

October 4, 2022

JMJ CHS.

We have a number of unusual things associated with our Catholic Christian faith. Tops on the list is the crucifix itself. Catholics, for the most part, insist on having the corpus, or the body of Christ, on the crucifix. Some places have removed it and some have replaced it with the resurrected Jesus. One thing we can say for sure is that whenever we see a crucifix, it is quite 'antiseptic.' It doesn't show what Jesus truly looked like on the cross.

What else? How about *The Incorruptibles*? "*Remember that you are dust and the dust you shall return.*" We will all die and return to ashes. But many of the Saints did not waste away in their graves. They remain intact. Incorrupt. This is not a special form embalming but a special grace from God possibly related to Psalm 16/10 which says : "*For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to undergo corruption.*"

One Saint whose incorrupt body is on display over at San Giovanni Rotondo in Italy, is Padre Pio. And he had some other unusual qualities as well. He bore the *stigmata*, namely the wounds of Christ on his body. Again, not auto-suggestion or self-inflicted wounds, but a "gift" from God. He was also able to read minds and to bi-locate, namely to be in two places at the same time. He was a very unusual guy.

And many of the other Saints were unusual in their own respect. We called them *mystics*, and they would seem to have a closer relationship with God than the rest of us. Some of them received messages from heaven or were intermediaries of those messages. Saint Bernadette of Lourdes was one. The three shepherd children of Fatima were another. Saint Margaret Mary and Saint Faustina received messages about God's love for us, and his mercy for us.

What they gave us are called *private revelations*, as opposed to the public revelations of the gospels and other biblical writings. Many people throughout the ages claim to have spoken on behalf of God. Many of them were genuine, but some of them or not.

The Church tries to study them to determine their veracity but there have been so many in recent times that they can't possibly examine all of them. But, as the Catholic Catechism suggests, these are messages that can be very helpful and encouraging during particular times in history.

On Monday, October 24th, we will have a visit here at Holy Spirit Catholic Church and school from a lady named Carolyn. She was once a school mom here at Holy Spirit but eventually had to move with her family to the Grand Rapids diocese. But she's been coming here now for many years on this particular date to share a message from heaven. On this day she's going to do it not in the evening, as she usually has done, but during the day. This opens up the opportunity for our school children to hear this special message. And so in the late afternoon on that day, our kids, and hopefully many moms and dad's, will come in to enjoy this special gift from heaven. This will lead up to dismissal at 3 o'clock.

If you wanted to listen to some of Carolyn's messages, go to heavenlygrace.org

I should also mention that many of our school families were deeply influenced by Carolyn's early messages. They would refer to them as 'life-changing'.