

# BUZZ REPORT

— OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION FOR MINISTRY —

MAY 2020



## FROM THE DESK OF SR. KATHY...

Dear Friends:

It is an understatement to say that our lives have all been turned upside down these past few months. Not being able to gather as community, as co-workers in the vineyard, as people of faith has radically changed our lives. Who would have thought that our world would ever be this way—social distancing, masks, gowns and all we've been doing. I am sure we have not even realized the full impact of this new normal.

I learned a long time ago that even if I was making a positive change in my ministry or communal living, change is still difficult. One has to adjust, learn new things and learn about new systems, processes and people. And all of that is exhausting. Perhaps you have experienced this yourself. Try to begin something new at the parish and see how many times you hear the phrase: "but we've always done it THIS way." We, humans, like the status quo.

In this Buzz news, I share a PBS program entitled *Inside the Vatican*. It was on the ETV station at 3 am, so I had to tape it and view it the next day. Often times, PBS repeats programs. Perhaps you, too, can view it. I found it quite enlightening.

In our national segment, I share a personal story about the meaning of suffering. I think it is very appropriate at this time to spend time reflecting on the meaning and learnings of Covid-

And in our local section, we are happy to share that our churches are re-opening, albeit slowly and with certain principles to be followed. Also, a friend of mine, shares how Covid-19 affected him as a pastor and how it affected his parishioners.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers living and deceased. May your special day be blessed with much love and deep joy. We thank you for the gift of life that you have given each of us.

Peace and all good,  
Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF



## OUR BLESSED MOTHER -- QUEEN OF MAY

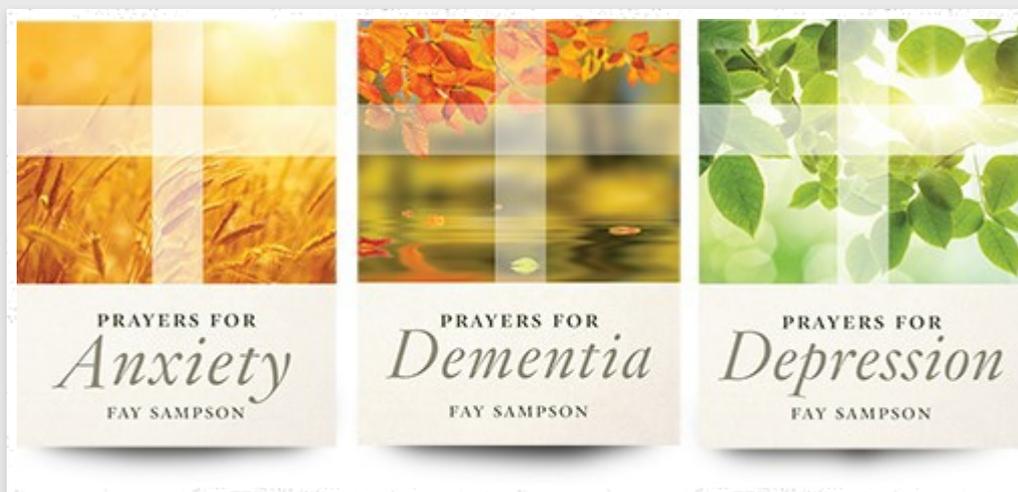
May she intercede before her son that Covid-19 be curtailed.

# MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Because so many of us need extra prayer, encouragement  
and support right now...

These beautifully written resources gently offer practical advice—including nuggets of information, support and counsel—for people of all ages, as well as for their family, friends and the larger community. Each book begins with a section addressed to those who are suffering and covers a wide range of topics, such as panic attacks, medication, exercise and relaxation, food and drink and social media. The second half of each book is for caregivers, covering issues such as work, children, church and family. These words of encouragement and support offer a beacon of hope to those for whom anxiety, depression and dementia are a daily reality.

To order, visit: [www.twentythirdpublications.com](http://www.twentythirdpublications.com)



## GLOBAL NEWS

### INSIDE THE VATICAN PBS BROADCAST

Entitled *Inside the Vatican*, a PBS broadcast occurred May 1, 2020 at 3 a.m. EST showing the various functions of Vatican City. Since I am not a monastic who gets up to pray during the night, I had to tape the broadcast and watch it the next day.

It begins by showing what is involved in preparation for the holiest time of the liturgical calendar—Holy Week. Beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing to the Holy Triduum and Easter Sunday, it was amazing to learn how the Vatican prepares for the celebration of the Resurrection. Next, on October 5, 2019 Pope Francis named new cardinals from various places around the world representing the universality of the church. The annual meeting of cardinals was shown in which the Holy Father gives his vision of the church and challenges all to be good shepherds of their people.

I really enjoyed the back of the Vatican that no one normally sees...and the Vatican gardens. Even though I have had the graced opportunity to visit the Vatican twice, I still learned much

about the inner workings of the Vatican. There are over 2,000 individuals who have various functions at the Vatican and each seems to understand their ministry as an honor and privilege.

Of course, it also portrayed those who do not have the same vision of the pope, but I believed their positions reflect the plurality of the church. This Franciscan really appreciated the broadcast; and, perhaps you can see it at another time on PBS or ETV.

# INSIDE THE VATICAN



Photo courtesy of PBS.com

NATIONAL NEWS

# A PERSONAL REFLECTION

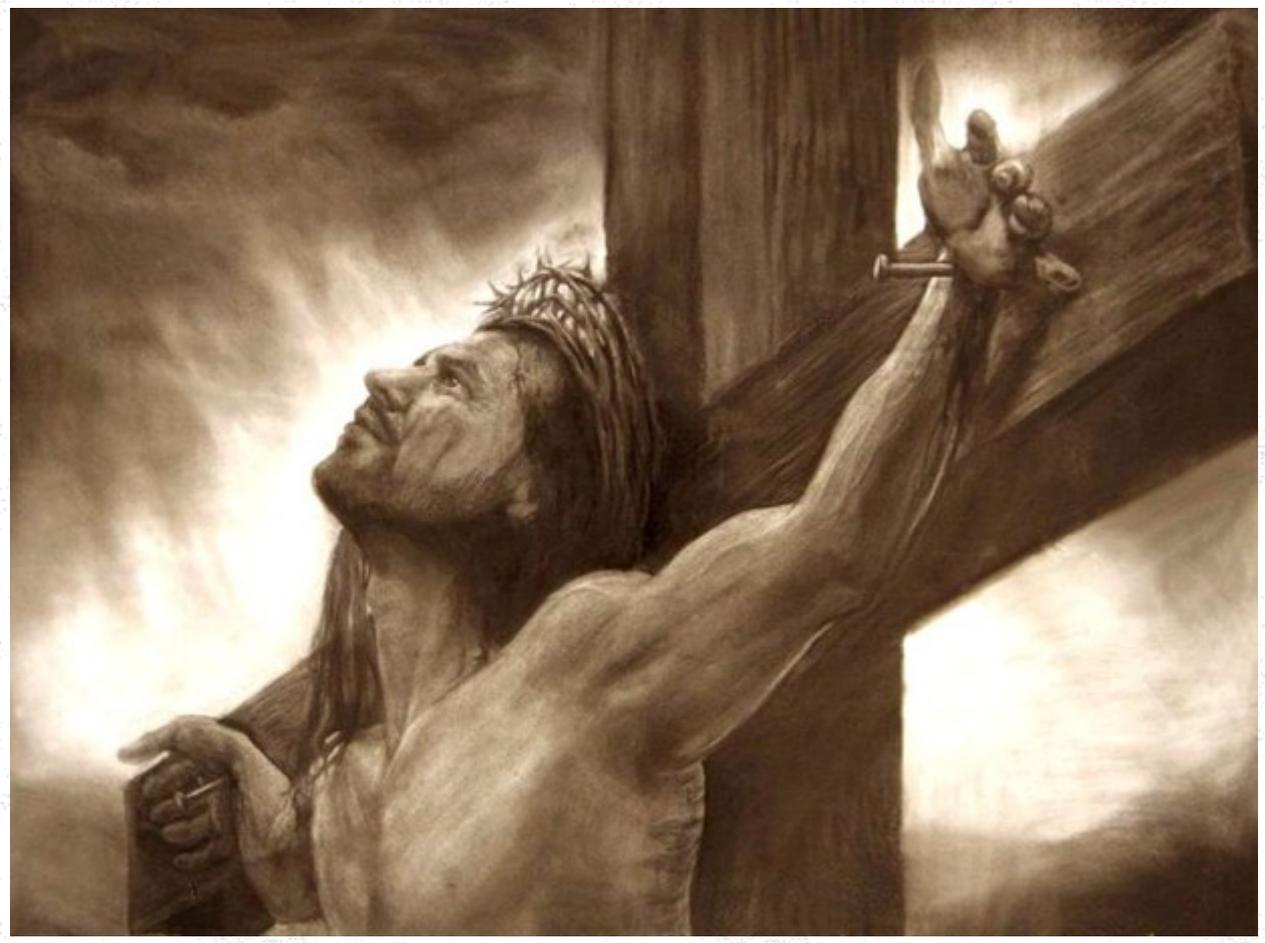
I have been asked many times why God allows suffering or what is the meaning of suffering. A very difficult question to answer in just a short time or space indeed. I do believe God does not, for example, send Covid-19 to test our faith. Covid-19 and other natural evils such as hurricanes and tornadoes result from the natural happenings of our world although I also believe that humans, can at times, help in preventing evil and suffering. I am sure many of you have read how the earth has looked even more beautiful and the sky even bluer, since people have been working at home and less carbon has been emitted into the air.

I guess I have been reflecting on the meaning of this grave suffering. What can be learned from this, how can I be more grateful, what is the role of my faith and prayer life during this time? Always after much suffering and later reflection on it, I have discovered that human suffering happens and why should I not suffer? Am I too special not to have to suffer? Was I spared because I lead such a holy life...holier than others, so God spared me?

As a Catholic Christian, I find the meaning of suffering in Jesus on the Cross. Isn't that why we have so many of these symbols in our homes and offices? I look to the cross, and I pray, Jesus, give me the strength and courage to endure whatever suffering it is. Many times I said this prayer as my own mother died of early-onset Alzheimer's disease in the late 90's when there really was no medication to alleviate her suffering.

One thing is certain for sure. If it had not been for my faith, community, family and friends in my various sufferings, I know that I would not have the relationship with Jesus that I am now blessed to experience. We should extend Christ's mercy and kindness to the many people who are in need right now and may be suffering physically, emotionally, and economically. St. Paul put it this way in his second letter to the Corinthians:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God (1:3-5).*



*Photo courtesy of joniandfriends.org*

May we remember all mothers living and deceased this month for the gift of life and love. May God continue to bless them with health, deep joy and peace.



## ONLINE RESOURCES FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

For a very thorough resource at this time for Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/evangelization-and-catechesis/digital-evangelization-resources/>

## LOCAL NEWS

### PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT MASS TO RESUME WEEK OF MAY 11

Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone wrote a letter to the faithful announcing that the public will once again be able to attend Masses throughout the diocese beginning with daily Mass on May 11. The first vigil and Sunday Masses open to the public will be held on the weekend of May 16-17. Of course there are new policies in place for pastors such as limiting the number attending until full attendance can occur at a later time.

Those older than 65 and those with immune deficiencies are asked to remain at home for a time and continue to view mass as live streamed from many of our parishes. These individuals have been given a dispensation from the Bishop for this time period. Also, one ought not go to mass if experiencing any kind of sickness, cough or cold symptoms.

Oratorian Father Fabio Refosco, pastor of St. Philip Neri Church in Fort Mill and dean of the Rock Hill Deanery, said the weeks away from celebrating Mass before his congregation were challenging for him. Father Refosco said he is a 54-year-old “cradle Catholic from Brazil” who even during his teens and college years never went without Mass for more than two weeks. “I could only try to comprehend the pain and distress of the faithful if I hadn’t been allowed to preside at Mass (via live stream) every day,” he said. “I learned, however, through letters, cards and phone calls that they really missed celebrating Mass together as a community. When we return, I hope to encounter the faithful remembering that we are bearers of the Good News and we are blessed because we kept the faith during this difficult time.” *The Catholic Miscellany*, May 2, 2020.



## FACTOID

### STRESS

A majority of American adults (64%) cited work as a significant source of personal stress last year in the American Psychological Association’s annual [Stress in America survey](#), which collected data from more than 3,000 adults between August and September 2019. Among Gen Xers, money and work were tied as the most frequently cited sources of stress (at 65% apiece). Among millennials, money (72%) barely edged out work (71%) as the most frequently cited stressor. Work was the second-most cited source of stress for baby boomers (preceded by health concerns), whereas Generation Z, or the post-millennial generation, reported work as its third-largest source of stress (behind money and health concerns).

*ama.org*



*Photo courtesy of NY Times*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

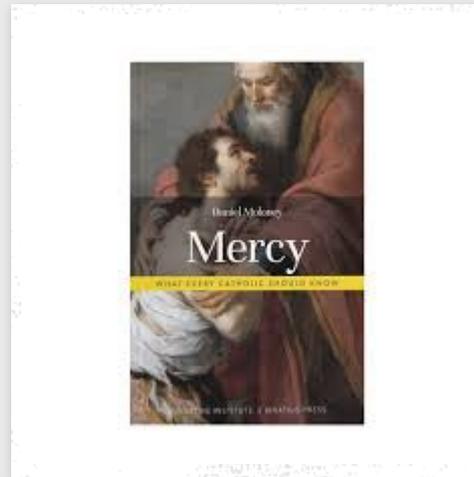
### **MERCY: WHAT EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW BY FR. DANIEL MOLONEY**

Fr. Daniel Moloney covers a broad range of topics regarding mercy that are prevalent for our society today. Beginning from an unexpected perspective in the first half of the book, Fr. Moloney approaches mercy from a political point of view, explaining how mercy is in fact truly and intimately interwoven with politics and power.

Through this lens, he touches upon pertinent topics such as legal punishments, the death penalty, and self-defense. He also assesses the clergy scandals, laying out why they occurred, what went wrong in how they were dealt with, and how the Church can improve moving forward for the greater glory of God. He eloquently explains how mercy is not synonymous with leniency, but is an act of responding to a privation, a lack of something which ought to be there. Sometimes the road to this may have to be tough love for the good of all involved.

Fr. Moloney invites the reader to wrestle with the supposed contradiction of God saying that he is merciful, yet killing and punishing his creation. Moloney ultimately resolves this apparent

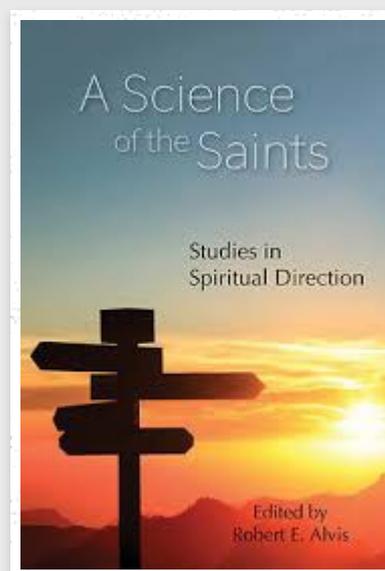
contradiction by highlighting God's identity as the loving Father, explaining how, similar to good earthly fathers, sometimes the most loving route to take in truly loving your children and bringing them to their ultimate good is through the course of tough love. God is always good and loving, and his justice and mercy go hand-in-hand.



## A SCIENCE OF THE SAINTS: STUDIES IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION, EDITED BY ROBERT E. ALVIS

Throughout the church's long history, Christians have sought out wise mentors to guide them on the journey toward God. [A Science of the Saints](#) explores the dynamics of spiritual direction as revealed in the lives and writings of a wide array of exemplary disciples, from the Desert Fathers and Mothers to Thomas Merton, and from St. Teresa of Avila to St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein).

This [groundbreaking work](#) sheds new light on an essential dimension of the Christian experience, yielding timeless wisdom to inform the practice of spiritual direction in our own day





ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
OF CHARLESTON

## OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

📍 901 Orange Grove Road, Charl...

✉️ [kadamski@charlestdioocese...](mailto:kadamski@charlestdioocese...)

☎️ 843.261.0498

🌐 [charlestdioocese.org/formati...](http://charlestdioocese.org/formati...)

