

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility**  
**C'est la Vie Apartments**  
**Newsletter ~ December 2020**  
*A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross*

**Darkness into Light**

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said: Let there be light, and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day and the darkness God called night. (Genesis 1:1-5)

For many of us, there is a dread of darkness. There is a sense of being enclosed in a space and options for escape seem limited. At times, separation from the familiar and from others is disconcerting. Even driving in darkness can be a challenge. The landscape is fuzzy and blurred. Oncoming lights and blinking neon signs distract the view and limit vision.

While we fear and search to avoid the experience, dark nights are inescapable and are a necessary part of our very being. Three of the most significant moments in Scripture are set in moments in darkness – the creation story, the birth of the Messiah, the death of Jesus Christ.

The earth was a formless wasteland and darkness covered the abyss. (Genesis 1:1)

Shepherds were keeping their watch at night over the flock when the angel of the Lord appeared to them. (Luke 2:8-9)

It was about noon and darkness covered the whole land. (Luke 23:44)

Our challenge as Christians, which is integral to the spiritual journey, is to recognize and grow through the darkness. However, our natural response is to shed more artificial light, to seek more distractions, to force our way out. This is acutely evidenced at the time of death. Being present to people in the dying process, there is a sense that the person is in a silent, dark space. Verbal communication has ceased, the bodily processes are slowly ebbing away, and the person is entering a world apart from ours. Not many people are comfortable with this moment in the person's life. Some avoid it altogether stating that they want to remember the person how he/she used to be as if this moment is not integral to the person's life. Others have a tendency to enter the room with hesitation and others upon entering the room want to turn on the lights, talk louder around the bed, scurry about as if trying to prevent the inevitable. This moment of final darkness in the person's life is discomfoting for many of us.

Similar to darkness at the end of life is the present darkness all around us. If there is an accurate image for our present crisis in the United States and beyond, it is an image of darkness.

- When women are violated in their homes, in the military, in their places of employment, in the health care system - there is darkness.
- When children are not safe in their schools, churches, and group organizations - there is darkness.
- When people are attacked and killed because of their chosen life-style - there is darkness.
- When life is not cherished and protected from conception to natural death - there is darkness.
- When people of color are not safe in their homes, in the military, in their places of employment, in the health care system - there is darkness.

- When people are dying and health care workers are risking their lives because others are not following recommended precautions to decrease the spread of COVID-19 - there is darkness.
- When local and national leaders refuse to work together to creatively address and solve urgent social, climate, environmental, immigration, and health care problems - there is darkness.
- When people search for a political or religious savior when the Savior has already come - there is darkness.

The terrors of this darkness demand inner spiritual strength and organized efforts. It is a call and challenge to inform ourselves on these issues, to call upon the Lord for guidance and direction, and to courageously act to make space for the light. Let us not yield to the temptation to add to the darkness by ignorance, by fear, by hypocrisy, by protecting the status quo in order to preserve our own personal status. With God’s grace and guidance, let us make every effort to work with others and be a people who carry light into the darkness of our world!

Out of an abyss of darkness, the world was created; out of the darkness of a desert night, a Savior was born; out of the darkness of Golgotha, salvation came to us all.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. For a child is born to us, a son is given us... They name him Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:1, 5)



*Let us pray: May the light of the Prince of Peace burn so brightly in our hearts, homes, and communities to disperse the darkness of our times, to give way to new life, new hope. Amen.*

**~Celebrating Birthdays in December~**

O. Ardoin	12/30	Sr. E. M. Gremillion, MSC	12/08
D. Castille	12/27	T. Lanclos	12/06
M. Castille	12/19	S. Langlois	12/21
L. Chautin	12/27	Fr. B Lebiedz	12/22
T. Couvillon	12/30	M. Richard	12/02
Sr. K Farrell, MSC	12/14	M. Vidrine	12/13

† **Recently Deceased Residents** †

Geneva Scallon 11/24/2020

Wesley Givs 11/28/2020

Sr. Maria Luz Cervantes, MSC 11/28/2020

*May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God  
rest in the peace and joy of the Lord!*



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