



Saint of the Week:

Bl. Luigi & Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi

Being faithful to promises and commitments

Patron Saint of the Week: Blesseds Luigi & Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, Class 5B

There was nothing ordinary about Blessed Luigi and Maria Quattrocchi, but you certainly wouldn't have known it to look at them. They were a married couple with four kids. They weren't foreign missionaries or martyrs, they didn't raise canonized saints, they didn't start a world-changing movement. They were just a holy couple raising holy kids — the most extraordinary of ordinary callings.

Blessed Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi met and were married in 1905 in Rome. They were blessed with four children but received a unique gift in their last child. From the start Maria experienced great difficulties in her pregnancy, and doctors warned that she had less than a 5% chance of living if she gave birth to her baby, and that the baby had even less of a chance of surviving. Enrichetta was born a healthy child, and both Luigi and Maria grew in their love for one another and their love for God by trusting in His promises.



Throughout their lives, Maria and Luigi served the Church by faithfully living the vows of their marriage and through their many charitable works. The family prayed the Rosary together each evening. In 2001 Luigi and Maria became the first married couple to be beatified together. November 25, the date of their wedding anniversary, is now celebrated as their feast day.

Bl. Luigi and Maria, please help me to practice the virtue of fidelity. Help me to remember that in all things, whether big or small, the Lord is pleased by my fidelity to what I have promised. May I put all my trust in God in moments of in great difficulty and remain faithful to what I know to be true and good. Amen.

(Closing Prayer will be on intercom at 6:10 & 7:55)

Next week: **St. Gianna Molla, Class 6C**

Sponsor Meeting Thursday January 24, 7pm in Social Hall.

share the Spirit



"Come Catch the Spirit!"

"Sip, Nibble, Learn and Converse!"

Friday, January 25, 6:30-8:30 pm.

It's not too late! Come when you can; stay as long or short as you can!

No need to RSVP....

share the Spirit



We will be doing "The Journey to Jerusalem" event April 17. Teachers of each grade level will present a center explaining or experiencing a day of Holy Week. The children will progress through the centers accompanied by older grade buddies and /or parents. There are resources in the office. We will be again asking parents to escort children. 7th and 1st will go as buddies. 8th grades will be disciples to help lead along the journey. Start thinking about what you would like to present. There will be resources in the office and more info coming!!!!



FORMING DISCIPLES; LEADING ALL TO CHRIST



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Remember that Adoration Chapel or Church is available most Wednesdays for prayers, tours, etc..

Weekly Thoughts by Dr. Barbara Blackburn

WHY



There seems to be a progression of verbal expressions as young people begin to cognate and speak. “Mama and dada” are followed by NO! And then comes “Why?” In our home my three sons always knew the answer to “Why?” There was a magnet on the fridge that said “Because I’m the mom and I said so!” As the boys grew into young men the magnet became more of an amusement and we instead answered the “Whys?” with conversations.

Maybe our growth in faith follows a similar progression. We come to speak God’s name and even address God as parent or Father. As we reach the age of reason we discover we can say NO to God’s love and we discover the need for forgiveness. There might be some evidence that we never outgrow our “Why?-phase.” As we age, the question marks become more complex. Why do bad things happen to good people? Why must I die? Why doesn’t God zap all the bad people and fix all the problems? I’m not sure that God has a giant fridge with a magnet on it that says “Because I’m God and I said so!” The answers to our complex adult questions require an intimate relationship with a loving God.

We might not always like the answers God reveals. Jesus most likely did not like the answer that he must die. He simply responded “Not my will but yours be done.” There is comfort, however, in the conversation and the relationship. We can be assured that God is listening and trying to help us discover the answers to our questions. Job begged God to at least speak to him about the suffering he was experiencing. God’s initial silence was Job’s greatest suffering. Finally God answered Job (Jb.3-39-40) but the reply was not what Job was expecting. It was more of a “You will never be able to understand the mind of God because you are not God.” Humbled and bowed down at least Job no longer felt ignored. Now he knew he was in conversation with God.

It is okay to ask why. Like Job (the proverbial every person) we want answers to our big questions. As the story of Job explains, we can be confident that God is aware of our needs and problems even before we ask God “Why?” We can trust that God cares. Maybe God feels we are not ready for the answers. Sometimes God might need to point to the magnet on the fridge. At some point, hopefully, our relationship with God will mature to the point of deeper trust and understanding.

Let us follow the example of Mary’s fiat and Jesus’ acceptance of the Cross and live with our questions in humility and faith in God’s great love. Even our ability to do so is a gift of God’s Grace.

