



NEW TV MASS CHANNELS

Please invite anyone you know in these cities to join us for Sunday TV Mass on Heart of the Nation's newest broadcast channels:

Davenport (Quad Cities), IA
KGCW (CW) channel 26
9:00 a.m.

Dayton, OH
WBBD (CW) channel 26
7:00 a.m.

Little Rock, AR
KARZ (MyTV) channel 42
7:30 a.m.

Phoenix, AZ
KUTP (MyTV) channel 45
8:30 a.m.

KASW (CW5) channel 61
7:30 a.m. (new time)

Mountainous Love

People who heard Jesus in the synagogue spoke highly of Him. Then the Lord pointed out a couple of miracles through the prophets Elijah and Elisha. The “chosen people” had chosen to ignore that prophets claimed as their own had brought God’s favor to Gentiles, too. Fury at Jesus for reminding them erupted, and they practically threw the Lord over a cliff at the edge of town!

In 1943, in a small village in Mexico, rumblings of a different sort occurred. First came a series of earthquakes and tremors. When a farmer saw a giant crack form across his cornfield, he abandoned his plowing to report the frightening occurrence. A group sent to investigate brought back some ash and unusual rocks spewed from the earth. Realizing that a volcano had emerged, the local priest prayed for blessing upon the villagers. People fled before ash, rock, and lava buried homes and other buildings in two villages so deeply that only the upper part of a cathedral remained visible. The volcano itself grew from a small mound to mountain sized.



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

To this day, disaster can shake our faith and bury our hopes, but we hold on to the surpassing love that matters most of all. As Saint Paul told the Corinthians, love enables us to bear all things—absolutely anything that comes our way.

How we look at things makes a difference. Geologists in 1943 eagerly witnessed growth of a newly formed volcano. The farmer purportedly put up a sign to stake his claim as owner of the volcano before relocating with his family to start over. Mostly, villagers escaped with their lives and little more.

As members of Heart of the Nation’s community of faith, we have the opportunity to invite people to Mass—lifelong believers or newcomers to the faith, people settled in or starting over, viewers who feel favored or mountainously afflicted as we pray for one another. Your gift during the Inspired and Invited fund drive will become a blessing as we continue to join together in prayer and worship while looking heavenward to the summit of our love in the Lord.

Fr. Mark

RSVP
Card Enclosed

*Inspired and
Invited*

(See page 2.)

“Not only is this a blessing to Catholic shut-ins, but a great way for non-Catholics to see what the Catholic Church is all about! I’m a convert.”

~Marge



“I was so happy that you included the Spiritual Communion and happy music. You are my new home church.”

~Lillian



“I never miss the Mass on Sunday. I am enclosing a donation to help keep the Mass on TV.”

~Patricia

Faith Keeps Us Afloat

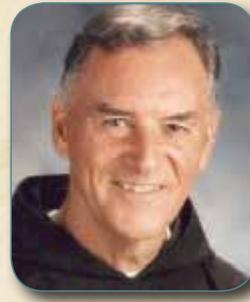
Saint Peter had gone out fishing, caught nothing, and could hardly disguise his skepticism when Jesus suggested heading out again to deep water for a catch. When the haul of fish filled two boats, Peter felt sunk in his sinfulness.

In the early 70’s, engineering students built a concrete canoe, christened it Mis-Led and emerged victorious in a race against their sole rival. If you build it right, even a canoe made of concrete will stay afloat.

The challenge gained popularity, and new teams work together each year to design, construct, and race their rock-solid canoes. Each team has the leeway to formulate its own concrete mix, design structural reinforcement, and determine the shape of its vessel.

Scribes and Pharisees had successfully misled people and heavily burdened them. The Lord’s lessons seemed as counterintuitive as a concrete canoe, but He

knew how to build the kingdom of God. His design took shape to win victory for us.



Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain

Jesus taught us to love our enemies. He called the poor blessed. He also chose Peter, hard-headed at times, to become the rock on whom He would build the Church.

We can picture Peter, the seasoned fisherman, calling it quits for the day and lowering the nets again

only to placate Jesus. Peter obeyed (no sin there), yet he felt so unworthy after the catch that he asked the Lord to depart from him.

Peter had doubted. Understanding why Peter wanted to rely on his own expertise, our Lord gave him the benefit of the doubt and forgave him.

Moreover, Jesus told Peter not to be afraid, reassuring him that he would catch more than fish. God’s design would definitely work!

Like team members building canoes, we each have a part in God’s divine plan. Solid in our faith and shaped by God’s love, we can stay afloat in a world of competing values. We just have to let the words of holy Scripture sink in.



Inspired and Invited

Jesus inspired people to come to Him. Scripture at Mass this month tells us of the fishermen who left their boats and nets to follow Him. We, too, have a personal invitation from the Lord, who wants us to R.S.V.P. “Yes!”

The Gospel of Luke reminds us that God wants us to give and will give us even more. During the “Inspired and Invited” fund drive, your offering will join with many other gifts needed in overflowing measure to provide Sunday Mass and Catholic publications to all who depend on Heart of the Nation’s ministry.

Inspired by your need for the TV/online Mass, the need of someone you love, or your desire to respond to the Lord’s invitation to follow His example of compassion among the multitudes, please return the enclosed RSVP card with your gift or monthly pledge.



Prayer in Sickness (World Day of the Sick is Feb. 11)

Blessed Virgin Mary,

In your gentle holiness,
Please join me in this prayer
For hope in the Lord Jesus,
Who loves beyond compare.

In your closeness to the Lord,
Please ask that He bless me
With grace in time of sickness,
Pain, or infirmity.

In your maternal care,
May the comfort that I find
Help me in faith to seek Him
With heart and soul and mind.

In your loving presence,
May the healing meant to be
Or suffering endured become
Blessed for eternity. Amen.

Valentine Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Love shared, given and received
Enfolds my most
joyous memories.
For love's inscription on my heart,
I give You thanks and glory.

For love shown in many ways
And its gift beyond what words
can say,
For each moment filled with love,
I come to You in grateful praise.

Greater love there cannot be
Than what Jesus showed readily.
In hope I offer You this prayer
For life in love eternally. Amen.

A Dozen or Two Valentines

On Catholic calendars, Feb. 14 appears as the Memorial of the missionaries Saints Cyril & Methodius. Prior to 1970, the day honored St. Valentine (or Valentinus), although no one could say with certainty which martyr of that popular name Pope Galasius intended when he declared the feast day in 469 A.D. Among a dozen or more possibilities, top contenders included a third-century priest in Rome and an Italian Bishop of the same era.

A group of monks in Belgium tried to get to the bottom of St. Valentine's identity as they produced a set of books on lives of the saints—a project of 68 volumes published between 1643 and 1940. Research on St. Valentine shed light on this patron saint of engaged couples, happy marriage, and love.

No proof exists, but Fr. Valentine had purportedly performed marriages in defiance of the Roman emperor's ban meant to keep single men available as soldiers. In any event, under house arrest during Christian persecutions, the priest prayed for his pagan guard's blind daughter (or maybe foster daughter). She regained her sight, the guard's family became baptized Christians, and the emperor eventually had Fr. Valentine beheaded anyway. According to lore, the daughter received a farewell note signed, "From your Valentine."

Researching Bishop Valentine's life, the monks found a miraculous cure, martyrdom, and burial along the same road as the priest. They speculated that the priest and bishop might be one in the same.

Before the Church's declaration of St. Valentine's Day, ancient Romans held a February festival connected with fertility. The playwright Geoffrey Chaucer tied Valentine's Day to the belief that birds began to mate in mid-February. Valentine notes date from the 1400's, and the romanticized celebration of the day continues. Catholics may still celebrate the martyred St. Valentines.



World Day for Consecrated Life

When St. Pope John Paul II instituted World Day for Consecrated life, celebrated on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord or the Sunday afterward, he defined its threefold purpose: 1) to praise and thank God for the gift of consecrated life; 2) to promote understanding and high regard of this vocation; and 3) to help people in consecrated life grow in commitment to their mission.

Consecrated life has several forms. In **Religious Life**, members of religious orders take vows of celibacy, poverty, and obedience. They share a vision and all things in common. In **Societies of Apostolic Life**, members do not take vows but share an apostolic purpose and community. Members of **Secular Institutes** foster holiness in the world through their work, interactions, and spiritual lifestyle. **Consecrated Virgins and Widows** dedicate themselves to prayer, penance, evangelization, and service. In **Eremitic Life**, hermits use their solitude for prayer and penance. On Sunday, Feb. 3, please pray for those called to consecrated life and for the supportiveness of their families.



With gratitude, Heart of the Nation welcomes new members to the Circle of the Heart monthly giving club. As a member, you will be included in prayers placed before the altar for every Sunday TV Mass. To join, please mark the box on your donation envelope, and indicate the amount of your pledge. (If you need to change or cancel your pledge, just call, e-mail, or send a note to Heart of the Nation.) **Thank you!**

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 Marsha Ashton
 Maria Barajas
 Kathleen Basoco
 Gladys Bates
 Diane Bauernfeind
 Bernita Beltz
 Jean Benner
 Bill Borden
 Shirley Boudreaux
 Donald Breitzman
 Mary C. Brown
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CATHOLIC MASS

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or

Contact Us:
Heart of the Nation
 P.O. Box 14428
 Milwaukee, WI 53214
Toll-Free: (855) 855-6277
E-mail:
Mail@HeartoftheNation.org

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 Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. **Thank You!**