

## COMING EVENTS

Novena August 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday August 25

Mass at 11:00 AM

Rosary and Novena Prayers before Mass

Mass Times at St. Wenceslaus Home of the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus

Saturday Night Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 11:00 AM

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00AM Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10am to 3pm

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00PM

This newsletter is published monthly to promote the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the National Shrine in Oklahoma USA.

[www.shrineofinfantjesus.com](http://www.shrineofinfantjesus.com)

[www.facebook.com/iopshrine](https://www.facebook.com/iopshrine)

## THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

### August 2024

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME  
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



Brothers and Sister in Christ!

There is a funny story about a Bishop who questioned a major seminarian before he decided to ordain him as a deacon. The Bishop asked him where you wanted to receive the diaconate to practice for your ministry. The seminarian replied quite boldly: "Bishop you can send me anywhere, except my home parish...!" The Bishop asked: "Why can't it be There?" The seminarian replied: "You know, it's my hometown parish— and you also know that **"A prophet is not without honor except in his native place."** The Bishop gently replied: **"Don't worry, my child! No one in your home parish will mistake you for a prophet!"**

Bishop Fulton Sheen, a talented and famous Preacher, was told by his college preaching instructor, **"You are the worst speaker I have ever seen."** The eminent British Theologian G.K Chesterton did not learn to read until he was eight years old. One teacher said, if Chesterton's head were opened, one would only see a lump of fat, not the brain. That teacher was completely wrong. Ernest Hemingway, the great novelist who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954, was told by his teacher: "Forget about writing; You don't have enough talent." Beatrix Potter's **"The Tale of Peter Rabbit"** was rejected by seven publishers (note: a children's picture book published in 1902, translated into 36 languages including English, with 45 million copies, considered one of the best-selling books in history). Richard Bach received twenty rejection letters before "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" was published. Thomas

Edison invented many devices that greatly influenced life in the 20th century. Edison is considered the person with the most inventions in history, holding 1093 patents in the United States, bearing his name. But during his early years of education, teachers told Thomas Edison that he was **"too stupid to learn anything."**

Jesus encountered rejection in his homeland. So we should not be surprised if we, those who believe in Jesus, also experience discrimination in life. On the journey to search for the truth, people need to know God, others and themselves. If they only know themselves, they are easy to oppose God and others. Moreover, when people only know themselves, they are to be arrogant and to insult God and others. Jesus came on earth to do the Will of His Father and obeyed to the end, even when He died on the Cross. Saint Paul tells us that **"He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a Cross."** Jesus He came into the world in all humbleness and emptiness and showed Himself as a humble servant in human flesh. He comes to His people with the message from God but they shut him out. A long time ago during Jesus public life He is in His hometown Nazareth accompanied by His disciples and He goes forward to teach in the synagogues. The people of the town were amazed. They were surprised at the wisdom which He spoke, and the power of the miracles they had heard He was performing. They are

even more amazed because they know who Jesus was. They grew up with Him. Only a few believed in Him and others were not willing to accept Him as they knew Him too well. They personally knew Him as the Son Mary and Joseph, with who they were very familiar and they also knew Him as the relative of James, Jose, Judas and Simon they could not easily receive His teaching. They knew very well that He was a simple, ordinary carpenter. Jesus' fellow- country men instead of evaluated him on these values to believe in him, they evaluated him on hi family, position, relatives to they insulted and denied to believe in him.

That rejection of the Word of God continues into the New Testament. Before Saint Stephen was stoned to death he said: **"You stubborn People with your pagan hearts and pagan Ears. You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do."**

(Acts 7:51) **Saint Luke tells us that as Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last Time He cried because they did not Recognize the time of their Salvation.**

(Luke 19:41) We also know that the people of Nazareth rejecting Jesus. They made up every excuse to reject Him, they know His mother and they know His cousins. Again in Nazareth the rejection of God brings a punishment, Jesus could work no miracle there; however he cured a few sick people. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Even though we easily blame the people of Nazareth, We are not much different from them. The same thing can happen

and does happen to us all the time. God is always speaking to us through the people we know, through things that happen to us. Again and again we do no recognize His voice or His message because He is speaking through someone we know very well, or someone we do not like, or someone who is a total stranger. We see the person and not the God who speaks through the instrument of the person. Jesus said to them: **"A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house."**

In 1960, a persecution of Catholicism broke out in the African country of Sudan. A black Catholic student named Taban ran away from home to neighboring Uganda to seek refuge. During his time here, Taban was accepted into the seminary and 7 years later, he was ordained as a priest. When the situation in Sudan calmed down, hew priest Taban decided to return to his hometown to carry out his priestly mission. Father was appointed by the Superior to take care of a parish in the Palotaka area. However, the parishioners here were skeptical about his priesthood as he himself recounted the event as follows: "The people looked at me skeptically and Said: **"Hey, black guy!" What are you talking about? Are you a Priest? Unbelievable!**

*The villagers of Nazareth did not believe in God because God is just a carpenter. The disciples did not believe in God when they saw the Lord hanging on the Cross. Many people did not believe that Jesus was God just because they saw God living like a human. There are Times when we don't believe in God appearing in the form of the bread and wine, in an old and weak priest in the Church with many imperfection world rejects, so that we can learn to recognize Him with the eyes of faith. Lord, please increase our faith so that we can humbly see You show yourself to be normal and humble in the middle of our life. Amen*

*Sincerely in Christ,  
Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran, Rector*



NAME\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_

STATE\_\_\_\_\_ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

SHRINE

PROMOTION\_\_\_\_\_

FLOWERS\_\_\_\_\_

TREES\_\_\_\_\_

VESTMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

ALTAR CANDLES \_\_\_\_\_

SANCTUARY LAMP\_\_\_\_\_

6-DAY VIGIL @ \$5.00:\_\_\_\_\_

MASS STIPEND @ \$10\_\_\_\_\_

MASS INTENTION FOR\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_LIVING                    \_\_\_DECEASED

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE MASS TO:

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PLEASE CALL FOR A PAVER FORM AND WE WILL MAIL YOU ONE. THANK YOU

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please address them to:

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