. I had such a great experience seeing all the monuments, but my favorite part was going to the basilica because of the pure beauty and the prayers offered for human lives. I also loved talking to Saint Gianna Molla's daughter. I thought I needed to go on this trip to expand and grow my faith and I truly think I did. I also think I left a positive impact on the people I met and spread the word of God. I think this trip made me a more holy person. Thank you so much, Johnson County Right to Life, for paying for this amazing experience and thank you for helping me spread the word of God and giving me the strength to stand up and defend unborn lives.

Weston Steinbrech, St. Mary's Solon

I had a ton of fun on the trip to the nation's capital. The whole trip started with a long bus ride, celebrating Mass in the Basilica and ending with friends the first day. Then the actual March took place followed by tours of museums and monuments. We finished with a Mass in which we met Saint Gianna Molla's daughter. It was amazing through and through. When I signed up to go on this trip, I was not expecting this experience. I signed up because I thought it was extremely important to support the cause of life – especially in this new chapter of the fight (with the added bonus of seeing D.C.). What I received was an experience that changed the way that I saw the Pro-Life cause and connected me to many thousands throughout the country. I would really like to thank the Johnson County Right to Life organization who sponsored and funded this trip for me and gave me this amazing experience.

Will Boblenz, St. Patrick's Iowa City



Before we left on the trip, I was told it was a pilgrimage and not a vacation. It was, however, an amazing trip as well as a pilgrimage and we had a GREAT time. When we first got to D.C., we had to basically go straight to the basilica. One of my favorite parts of the trip was attending the Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It was so beautiful. I had never seen so many priests, bishops, deacons, and nuns at one time. As for me, the March itself was truly incredible. There were so many people and from every state and even other nations. Before the March we also went to Mass at the Life Fest Arena and we saw Sister Mary Casey as well as her sister. After the March, we took a tour by ourselves of the monuments and museums – including seeing the White House. Finally, on Saturday – the last day we were in D.C. we went and saw many museums – which was great (especially with my friends). Right before we left, we got to see Saint Gianna Molla's daughter. That was a really special ending to an amazing day. I know this trip has made a lasting impression on my faith and strengthened support for the pro-life movement. I would like to thank St. Mary's, St. Wenceslaus, and Johnson County Right to Life for making this trip possible.

Evan Loening, St. Wenceslaus Iowa City

There were many reasons why I decided to go on the March for Life, but one of the main reasons I decided to go was to stand up for the untruths about abortion and contraception that so many girls my age believe are true. Because I am in a public school, I feel like sometimes I'm the only person that believes abortion is harmful and wrong. Even some of my friends feel abortion is fine and see no problem with it. It can be hard when you feel like you're the only person who actually believes abortion is evil. At the March for Life, I was not alone. I was surrounded by thousands and thousands of people who had the same beliefs as me – that abortion is evil because it takes the life of an unborn baby. It was so cool to see the people my age excited about being pro-life. Another highlight of the trip for me was hearing Jonathan Roumie speak. He is the actor who plays Jesus on the popular series 'The Chosen'. I am a fan of 'The Chosen' – and he even exceeded my expectations. His speech was really powerful and really resonated with me. His speech reminded me that I am not alone in the battle for the right to life. Jonathan reminded all of us that however alone we may feel being pro-life, God always wins! I am so very grateful for the opportunity that St. Mary's provided me to go on this March for Life.

Monique Schnoebelen, St. Mary's Iowa City



My favorite part about the March for Life trip was the Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception – it took place the evening before the actual March began. The organist and the choir were utterly amazing and everything really drew me closer to God. I have never in my life seen more priests and religious than I did at that Mass! The Eucharistic Adoration was very beautiful as well. The March the next day was very encouraging. Seeing the sheer number of all the people who are for LIFE gave me hope for this nation. I loved every second of the March – all of us marching to give a voice to the voiceless and to defend the defenseless. Another hopeful thing was seeing all the young people. Too often I see the opposite of what I believe proclaimed as “normal”. After the March we went to see all the monuments there and it was very cool to see the history of our nation in person. This trip was one I HAD to go on. It changed my view from thinking that I was a minority and that barely anyone believes the Church’s teachings on abortion to the belief that the future of the church is alive and well. This trip helped me to not be afraid to proclaim the truth. I want to thank St. Mary’s for funding my trip. It was truly life-changing!

Ian Udell, St. Mary’s Iowa City





ST. JACINTA MARTO

Mar 11, 1910-Feb 20, 1920 | Written by: **Ava Garcia**

Francisco Marto (June 11, 1908 - April 4, 1919) and his sister Jacinta Marto (March 11, 1910 - February 20, 1920), also known as Blessed Francisco Marto and Blessed Jacinta Marto, together with their cousin, Lúcia dos Santos (1907-2005) were the children from Aljustrel near Fátima, Portugal, who said they witnessed three apparitions of an angel in 1916 and several apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1917. Their reported visions of Our Lady of Fátima proved politically controversial, and gave rise to a major centre of world Christian pilgrimage. The youngest children of Manuel and Olimpia Marto, Francisco and Jacinta were typical of Portuguese village children of that time. They were illiterate but had a rich oral tradition on which to rely, and they worked with their cousin Lúcia, taking care of the family's sheep. According to Lúcia's memoirs, Francisco had a placid disposition, was somewhat musically inclined, and liked to be by himself to think. Jacinta was affectionate if a bit spoiled, and emotionally labile. She had a sweet singing voice and a gift for dancing. All three children gave up music and dancing after the visions began, believing that these and other recreational activities led to occasions of sin. Following their experiences, their fundamental personalities remained the same. Francisco preferred to pray alone, as he said "to console Jesus for the sins of the world". Jacinta was deeply affected by a terrifying vision of Hell reportedly shown to the children at the third apparition. She became deeply convinced of the need to save sinners through penance and sacrifice as the Virgin had reportedly instructed the children to do. All three children, but particularly Francisco and Jacinta, practiced stringent self-mortifications to this end.