



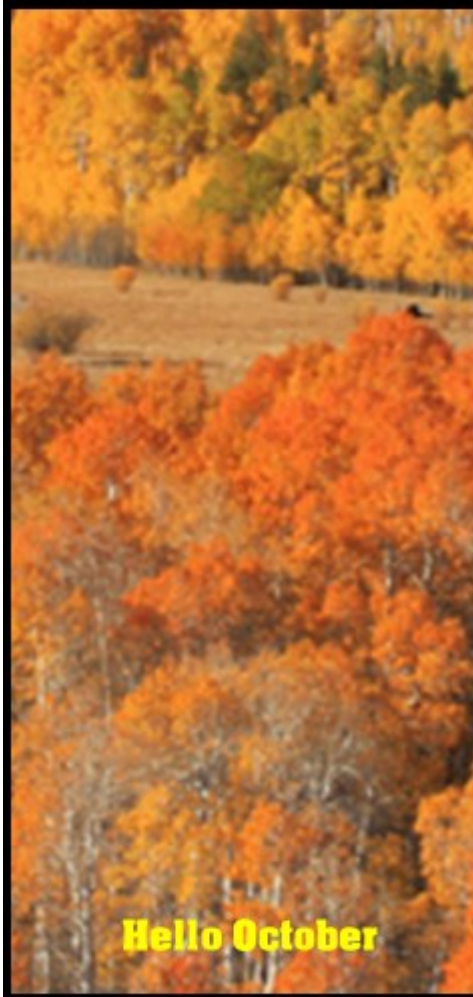
# EL Diácono



October 2021

*A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe*

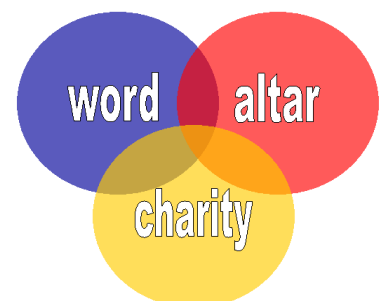
Issue 36



The Office of Deacons would like to thank you for your ministry to the Church, The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and the many services provided to the people of God and the entire community. May God bless you abundantly.

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## Criticism With Grace

by

Fr. Glennon Jones

Criticism — it's something we're quick to give but hate to receive. Even helpful and relevant criticism is often met with anger ... though, certainly, when given in the spirit of good will, we would be foolish to disregard it out of hand. Isn't criticism/critique the whole purpose of grading students, or even of peer review in scientific papers? Certainly everyone enjoys being validated, but we all can be blind to our own faults and failures. So, if we react dismissively or with hostility to any criticism whatever, how will we ever improve?



That's why we hear in scriptures such things as: "*Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning.*" (Proverbs 9:9), and "*Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.*" (Proverbs 19:30). Who among us is so wise as to not need advice and instruction? Yet, we need give as we would like to receive, and offer criticism *always* with tact and kindness, for this is simply charity.

Now, to be a chronic critic of others is to know oneself poorly, for who among us doesn't have myriad faults worthy of criticism? How about that time you blew your stack? ... or demanded your own way in some inconsequential detail? ... or when you refused to talk to someone. So the reasonable — the humble — person will always be (or at least *try* to be) kind and tactful when either offering or receiving advice or constructive criticism.

But few things destroy human relations quicker or more deeply than harsh or undeserved criticism: "*The blow of a whip raises a welt, but a blow of the tongue crushes the bones.*" (Sirach 28:17). And we need to be especially careful in our domestic relationships. We tend to be harsher with family because, subconsciously, we know that we CAN be; familial love will (usually) keep them from storming off, to never to be seen again. It shouldn't be that we are even harsher with those who love us; on the contrary, "... *how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!*" (Psalm 133:1). So let us have the graciousness to be sparing and gentle in criticism, knowing that each of us has plenty to criticize in himself ... as Jesus says: "... *first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*" (Matthew 7:5). If we seek always to be kind and gentle to all, then we reflect Jesus' own goodness.

Jesus, of course, is the model for we Christians ... and we remember how He accepted even scandalously unjust criticism and condemnation with patience and grace. Emulating His attitude leads to peace of spirit, just as He promises us: "... *learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.*" (Matthew 11:29).





## **Hello October!**

### **St. Francis of Assisi**



Interest in St. Francis of Assisi dramatically increased with the election of Pope Francis. Today Catholics around the world have statues of St. Francis in their homes and gardens. But who was the pope's namesake — this St. Francis of Assisi?

St. Francis of Assisi (Francesco di Pietro di Bernardone) was born 1181/82 to Pietro di Bernardone and a beautiful Frenchwoman in Assisi, duchy of Spoleto, Italy. He died October 3, 1226 in Assisi, and his feast day is October 4th.

St. Francis is the founder of the Franciscan orders of the Friars Minor (Ordo Fratrum Minorum), the women's Order of St. Clare (the Poor Clares), and the lay Third Order. He was also a leader of the movement of evangelical poverty in the early 13th century.

Later in life, Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ — marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified — making Francis the first person to receive such holy wounds. He was canonized as a saint in July 16, 1228. During his life, Francis developed a deep love of nature and animals. He is known as the patron saint of the environment and animals; his life and words have had a lasting resonance with mil-

lions of followers across the globe. Each October, many animals the world over are blessed on his feast day. St. Francis of Assisi and St. Catherine of Siena are the patron saints of Italy. (For a more complete biography of St. Francis, visit <https://www.biography.com/religious-figure/saint-francis-of-assisii>.)

### **Holy Rosary**



The Rosary is one of the most cherished prayers of our Catholic Church. Yet, the origins of the rosary are "sketchy." The use of 'prayer beads' and the repeated recitation of prayers to aid in meditation stem from the earliest days of the Church and has its roots in pre-Christian times. There is evidence from the Middle Ages that strings of beads were used to count Our Father's and Hail Mary's. These strings of beads became known as "Paternosters," the Latin word for "Our Father."

In the 12th and 15th centuries, the rosary structure gradually evolved. Fifty Mary's were recited and linked with verses of psalms or other phrases evoking the lives of Jesus and Mary (called 'the rosarium' — rose garden). Finally, during the 16th century, the structure of the five-decade rosary based on the three sets of mysteries prevailed. (Today there are four sets of mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous.) In 1572, Pope St. Pius V established the Feast of the Holy Rosary on October 7th, where the faithful should give thanks to the Lord for

all of His benefits and remember the powerful intercessions of our Blessed Mother.

Tradition has it that St. Dominic (d. 1221) devised the rosary after he had a vision of our Blessed Mother. He preached the use of the rosary in his missionary work among the Albigenses heretics who denied the mystery of Christ. Some scholars take exception to St. Dominic's role in forming the rosary. Early accounts of St. Dominic's life do not mention the rosary and the Dominican constitutions do not link him with the rosary.

The Catholic Church today continues to include the Feast of the Holy Rosary on the liturgical calendar. Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of his world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description." (Saunders, William, *History of the Rosary* [The Arlington Catholic Herald diocesan newspaper, Arlington VA 1994])



## Hello November!

### All Saint's Day



This solemn holy day of the Catholic Church is celebrated annually on November 1st. It is a day dedicated to the saints of the Church who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls Day which is observed annually on November 2nd and is dedicated to those who have died and not reached heaven. Generally, All Saint's Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass that day, unless they have an excellent excuse such as serious illness. Although Pope Boniface IV introduced All Saints Day in May of 609 AD, it wasn't formally established until Pope Gregory III (731-741 AD) dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and fixed its anniversary as November 1st. Today, this holy day is celebrated around the world with different customs attached. For instance, in Portugal, Spain, and Mexico traditional practices include performance of the play,

*"Don Juan Tenorio"* and offerings are made to the dead. And in Mexico All Saint's Day occurs on the same day as the *"Díe los Inocentes,"* a day dedicated to deceased children. (For more information see: <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/whats-the-point-of-all-saints-day>)

### Veteran's Day

#### A Cut Above: A Veteran's Day Prayer By Joanna Fuchs



Dear Lord, we pray for blessings on this Assembly  
of extraordinary men and women  
who did things most people don't want to do,  
went to places we would never want to visit,  
and Lived at length in uncomfortable surroundings  
we can't even imagine.

They did what they did from Devotion  
to their country's freedom, honor, and reputation.

They endured difficult service  
because they are exceptional people,  
a cut above the rest of us,  
who live safe, comfortable lives.

We pray that you will bless them mightily Lord.  
Lavish on them now abundant comforts and pleasures  
they so often did without.

We Pray that our country  
will always honor their service  
expressing frequently profuse gratitude  
for their service to keep us safe and free.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



## Hello November

### Thanksgiving Day



Thanksgiving Day is not specifically a Catholic holy day, but it certainly goes hand-in-hand with the Catholic life of faith. Spiritually, we Catholics know that gratitude is central to the Gospel Message. Thanksgiving presents us with an opportunity to look at the gratitude aspect of our faith.

Our American history books tell us that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621. Actually the first American Thanksgiving was celebrated on September 8th, 1565 in St. Augustine, Florida. The Native Americans and Spanish settlers held a feast day and Holy Mass was offered. The Catholic origins of Thanksgiving center around Squanto, the beloved hero of thanksgiving. He was the Native American who mediated between the Puritan Pilgrims and the Native Americans. Squanto had been enslaved by the English but was freed by Spanish Franciscans. Squanto thus received baptism and became a Catholic. So it was a baptized Catholic Native American who orchestrated what became known as Thanksgiving. (Marshall, Taylor. *"The Catholic Origins of Thanksgiving!"* Canterbury Tales Blog [November 24, 2008]).

### The Virtue of Gratitude

By Emily Jaminet

It is easy to forget how “God provides,” especially if we are focused on other’s blessings. Our culture today incessantly prods us to want more and more of what other people have — and instantly. Our path of life is continuously bombarded with temptations and many opportunities to lose perspective on our blessings, to want more, and to forget that what the Lord has given us is more than adequate. As Catholics, living a life rooted in gratitude is essential to growing in our faith. It is easy to fall into jealousy of other’s blessings whenever it is something you desire. You could easily find yourself coveting, wanting, or believing that you should have these blessings.

Keep a healthy viewpoint on your life and the life of others. Remember, life isn’t perfect on the other side of the screen and, instead, learn to cultivate gratitude in your heart so you can discover true Christian Joy! (Jaminet, Emily. <https://www.emilyjainet.com>)

Here are some Catholic Books on Gratitude and Thankfulness:

- ♦ *“Thank God Ahead of Time: The Life and Spirituality of Solanus Casey”* by Michael H. Crosby, OFM .
- ♦ *“God is Not Fair and Other Reasons for Gratitude”* by Daniel P. Horan, OFM.
- ♦ *“The Way of Silence: Engaging the Sacred in Daily Life”* by Brother David Steindl-Rast
- ♦ *“Stumble: Virtue, Vice, and the Space Between”* by Heather King.

A quick check revealed that these books can be ordered from Amazon or Barnes & Noble and are not expensive.





## Hello December



### 8 Things you Need to Know About the Immaculate Conception

(by Jimmy Akin (<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/8-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-immaculate-conception>. Retrieved 7/28/2021))

December 8th is the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Jimmy Akin posits 8 important points we need to know about the teaching and the way we celebrate this feast. They are:

**1. Who does the Immaculate Conception refer to?**

It refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary was conceived. It does not refer to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary.

**2. What is the Immaculate Conception?**

Per the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “#491: Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses.”

**3. Does this mean Mary never sinned?**

Yes. Because of the way redemption was applied to Mary at the moment of her conception, she not only was protected from contracting original sin but also personal sin (see Catechism of the Catholic Church #493).

**4. Does this mean Mary didn't need Jesus to die on the Cross for her?**

No. Mary was immaculately conceived as part of her being “full of grace” and thus “redeemed from the moment of her conception” by “a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race.” (See Catechism of the Catholic Church #492 and #508).

**5. How does this make Mary a parallel of Eve?**

**Think about it.** Adam and Eve were both created immaculate — without original sin or its stain. They fell from grace, and through them mankind became bound to sin. Jesus and Mary were also conceived immaculate. They remained faithful, and through them mankind was redeemed from sin. Christ is thus the New Adam, and Mary the New Eve (See Catechism of the Catholic Church #494).

**6. How does this make Mary an icon of our own destiny?**

Mr. Akin writes, “Those who die in God's friendship and thus go to heaven will be freed from all sin and stain of sin. We will thus all be rendered 'immaculate' if we remain faithful to God. By giving Mary this grace from the moment of her conception, God showed us an image of our own destiny.”

**7. Was it necessary for God to make Mary immaculate at her conception so that she could be Jesus' mother?**

No. The Church only speaks of the Immaculate Conception as something that was “fitting,” something that made Mary a “fit habitation” (i.e., suitable dwelling) for the Son of God, not something that was necessary. (Ineffabilis Deu [Defining the Immaculate Conception] Author: Pope Pius IX).

**8. How do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception today?**

In the Catholic Church, December 8th is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is a holy day of obligation. By Pontifical decree, it is the patronal feast day of America, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Korea, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Philippines, Spain and Uruguay. Besides a Catholic Mass, it also is celebrated with fireworks, processions, food, and cultural festivities in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is generally considered a Family Day, especially in many populous Catholic countries.





## Hello December

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

Early one December morning in 1531, The Virgin Mary appeared in Mexico to Juan Diego, a poor Mexican farmer. In each of the four appearances Mary asked Juan to petition the bishop to build a church. In the last appearance, she instructed him to bring roses to the bishop. When he opened his cloak to drop the roses in front of the bishop, those present were stunned to see the Virgin Mary's image imprinted on his cloak.



Why did Mary appear to Juan Diego and not directly to the bishop? Her action was a sign of solidarity with those who might not be considered the most prestigious or powerful. She shows that even a humble farmer has important contributions to make.

Beginning in 2016 the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has named the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe a day of prayer in solidarity with immigrants and refugees. As the patron of the Americas, our Lady of Guadalupe gives us a model for how we too might reach out to and welcome those who seek a better life.

#### Prayer for Peace and Social Justice

Hail Mary, Lady of Peace  
We pray for the peace in our world;  
Make us peacemakers.

Hail Mary, friend of Common People,  
unite us across economic lines; together let us  
raise up the cause of the oppressed.

Hail Mary, Mother of Mexico,  
help us both appreciate Latin America's  
culture and work to end its poverty.

Hail Mary, Mother of the Infant Jesus,  
we pray for all children who are victims of  
war and hunger; let us stand for them.

Hail Mary, Wife of the carpenter, Joseph,  
we pray for the rights of hardworking laborers  
in all the world; let their dignity be recognized.

Hail Mary, Woman of all Generations, Move  
us to speak for the elderly who lack adequate  
health care and shelter.

Hail Mary, Homeless Mother,  
we pray for those without homes;  
let us advocate for affordable housing.

Hail Mary, Lady of All Colors,  
Show us how to love all people by challenging  
racism and discrimination.

Hail Mary, Mother of Our World,  
Make us global citizens, working for justice and  
well-being in all the world. Amen

Dios te salve María, Señora de la paz,  
oramos por la paz en nuestro mundo;  
haznos pacificadores.

Dios te salve María, Amiga de la gente común,  
únenos a través de las líneas económicas;  
juntos elevemos la causa de los oprimidos.

Dios te salve María, Madre de México,  
ayúdanos tanto apreciar la cultura de América Latina,  
como trabajar para poner fin a su pobreza.

Dios te salve María, Madre del Niño Jesús,  
oramos por todos los niños que son víctimas de la  
guerra y del hambre; luchemos por ellos.

Dios te salve María Esposa de carpintero, José,  
oramos por los derechos de todas las personas  
que trabajan duro en todo el mundo, permite que su  
dignidad sea reconocida.

Dios te salve María, Mujer de todas las generaciones,  
muévenos a hablar por las personas mayores que  
carecen de atención médica adecuada y refugio.

Dios te salve María, Madre sin hogar,  
oramos por aquellos que no tienen un hogar;  
permítenos abogar por la vivienda asequible.

Dios te salve María, Señora de todos los colores,  
muéstranos cómo amar a todas las personas,  
desafiando el racismo y la discriminación.

Dios te salve María, Madre de nuestro mundo,  
haznos ciudadanos del mundo, trabajando por la  
justicia y el bienestar en todo el mundo. Amén



## Hello December

### Nativity of Christ/ Christmas Day



The birth of Jesus is described in the Bible gospels of Luke and Matthew. Both agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, his mother Mary was betrothed to a man named Joseph, who was descended from King David and was not his biological father, and that his birth was caused by divine intervention.<sup>1</sup>

The Nativity of Jesus is the foundation for the Christian holiday of Christmas on December 25, and plays a major role in the Christian liturgical Year. Christian Churches of the West (Catholic, Western Rite Orthodox, Anglican Communion, etc.) begin observing the season of Advent four Sundays before Christmas. Some Eastern Orthodox Christians (Greeks and Syrians) also celebrate Christmas on December 25th. But other Orthodox (Copts, Ethiopians, Georgians and Russians) celebrate Christmas on January 7th. Why? It is actually a matter of which kind of calendar you follow. Those Christian congregations who celebrate Christmas on December 25th follow the modern day Gregorian calendar founded by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 CE. Those Christian congregations that celebrate Christmas on January 7th follow the old Julian calendar founded by Julius Caesar in BCE.<sup>2</sup>

The differences in celebration dates was not one of disagreement, but rather a preference of which calendar should be used to determine the Christmas date celebration. In the Council of Tours of 567 CE, the Church “declared the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany to be one unified festal cycle,” thus giving the significance to both Western and Eastern dates of Christmas.<sup>3</sup>

In any event, who decided that Christmas should be celebrated on December 25th? Good question. Here’s the answer: In 274 CE the Roman emperor Aurelian establish December 25th as Sol Invictus/Saturnalia Day festival. Then in 350 CE Pope Julius I chose December 25th for the Celebration of Christmas. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that the pope wanted to adopt and absorb the pagan Sol Invictus and Saturnalia festivals.<sup>4</sup>

The story of the birth of Jesus is one that many of us know by heart. We can remember hearing it at church, at Nativity plays during Christmas, and around family tables during the holiday. Christmas trees are put up and gifts are exchanged in many homes and in cities and towns around the world dinners are served to the needy and gifts are given to the needy children.

The Christmas story in the Bible is a story that should continue to bring us hope to this day. For even though it was only a beginning, it was a beginning to a story that is still unfolding around us daily. It is the story of a fulfilled promise from God to his people. It is a story of a child who was God made flesh, and who had come to bring a new era of salvation. It is the greatest story ever told.

1. Isaak, Joh M. (2011). *New Testament Theology: Extending the Table*. Wipf & Stock. ISBN 9781621892540

2. Hocken, Vigdis (1995). *The Julian Calendar*. <https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/julian-calendar.html>. Ret: 1 August 2021

3. Forbs, Bruce D. (2008). *Christmas: A Candid History*. University of California. P58. ISBN 978-0-520-25801-0. Ret: 28 July 2021

4. Sorensen, Jon (2013). *Why is Christmas on December 25?* <https://www.catholic.com/online-edition/why-december25>. Ret 31 July 2021





## Diaconate Formation

**Director of Formation: Deacon Keith Davis**

### Diaconate Formation

**Current 2023 Class: Size: 37**

**Reader Retreat in August at Pecos**

**Will move to Candidacy II (Reader) September 16, 2021 at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish**

**Current 2025 Class: Size 17**

**Moving into Aspirancy this Fall.**

## Save the Dates



### Deacon Retreat:

To Be Determined— In planning Stage

### Deacon Inservice:

To Be Determined— In planning Stage

## Deacon Prayer

O God, Father of us all, look with favor upon those whom you have called to the sacred and ancient ministry of the Diaconate. Through the intercession of St. Stephen, grant grace to Your deacons as they minister in charity to the poor, proclaim the Holy Gospel at Mass, and assist Your priests at the altar. Keep close to Your heart, Lord, the wives and children of permanent deacons, and grant that the witness of their husbands and fathers may bring about holiness and virtue in each family member. We ask this through Jesus Christ who is Lord forever and ever. Amen

## Deacon Council

### DEACON COUNCIL MEMBERS AND REPS

Council Chair: Deacon Mark Marquez  
Council Vice-Chair: Deacon Ernest Chavez  
Council Secretary: Darlene Chavez  
Santa Fe Deanery: Deacon Enrique Montoya  
Deanery A: Deacon David Little  
Deanery B: Deacon Pat Sena  
Deanery C: Deacon Leon Jones  
NE Deanery: Deacon Reyes Sanchez  
NW Deanery: Deacon Chris Gilbert  
SE Deanery: Vacant  
SW Deanery: Deacon Nicholas Keller





## The Deacon's Corner



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### Update Contact Information

If your personal contact information has changed, please inform the Diaconate Office. This helps to facilitate communication between you, the Diaconate Office, the Diaconate Community, and the Archdiocese.

Phone: 505-831-8246

Email: [ysutton@archdiosf.org](mailto:ysutton@archdiosf.org)

### NOTE

Keep in mind if there is any information you would like to include in the *El Diácono* that would be of interest to the Deacon Community, i.e., special events, accomplishments, ministry work, etc., please inform the Diaconate Office and we will be happy to announce it. With the publication of this newsletter, we will be especially looking for events in the January through March 2022 time period.

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