

# MOSACK'S

Church Goods & Religious Gifts



## Pope Francis – 2015 A Year of Consecrated Life



***A radical approach is required of all Christians, but religious persons are called upon to follow the Lord in a special way: They are men and women who can awaken the world.***

In November 2014, Pope Francis announced a special year-long focus on consecrated life, asking the Church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to **"wake up the world"** with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope.

The Year will take place in the context of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second Vatican Council which has been a breath of the Spirit for the church and for the religious life.

Spokesmen for the Vatican outlined three

objectives for the Year. First to **"make a grateful remembrance of the recent past"**. The Council asked those consecrated to the religious life to renew their commitment of fidelity to the Lord, to the Church, to their own charism and to the people of today.

Building on this positive outlook on the past, the second objective calls for **"embracing the future with hope"**. Although there are many challenges, men and women religious are encouraged to trust in the Lord

and remain full of hope.

The third objective urges religious to **"live the present with passion"** Let the beauty of following Christ shine through your vocation for all to see.

In the coming year, MOSACK'S will highlight the saints who founded religious orders as their feasts occur on the calendar. (See the first installment on pages 3-4). Books, statues, holy cards, and other merchandise in support of consecrated life are available online at [www.mosacks.com](http://www.mosacks.com).

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO CONSIDER

Make 2015 a time to grow in God's grace and deepen your faith! Devotional Books with daily meditations and, inspirational prayers are a great way to start the new year. Pocket size books with day by day devotions are available in several different themes: healing, words of comfort, lives of the Saints, Mary, Joseph, excerpts from the bible and more. Choose the one that fits your interest

and keep it by your bedside.

January is also a popular time for resolutions that improve your life style. Check out the Daniel Diet for a look at meals in biblical times, or move to the beat of Christian Fitness CD from Jack Heinzl.

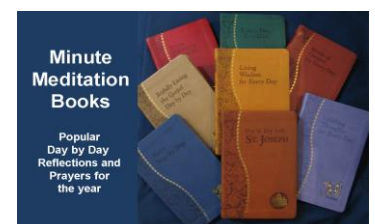
January celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany, the visit of the Three Kings to the Christ Child. Take time this month to bless your

home with incense and mark your doorposts for the coming year of 2015. (see the Blessing of Home page 2)

Pray for Vocations and show your support for all the priests, deacons, brothers, sisters, and pastoral ministers who inspire us with their witness of faith.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Epiphany Home Blessing	2
Pope Francis - Pocket Gospels Book Review	2
January Events	2
Fontanini Raffle Winner	5
Consecrated Life	3-4
Lent begins Feb 18th	5
Confirmation Gifts	6
Staff News	6



**EPIPHANY HOME  
BLESSING:**

*Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord. God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

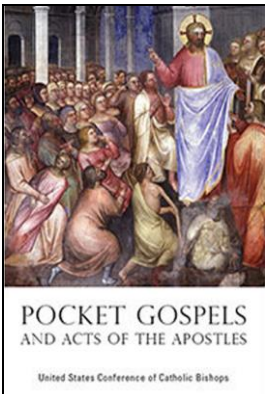
*Using chalk, write on the outside of your house, above or next to an entrance:*

**+20 C M B 15+**

*This stands for the first half of the current year (+20)*

*the Latin phrase **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** - May Christ Bless this House and/or the names of the 3 Kings Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar (C M B)*

*and the last half of the current year (15+)*



## JANUARY – Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

After the rush and business of the Christmas Season, it is good to take a respite and focus on “Ordinary Time” As we head back to work, return to school, and take up our daily tasks, we have chance to focus on the basics. Let us consider what God is doing in Christ, what God is doing in us, and what God is doing through our faith in Christ in the Church and in the world.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins Sunday, Jan 18<sup>th</sup> through Jan 25<sup>th</sup>. Reach out to your neighbor parishes and pray together.

**Martin Luther King Day**, Jan 19<sup>th</sup> reminds us all to look upon one another with brotherhood and understanding.

Thursday Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> is a **Day of Penance for Violations to the Dignity of the Human Person and Prayer for the Dignity of Life**. Check your local church and Right to Life centers for holy hours, prayer vigils, life-chains or other area activities in support of Respect Life. .

**Catholic Schools Week**, Jan 25-31<sup>st</sup> challenges us to focus on learning and the importance of religious education.

## CONGRATULATIONS FONTANINI RAFFLE WINNER!

Congratulations to Shelly H., Winner of MOSACK'S Fontanini 9 piece Heirloom Nativity Set (\$249. Value). Audrey from our staff awarded the Raffle Prize to Shelly on December 15<sup>th</sup>, just in time for Christmas decorating. A new tradition is begun with this family keepsake!



## POPE FRANCIS DISTRIBUTES THE POCKET GOSPELS

During the Christmas season Pope Francis handed out thousands of pocket-sized copies of the four Gospels and Acts of the Apostles. He asked the faithful to read a passage every day, saying, *“Take it, Carry it with you, and read it every day: it is Jesus Himself who is speaking to you ... The important thing is to read the Word of God, ... It is Jesus who speaks to us there. And welcome it with an open heart. Then the good seed*

*will bear fruit”!*

**Pocket Gospels and Acts of the Apostles** is a great way for believers to keep the Word of God as their constant guide and inspiration. It's the perfect size for purse or pocket.

This small booklet includes the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles in one handy volume. It has a durable cover with a beautiful Italian fresco on the front – just like the Pope's!

Take Pocket Gospels and Acts of the Apostles with you and read it anytime you have a few minutes during the day. On the bus, waiting for an appointment, during lunch or breaktime, anytime!

Already at a reasonable price of \$7.95 each, MOSACK'S also has QUANTITY PRICES and FREE SHIPPING on orders of \$100.00 or more. This book is a great gift idea for classrooms, parishes, bible study groups.

## Coming in February – Month of the Passion of the Lord

February 2, the **Feast of the Presentation of the Infant Jesus** in the Temple of Jerusalem, falls midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox and in many traditions is considered the beginning of spring. Churches bless and distribute candles on this day a sign of Jesus the True Light of the World.

On February 3, the **Feast of St. Blaise**, candles are

used to bless throats and guard against every other illness. Legend records the miraculous cure of a choking child by the Bishop Blaise in the early years of the church.

**St. Agatha's** chastity and courage in martyrdom, is commemorated on February 5. Agatha is the patroness of women suffering from breast cancer and patron saint nurses.

**World Day of Prayer**

**for the Sick** occurs on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11. Mary appeared to 14 year old Bernadette in 1858 as the Immaculate Conception. Lourdes, France is a popular pilgrimage sight.

**Valentine's Day** on February 14<sup>th</sup> is a time to remember all couples and the blessings of marriage.

February 17 is **Presidents Day** Wave the flag and show your patriotism!



## Lent Begins Feb 18, 2015

***"Lent is the season of endings becoming beginnings. It mirrors and prepares us to celebrate the mystery of the Cross, where the end of mortal life becomes the beginning of eternal life."*** (2015 *Sourcebook*).

The readings of this season inspire us to take up again and more firmly practice our faith. We say "no" temptation and sin and "yes" to grace and

following the Lord. Forgiveness, mercy, and new life are given us here and now through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

We have forty days of Lent. Watching winter fade away and spring blossom reminds us that though it might seem insignificant at first glance, change and rebirth does happen to a growing seed over time. So it is with us – spring

reminds us of the power of daily work, daily prayer, changing habits, and taking one step at a time.

Find a way to connect with nature and open yourself to God's Life this year. Plant seeds of faith by reflecting on sacred scripture, praying the Stations of the Cross, and sharing the blessings of the season with those less fortunate. Let God work wonders in your life!



*"Repent and Believe in the Gospel!"*

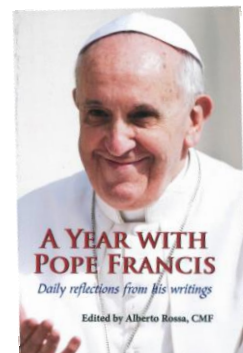
## BOOK REVIEW: A Year With Pope Francis

Since his election as Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis has spoken to the hearts of believers and non-believers alike. He speaks with the voice of a friend, a fellow traveler, a pastor. His words are simple, demanding, and delivered with the conviction of one who speaks to be heard, understood and

followed.

*A Year with Pope Francis* presents a selection of his words organized in the form of a calendar for daily prayer and reflection. This pocket size book is filled with nourishment for the soul. *"Take your portion for each day and spend time to savor every word. Every day has*

*its own flavor, its own rhythm. May you unearth treasures of wisdom from the words of Pope Francis to strengthen you in faith, build you up in hope, and bring your closet to God and to our brothers and sisters with an open mind and faithful heart."*



# YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Throughout the coming year, MOSACK'S will feature a short biography on the saints who founded religious orders. The saints chosen will be featured as their feast days occur on the calendar. We encourage our readers to reflect on the many ways these men and women have lived out their vocations and to pray for the orders they have founded.

## JANUARY 2015

### **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:**

*Feast Day: January 4 - Patronage: Loss of Children  
Born: Aug. 28, 1774 in New York - Died: Jan. 4, 1821  
Beatified in 1963 - Canonized on Sept. 14, 1975*

Elizabeth Ann Seton, was very intelligent and cultured which was not common during her time. When she was 19 years old she was married to a wealthy man by the name of William Seton. They had five children. When there was a tuberculous outbreak, William Seton became victim to the illness and was in need of a Doctor. Together Elizabeth and William traveled to Italy to seek treatment however William died from the sickness. It was in Italy that Elizabeth, who was formerly Protestant, converted to the Catholic Faith. When she came back to America, she started her own order called The Sisters of Charity who wore the widow's cap and dress. Elizabeth would lose two children who also died of tuberculous. She was strong in faith and did not quit despite any difficulties. She died on January 4, 1821 due to tuberculous. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the first American who became a Saint in the Catholic Church. You can visit her tomb and a Shrine which is located in Emmetsburg Pennsylvania.

### **St. Andre Bessette:**

*Feast Day: January 6  
Born: Aug. 10, 1845 - Died: Jan. 10, 1937  
Beatified: May 23, 1982 - Canonized: Oct. 17, 2010*

St. Andre Bessette was the 8<sup>th</sup> of 12 children. When he was of age he joined the Congregation of The Holy Cross but had to leave because of his poor health. However the Bishop, who must have seen his holiness forced the Congregation to allow him to stay, and had him become the door Keeper. Andre Bessette humbly accepted this position and enjoyed taking care of those who were sick. He always took comfort in St. Joseph, and eventually left the Congregation to start his own order, St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. Thousands of pilgrims would come to visit him and to receive the St. Joseph's Holy Oil which was known for its miraculous healings. He is the first Saint to be canonized in Montreal

**St. Francis de Sales:** *Feast: Jan. 24 Patronage: Writers, Confessors, hearing impaired, writers, and educators*

*Birth: Aug. 28, 1567 - Death: Dec. 28, 1622  
Beatified: Jan. 8, 1661 Canonized: April 8, 1665*

St. Francis de Sales was born to a noble family in Haute Savoie France. He was the eldest of six children and therefore attended the best schools in order to prepare for his future career as a Magistrate. Once he heard a speech on the dangers of sin and hell, which made him ill and bed ridden. He consecrated his life to Mary and God and took a vow of Chastity. He later became a priest and because he was so influential in the year 1602, he became the Bishop of Geneva. Along with St. Jane Francis de Chantal they founded the women's "Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary". Francis de Sales also founded a small community of men titled "Oratory of St. Phillip Neri", which ended soon after his death. He was a very profound writer; much of his work is still read today especially "Introduction to the Devout Life" which was written especially for lay people.

### **St. Angela Merici:** *Feast Day: January 27*

*Patronage: Loss of parents, handicapped, & sickness  
Birth: March 21, 1474 - Died: January 27, 1540  
Beatified: April 30, 1768 - Canonized: May 24, 1807*

St. Angela Merici was born in Lombardy. When she was 15 years old, She and her older sister lost their parents and had to move in with their uncle. When Angela's older sister died suddenly without receiving her last rites, Angela became a Third Order Franciscan and prayed for her sister's soul. She then had a vision that her sister was in Heaven with the Saints. Angela was very beautiful and attracted a lot of admirers but she had promised her life to God. On November 25, 1535 Angela along with twelve other women started the Company of Saint Ursula, which is today known as the Ursuline Sisters. Their goal was and still is today to educate and teach.

### **St. John Bosco:** *Feast: January 31*

*Patronage: Editors, publishers, school children, young people, magicians, and juvenile delinquents  
Born: August 16, 1815 - Died: January 31, 1888  
Beatified: June 2, 1929 - Canonized: April 1, 1934*

St. John Bosco was born in Becchi Italy to a poor family who were farm hands. At the age of 2 John Bosco's father had died, leaving his wife to take care of the family. When John was 9, he had his first dream which would last the rest of his life. His dreams, which were life like, consisted of Mary, Heaven and hell. When he would wake up the next morning, he was actually exhausted. John wanted to become a priest, and at the age of 12 he left his home to study.



Because of their poverty they could not afford the education that was necessary. A priest named Fr. Joseph Cafesso saw the holiness in this boy and helped him. In the year 1835 John Bosco became a priest. Once while visiting a prison, he was saddened by the amount of young boys who were in jail and wanted to do all that he could to prevent this from happening. Therefore he started the "Oratory of St. Francis de Sales" which was created to teach trade, educate, and possibly create new vocations to the priesthood. Despite many difficulties St. John Bosco never gave up, and had faith that God would never abandon him.

## **FEBRUARY 2015**

### **St. Birgit of Ireland**

*Feast Day: February 1 Born: 453 - Died: 524  
Patronage: Babies, blacksmiths, boatman, illegitimate children, dairy workers, and Ireland*

St. Brigit was born into slavery in Ireland. She was baptized along with her mother, by St. Patrick. From her early youth she was devout and very holy. At a young age she entered into religious life and took the veil of St. Macaille. In 470 she founded the convent Cill-Dara (Kidare). This was the first convent in Ireland. There are many miracles that are attributed to St. Brigit. She was full of spirituality, compassion and love for those who were in need.

### **The Seven Holy Founders of the Order of Servites**

*Feast Day: February 24*

In the year 1240, seven Florence men of nobility all decided to withdraw from their worldly lives and join together in solitude, where they could pray and be in direct service to God, without all the earthly distractions. Their goal was to lead a life of Penance and Prayer but due to the amounts of visitors they were receiving this made it difficult so they left Florence and went to the deserted land of Monte Senario.

## **MARCH 2015**

### **St. Katherine Drexel: Feast Day: March 3**

*Patronage: Philanthropy, Radical Justice  
Born: Nov. 26, 1858 Died: March 3, 1955  
Beatified: Nov. 20, 1988 Canonized: Oct. 1, 2000*

St. Katherine Drexel was born to a wealthy family in Philadelphia. She along with her other two sisters were well educated. The parents also stressed the importance of taking care of the less fortunate. Once while visiting Pope Leo XIII, she asked if he could send missionaries into Wyoming for the Indians. His response to her was; "Why don't you become a missionary?" This was the start of her religious vocation. She gathered a few women together and started her own order, "Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored". Their goal was to

teach the Indians and the African Americans who were not treated well at that time, and to show that they cared for them and that God loves them. Katherine Drexel also started Xavier University. During her life she gave millions of dollars away to those who needed it most.

### **St. John of God: Feast Day: March 8**

*Patronage: Booksellers, hospitals, nurses, the mentally ill and the dying*

*Born: March 8, 1495 Died: March 8, 1550  
Beatified: Sept. 21, 1603 Canonized: Oct. 16, 1609*

St. John of God was born to an impoverished family in Portugal. However their faith and devotion of God was very strong. At a young age, St. John was kidnaped and taken to a foreign country. A kind man by the name of Francisco Mayoral took him into his home. In return St. John looked after his sheep and a shepherd. He began to lose his faith, however, he regained it when he heard St. John of Avila speak. St. John of God began to beat himself up and torture himself for ignoring God. St. John of Avila instructed him to stop what he was doing, and find another way to show God that he was sorry. John of God, started to care for the poor and the sick. Eventually, with a group of men who had the same wish, he started the "Order of Hospitallers"; later after his death it was called "Order of the Hospitalliers of St. John of God".

### **St. Francis of Rome: Feast Day: March 9**

*Patronage: Benedictine Oblates, Automobile drivers  
Born: 1384 Died: March 9, 1440 Canonized:  
1608*

St. Francis of Rome was born to wealthy parents. At a young age she wanted to become a nun and give her life completely to God. Her parents however, objected and forced her into marriage. She was obedient and did what they asked of her. Once, when they had no wine or grain, St. Francis prayed and miraculously everything was replenished. Her husband then converted to the Catholic faith. St. Francis started a religious group of women, who were bound by no vows. All they were asked is to offer themselves to God and to assist the poor.

### **St. Pope Gregory the Great:**

*Feast Day: March 12 Patronage: Teachers  
Born: 540 Died: March 12, 604  
Canonized: Soon after his death*

St. Gregory the Great was appointed Chief Magistrate of Rome at the age of 34. During this time he built a total of 7 monasteries, one of them being in his own home. When he was 35, he became a priest. St. Gregory was elected Pope by a unanimous vote. During this time he contributed to the Liturgy of the Mass and the Office. He is a doctor of the church.

(first in a series of *Saintly Founders of Religious Orders* – submitted by Laura)

### CONFIRMATION GIFTS

MOSACK'S carries a wide selection of Patron Saint medals, statues, biographies and holy cards perfect for Confirmation Students and RCIA Candidates. Visit us online at [www.mosacks.com](http://www.mosacks.com) for a look at our selection of Confirmation Gifts.



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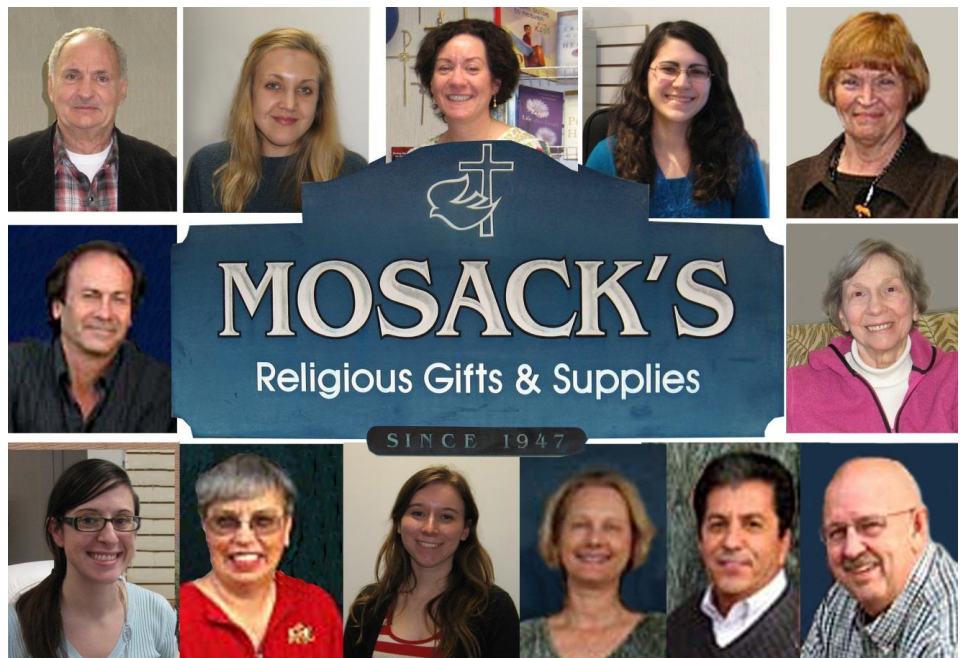
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