



## A Good Connection

“Ahoy!” Alexander Graham Bell started the first long-distance landline phone call ever with that nautical exclamation. Two miles away, Thomas A. Watson responded with his own “ahoy.”

Twenty-year old Watson worked for a telegraph instrumentation manufacturer that also welcomed a steady stream of inventors who wanted their prototypes built. Watson described his outlook as “the point of view of a mere boy, just out of his apprenticeship as an electro-mechanician...and full of boyish hope and enthusiasm.” Having had our religious education, either as children or as adult newcomers to the faith, how many of us can say that we set about using it with such youthful gusto?



**Fr. Mark Payne**  
Chaplain

Alexander Graham Bell came to the machine shop with the idea for an “harmonic telegraph” intended to send six or eight messages simultaneously in Morse code over a single wire. Like a profitable servant described by Jesus, Mr. Watson often spent his evenings after-hours building, modifying, and collaborating on one test model after another.

Jesus once told a parable about a poor widow who, day after day, pestered a judge into rendering a just decision for her. While recommending persistence in prayer, Jesus also assured the disciples that the heavenly Father answers as speedily as possible. Faith grapples in hope and grasps inspiration.

One day, while Bell adjusted his telegraph receiver, one of the transmitter springs on Watson’s end stopped vibrating. Watson gave it one impatient twang after another. Then Bell heard the sound, faint as an echo. That very night, Bell instructed Watson on how to build a voice telephone. It took months of work, but finally Watson clearly heard Bell beckon him by phone, “Mr. Watson, come here.” After more persistent tinkering, they took their telephones to locations miles apart, successfully greeted each other with “ahoy,” and conversed until after midnight.

Jesus has already called us and left us His message. Call back anytime to connect with Him in prayer.



### All Souls’ Prayers

Please use the enclosed Spiritual Bouquet request to send the names of your departed loved ones for Heart of the Nation’s chaplains to remember at Mass on All Souls’ Day, November 2.

### Harvest Fund Drive

Your generosity during the Harvest Fund Drive will yield the blessings of the Word that God has given to us to share. Heart of the Nation will gratefully receive any amount that you can donate.

### SNOWBIRD ADDRESS

The post office will not automatically forward your monthly bulletin or *Prayer & Worship Guide*. Please contact Heart of the Nation with your winter address:

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

***“My 13-year-old grandson fixed my phone so that I only have to press one or two buttons and the Sunday Mass magically appears.”***

— Amparo



***“Whether it is a permanent situation like my dad’s or temporary, knowing that Mass is available is a blessing.”***

— Monica



***“When someone told me about your Mass, I was delighted. I have spread the word to many friends and relatives.”***

— Sally

## Children of God Dig Holes

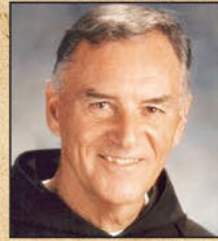
*At a neighborhood playground, two boys used their hands to dig a hole. Another child watched but couldn’t see what they buried. When the boys left, she and the adult with her dug in the same spot and discovered an action figure—some kind of superhero. With only part of the mystery revealed, they buried it again, in case the boys came back to look for it.*

With nothing to lose, a pagan army officer with leprosy obeyed the prophet Elisha’s message to wash seven times in the Jordan River. After his miraculous cure, Naaman asked Elisha for two mule loads of dirt. He wanted to offer future sacrifices to God on holy ground.

Naaman still had a problem, though. His job required him to accompany the king of Aram (Syria) to worship in the temple of a pagan god. Naaman hoped that the Lord would forgive him for hiding his newly found faith by going through the motions of bowing to a false god. Elisha told Naaman, “Go in peace.”

Later, irate people angrily drove Jesus

out of Nazareth when He dredged up the example of Naaman. In His hometown synagogue, Jesus pointed out that God



Fr. Tony Scannell  
Chaplain

could have cured plenty of lepers among the Israelites but chose Naaman instead. God works in mysterious ways!

Workers digging in preparation for the building of a church in Madaba, Jordan, uncovered an ancient mosaic of the Holy Land buried beneath the dirt. Discovered in the 1800’s, the “Madaba Map” identifies buildings, monuments, and

locations of important events in the advent of Christianity. Although partially destroyed, the mosaic still shows Jerusalem and the expanse around it.

Geographical landmarks, such as the Jordan River, appear on the mosaic, but the tiled map omits all side streets. Unlike our travel maps with north at the top, the mosaic faces east, toward the church altar.

On a spiritual journey, the faithful build churches and come together as Church. Words and actions can draw others to dig where we have and discover the Lord. Once buried and then Resurrected, Jesus stays ever eager for people to find Him.

## Welcoming People to Come Back

Ten lepers met Jesus and asked Him to have pity on them, but the Lord sent them on their way without promising a thing. He told them to show themselves to the priests, though—the people who could admit them back into the community. On the way, the leprosy left them. Only one went back to thank Jesus.

“We approach the Lord at Mass each week, each of us in need of healing, if we stop to think about it,” explained Fr. Mark Payne, Chaplain. “Your donation or pledge to Heart of the Nation joins in Jesus’ ministry of inviting people to come back to Him and come together in faith.”



## Mission Prayer

Lord Jesus,

For Your mission servants  
and fulfillment  
of their hopes, I pray.  
Please bless all  
who strive for peace,  
close by or continents away.

You have called me  
to assist in building  
Your Church here on Earth.  
In Your love, please  
show me how  
to do my part  
for all it's worth.

Happily do I become  
a tool that You hold in hand.  
As a Carpenter, please use me  
to fulfill Your holy plan.

Amen.

## In the Same Boat with Jesus

### “YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESS.” (ACTS 1:8)

Ready to ascend to His place in heaven, Jesus promised that the Disciples would receive power from the Holy Spirit and become his witnesses “to the ends of the earth.” Even when they could no longer see Jesus, they stared at the sky until two men in white garments asked why they continued to just stand there. On foot and by boat, they would continue the mission that Jesus began.

In his message for World Mission Sunday (October 23), Pope Francis explained that an individual proclaiming Christ in words and a Christian lifestyle contributes to the Church’s mission of spreading faith. Knowing what to say and having the energy we need come from the Holy Spirit, accessible day and night.

As an example of God working through ordinary people, the Holy Father recalled Blessed Pauline Jaricot. The Church’s Society for the Propagation of the Faith arose from her project to form prayer groups whose members would also contribute a small amount weekly for the missions.



## Truth in Any Language

Jesus once asked the Disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” The Lord didn’t get around to asking, “Who do people say that you are?” In the Bible, the word *Christian*—followers of Christ—appears twice in the Acts of the Apostles and once in the first Letter of Saint Peter.

Rifts occurred, including a heresy rejecting the Eucharist as the Body of Christ. Writing to the Church at Smyrna, Saint Ignatius of Antioch referred to the “Catholic Church,” using the Greek word *katholikos* to convey wholeness. The Memorial of Saint Ignatius (October 17) underscores that truths revealed and discerned through Sacred Scripture remain valid for everyone.



Scripture contains the Word of God, and Catholics may wonder which English translation of the Bible they should use. Readings for Mass throughout the United States come from the *New American Bible*. For home use, the U.S. Bishops have approved the *New American Bible*, Revised Edition; the *New Revised Standard Version*, Catholic Edition, published by the National Council of Churches; or any Bible translation that has received approval by the Apostolic See, a conference of Catholic Bishops (since 1983), or a local bishop (before 1983). Catholic Bibles include seven books that Protestant Bibles omit: the first and second Books of Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, Sirach, Wisdom, and Baruch.

### PRAYER RESOURCES

Order a free subscription to the **large-print *Prayer & Worship Guide*** for yourself or someone you love to follow along during Mass and use in prayer throughout each week. Send the recipient’s name and postal address to Heart of the Nation, P.O. Box 14428, Milwaukee, WI 53214.

**Daily prayers online** enable you to pray with Heart of the Nation’s faith community at any time. You’ll find a new prayer each day at [www.heartofthenation.org/prayer-resources](http://www.heartofthenation.org/prayer-resources).

To participate in the daily prayers on Facebook and post your own prayer intentions for others to pray with you, visit [www.facebook.com/heartofthenation](http://www.facebook.com/heartofthenation).

# New Circle of the Heart Members: THANK YOU!

Heart of the Nation gratefully includes Circle of the Heart members in prayers placed before the altar for every Sunday TV Mass. To join, please mark the box on your donation reply card, and indicate the amount of your pledge. (You may change or cancel your pledge at any time by contacting Heart of the Nation.)

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