



NEWSLETTER



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NEWS

Our next meeting will be in Rockdale on September 10. Dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 PM. Meeting will follow.

The annual Kolache Festival will be held in Caldwell on Saturday, September 8. Lots of stuff, including the Car Show, Antique Machinery Show, Kolache Eating Contest, and a bunch of other stuff. Starts at 9 AM, and goes until approximately 5 PM.

We will be providing an Honor Guard for the Confirmation Mass at Holy Rosary on Sunday, September 16. Mass is at 8:00 AM. We need to arrive by 7:30 if possible. The address is 8610 FM 2774, Caldwell, TX for those who need to put it in their gps.

Also, Holy Rosary will be having their annual Festival on Sunday, October 7. A day of the usual things to do, including a bbq and sausage lunch starting at 11:00 AM. Music will be provided by the Mark Halata Band, from 10:00 AM, until 1:00 PM. Come out and enjoy yourself under the cool new pavilion constructed just in time for the festival.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We are both shocked and saddened to hear the news of the scandal involving Archbishop McCarrick. Saddened that something like this could happen, but we know that we live in a sinful world, and we have all sinned, just to different degrees. Shocked that the Church knew of these allegations, and that sanctions were placed upon the Archbishop by Pope Benedict, but for some unknown reason, were revoked by Pope Francis. What his reasoning was, to allow this person to serve publically in the Church, live with seminarians, and collaborate on the appointment of several high-ranking members of the Church in the United States, defies the imagination. As we all know, the Church has a hard enough job in this day and time, to keep us on the right path, and to give any indication of acceptance of this type of behavior, is almost impossible to overcome. If it is true that the sanctions were lifted, this will be hailed by the homosexual activist groups as proof that homosexuality is normal when even the Pope allows it to happen. I think it is time to uncover the cover-ups, if they are happening, and hold everyone involved in the Church accountable for their actions, no matter what their position might be. Please pray for our Church, as this situation will cause a lot of damage to Catholics everywhere, and to the Catholic Church.

Our Mother Mary has 3 feast days in September. Here is some information on one of them.

THE MIRACULOUS IMAGE OF RHO (Our Lady of Sorrows)

One year before his death, St. Charles Borromeo [d. 1584] heard a strange story that began in the town of Rho, just outside of Milan, Italy. The Saint was the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan and he was responsible for investigating reported miracles, one of which, this one mentioned, turned out to be true: The miracle involved a portrait of the Sorrowful Mother depicted in a seated position, with the Crucified Body of Our Lord reclining on her lap [like many "Pieta" images]. This particular portrait was already thought of as miraculous when St. Charles visited and prayed before it in the year 1570, some years earlier. Now, he assigned a group to investigate, and this is what they ascertained as fact:

Two farmers had stopped in the church at Rho on April 24, 1583 to pray before the ancient image known as Our Lady of Sorrows. They had often stopped in and were very familiar with the image. On this day they were stunned to see that the eyes of the Madonna were swollen as though the image had been crying. Thinking that they had made a mistake, they went closer to the portrait. At that moment tears of blood began pouring from her eyes. They were overwhelmed and much anguished that our Lady was so sorrowful, but they went to tell others to come and see the miracle. Someone suspected that the blood might be peeling paint, so a handkerchief was used to catch the tears of blood. Later it was obvious that the stain was made by blood and not paint.

It is not known how long the tears of blood lasted, but soon the little church was crowded with excited parishioners who were witnesses to the event and the news spread to Milan and surrounding villages, and to the Archbishop, St. Charles. He placed Carlo Bascapè in charge of the episcopal investigation. A notary took depositions from 40 witnesses; the results were sent to the Holy See. The miracle of Our Lady of Sorrows was declared authentic and St. Charles promised his parishioners that he would build a basilica to honor Our Lady as Our Lady of Sorrows or the Griever as the local people called her. He died after the cornerstone had been laid. Today the basilica is decorated with splendid carvings and priceless paintings. There are several large chapels, one of which is dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo. The custodians of this magnificent church are the Oblate Missionaries of Rho, known as the Missionaries of the Griever. Their founder was the Rev. Giorgio Martinelli [1655-1727], who was declared Venerable by Pope Paul VI. In the sacristy of the basilica is a tabernacle-like safe in which is kept a large silver reliquary in which is visible behind a crystal oval, the linen handkerchief stained with the bloody tears of the Madonna. The miraculous portrait ---- we do not have a good photo, which we someday hope to have ---- has the place of honor in the basilica. The yearly anniversary on April 24 is celebrated with impressive ceremonies, while the Feast Day of the Sorrowful Mother, which is September 15, is commemorated more solemnly. Her Feast of September 15 is one day after the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. The first known outpouring of honoring Mary as a Sorrowful Mother go back at least as early two or more centuries before St. Charles Borromeo and the devotion has its roots in Scripture. Both the Dominican and Franciscan Orders were instrumentally in spreading this devotion, along with the Servites.

ABOUT THE IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

As we said, she is portrayed mostly as a Pieta with the dead Christ in her lap, to resemble the original painting in the basilica at Rho. However, she is also popularly depicted with a crown of thorns in her hands, or with her Immaculate Heart pierced with thorns, or beneath the Cross in grief and most often of all, like the image on this page, which is a popular rendition of the famous one by Carlo Dolci. All are accepted by God and her as appropriate to Christ's wish for devotion to His Sorrowful Mother to be known and practiced. Various mystics and Saints have indicated as much.

We are devoted to all the images of our Lady of Sorrows and have chosen what we think is a fair representation of the range of images possible for display. We tried not to have too much duplication from last year and chose less color and more sepia in some of the sections. The devotion to Our Sorrowful Lady is growing in modern times, almost unprecedented, but of course it is very precededented because it is in accord with the Will of God. Our Mother is very much grieving, as Our Lady of Fatima, as Our Lady of LaSalette, as Our Lady of Akita, and so forth. Could it be any different in this time of worldwide apostasy and open rebellion against the rights of God and the respect and honor due His holy Mother.

SOURCES USED:

THE DICTIONARY OF MARY, Catholic Book Publishing;

MIRACULOUS IMAGES OF OUR LADY by Joan Carroll Cruz;

VARIOUS LEAFLETS AND BOOKLETS;

DEVOTION TO THE SORROWFUL MOTHER, [TAN BOOKS](#) AND PUBLISHERS

and PRAYERS AND NOVENAS IN HONOR OF THE MOTHER OF SORROWS

by Fr. James Alberione, S.S.P., S.T.D., St. Paul Books and Media

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