



September 10	Ana Lopez Chris Salyer
September 11	Jerry Leibolod
September 12	Josh Leisure
September 14	Kathy Hutchens Jinny Wendel
September 15	Ed Bourdase (90) Mary Frump Colton Lindsey
September 16	Tom Moran



LAUGHTER IS GOOD

A man decides to join the circus. He shows up to demonstrate his skills to the ring master.

“I have the most unusual act,” he announces. “I’m sure it will amaze you.”

He climbs up to the high wire and jumps off! He flaps his arms wildly, and finally, his fall slows and the man begins to fly. He soars upward, turns, and swoops back again. Finally, he stops in mid-air and gently lowers himself to the ground.

The ring master says, “Is that all you’ve got? Bird impressions?”

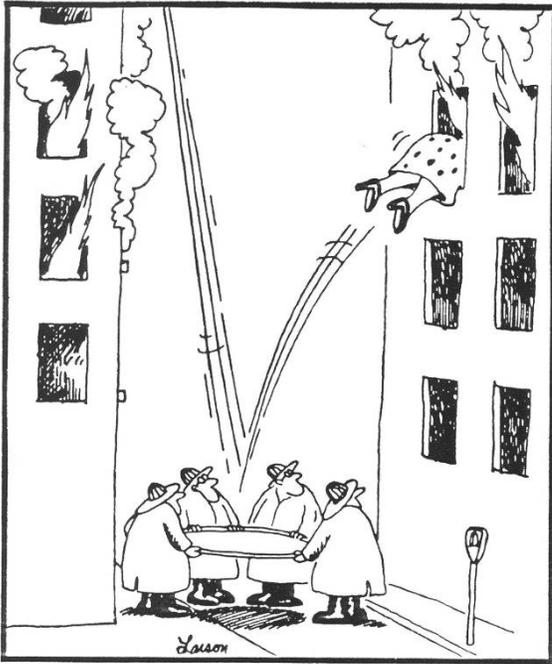
NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

PSR (Parish School of Religion) starts September 9, Preschool through 12th grade. Gathering time is 8:45 a.m. in the Hall. Dismissal is 9:50 a.m. Registration packets are in the Narthex. Email stmarycre@cincinnati.com for more information. We are excited to add preschool this year; Mrs. Wendel will lead our little ones, as they journey to learn more about Jesus and the Catholic Faith.

HOPE EMERGENCY

Located in Lynchburg, Hope Emergency Program provides food and clothing outreach services to the rural poor of Adams, Brown, Clinton and Highland Counties, and is currently seeking volunteers to assist Sr. Lucia and her staff. Places are currently open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. to organize donations and portioning of food, and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for distribution of food and clothing. This is a wonderful opportunity to answer Christ’s call to help our neighbors and serve in His name. For more information, flyers are in the Narthex or contact Cathy Breckel (parishioner) at cjbreckel@gmail.com, 937-205-7535 or Diane Vollman at Hope Emergency at 937-364-1055.

Our next Preparation Class for the R.C.I.A. will be Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. All adults are welcome to learn more about the Catholic Faith. If you have any questions, please call: Jim Hehl at 937-364-6556 (Home) or 937-661-4835 (Cell), or Joyce Combs at 937-764-2030 (Home) or 937-403-6708 (Cell).



"Oh, man! The coffee's cold!
They thought of everything!"



Leaked pics of what heaven
looks like

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Thanks to Wesley Fitzpatrick 10-28-1998
Y'KNOW ... I JUST DON'T THINK I
BELIEVE IN ATHEISTS

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DIVINE INTERVENTION



"Wings again?"

SERMON FOR TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY

I got an early viewing of a TV show you have to watch on CBS Sunday nights. It's called "God Friend Me." It's about a guy named Miles who is an outspoken atheist. He is angry at God that on the day the doctor said his mother was miraculously cured of cancer, she dies in a car wreck when leaving the hospital. He cannot believe a good God would allow that to happen. But his whole life turns upside down when he gets a "friend" request from God on Facebook. He can't believe it. But unwittingly, Miles becomes an "agent of change" bringing goodness to the lives of people around him – thanks to God's "friend" suggestions.

God told Miles to friend a man named John Dove. God even sent along a picture. Miles sees John in a subway station. He saves John's life by grabbing him as John was going to throw himself in front of the train, despondent after being dumped by his girlfriend. Then God told John to friend a woman named Cara Bloom. She is a writer for a magazine. She's just about to lose her job because she is having a writer's block due to the pain of accidentally running into her mother who abandoned her when she was a child. Miles learns that her mother was the nurse for his mother battling cancer. Miles convinces Cara to meet her mother. He says, "I don't have a mother still alive but you do." When she does, Cara meets not just her mom but her younger step-sister. Cara is enraged that her mom abandoned her but could take care of her step-sister. Cara runs away, crossing the street while not looking. A car hits her. She stops breathing. Miles feels helpless. Cara will die without a doctor. Miraculously a doctor comes by who recognizes Miles. It's John Dove whose life Miles saved earlier. John happens to be a doctor. He applies CPR, saving Cara's life. Miles begins to realize God has a "master plan" to bring goodness. God is using Miles as an "agent of change" to turn bad into good.

In today's Gospel, we see agents of change at work. People brought to Jesus a guy who probably all his life couldn't hear nor speak. The people begged Jesus to lay hands on him and heal him. We don't know who these people were, but they sure did care for the deaf man. They had faith in Jesus to do good. Their hope was fulfilled when Jesus spit on the man's tongue. The spit of a first-born male was believed to have healing powers. Jesus groaned as a sign healing power was going through Him into the deaf man. Jesus commands – "Be Opened" – and immediately, he spoke plainly.

Like the people whose faith brought the deaf man to Jesus, you too, are called to be an "agent of change" for good. You are called to bring someone to Jesus. Your faith in Jesus can be the spark that ignites faith in Jesus for another. Like Miles, there was a period in my life when my faith in God was so weak it practically was nonexistent. I knew God existed but I figured He just didn't care. This happened right after I left the seminary when I was 23 years old. But God sent me my "agent of change," Fr. Ed Connelly, whose strong faith shocked my faith back to life like a defibrillator. He encouraged me to finish my studies for the priesthood. What an honor to have him by my side as we celebrated Mass together for the first time. I would not be a priest today for 37 years if it were not for my friend who brought me back to Jesus.

Remember the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life"? George Bailey was going to commit suicide by jumping into the cold frigid waters below. George was despondent thinking he lost \$8,000.00 dollars of the bank's deposits. He would go to jail. His family would be better off without him, he thought. But a guardian angel named Clarence saves George by showing him what life would be like without him. Clarence, a divine agent of change, did his good deed to earn his wings. On Christmas Eve, a bell on the Christmas tree rings. Little Zuzu says "Look, daddy.... every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings." George says "That's right. That's right." Attaboy, Clarence." May you one day receive your wings.

Blessings, Fr. Mike