



# THE VISITATION

THE PUBLICATION OF THE NATIVITY HOUSE

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## Mutual Understanding

by Nia White

It was 6 am for daily Mass. The kids came in and sat beside the Sisters. I usually sit in the back. The space between the pews is meant for the average Filipino and not me. The kids lead the songs for the Mass. When the priest began his homily, he said, "I will tell you a story of a young Filipino boy. It sounds better in Ilonggo. I am sorry, Nia, that I cannot continue in English." I signaled that it was okay. Then I thought. I am the only English speaker. Why would he even have to change for me? This accommodation would not happen in the States.

As of August 2020, I have been living in the Phillipines for 1 year. I am a missionary at an orphanage for children aged

newborn to high school. As I write this, I hold a one-week-old baby and listen to toddlers sing nursery rhymes. After many mission trips, I decided I wanted to serve on a long-term mission and discern my vocation in life. Through the connection that I can only describe as divine, I found myself at an orphanage in the Philippines.

My understanding of the local language, Ilonggo, has greatly improved from when I first arrived. When I travel to different countries, I never assume that someone will be able to speak English. The children there mainly speak Ilonggo. The schools have English classes that all the children in the orphanage

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## Love in the time of Pandemic

by Venus Wozniak

*These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:... As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.*

~Matthew 10: 5-8

When given the opportunity to ponder, I always marvel at the work of early church. Throughout the Gospels we have the accounts of the Apostles and disciples being sent out 2 by 2, taking nothing but the clothes on their backs for the journey, and proclaiming repentance for the

kingdom is here!

Imagine being given this charge. Imagine being asked to go into your community, your workplace, your family and proclaiming, "Hey everyone! We need to change our ways! God's kingdom is here!"

Imagine the person who gave you the quest was the most charismatic leader, mentor, friend who assured you that you are a remarkable gift to him. He loves you and you always have a place with him in his realm. He keeps talking about his kingdom as a

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## Prophets in the Valley of Dry Bones

by Herman Sutter

*"He made me walk up and down and all around among them... they were completely dry..."*

~Isaiah 37:2

A prophet is someone called to speak the truth for God. Being a prophet isn't about being particularly brave or especially good or even worthy. Remember Jonah. It is about responding to a call to witness to the truth.

And prophets are often called to act in strange and troubling ways. Think about Jeremiah and the linen girdle (Jer 13), or the wooden yoke (27), Hosea and Gomer, or Ezekiel called to lie for

390 days on his left side and then 40 more on his right, all the time staring at an iron plate and cooking his bread on dung (Ezekiel 4), or to dig a hole in the wall of the city and climb through it with a rucksack on his back (Ez 12). Strange behaviors, and probably very troubling to some of their fellow citizens. Even somewhat destructive at times. Prophets are never easy to live with, to listen to... And being a prophet must be a terrible, a fearful calling... like joining in a protest march.

The protestors who march the

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## Letter from the Directors

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Dear Friends of Nativity House,

This summer has been unusual to say the least!

Our garden projects were delayed but as soon as we were able to have small groups out we started up in earnest. New successes this year included elderberries, multiple flavors of currants, black beans, and better potatoes than ever. Several projects exceeded expectations, including beets and raspberries. We have limited activity to smaller groups of our regular volunteers and not had the typical student visits.

The Nativity House community had to be very creative during the early days of the pandemic as our options were reduced. House members took turns planning weekly activities on site, such as crafts, music, and games in the woods. We're doing great outside with new animal friends including two baby goats and a second farm dog. We know that when it starts to get cold again we will need to be mindful to avoid cabin fever.

We are currently accepting applications for expectant mothers. We know the spring was a difficult time for homeless women as shelters necessarily reduced services and availability. Nativity House, as a special case, has been able to continue our work, and will be able to do so over the months ahead.

The end-of-season bash we call the Farm to Table will be changed to a take-out picnic format, where bags of farm goodies will be distributed over the day. Visitors will be scheduled in advance, and will be able to tour the gardens at their fullest, watch the chickens protect our orchard from beetles, and see billy goat "Kirk" do whatever it is he does out there.

We are truly blessed through your continued support and prayers.

Peace of Christ to you and yours,

Justin and Venus Wozniak

## About The Visitation

This newspaper, The Visitation, is a publication on topics of social justice, spirituality, and theology. It is published four times a year by Nativity House. Submissions are accepted from readers everywhere.

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[newspaper@nativity-house.org](mailto:newspaper@nativity-house.org)

Past issues are online at:

<http://www.nativity-house.org>

## About Nativity House

Nativity House serves as a house of hospitality for first-time mothers in need of residence in the southwest Chicago suburbs. Nativity House operates an on-site community supported farm (CSA) that provides nourishment for the Nativity House and the greater community. Overall, we envision a healing environment focused on the dignity of each person, the dignity of work, and stewardship of the earth.

Nativity House is administered by a board of directors and an advisory committee of individuals with a broad range of experience. Nativity House has formed positive relationships with relevant local organizations that are extremely helpful in carrying out the mission of the house. Nativity House was recognized as a public charity in August, 2011.

To connect with us, please email Venus Wozniak at:

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We extend the sincerest thanks to all.

## Mutual Understanding

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take. The children also speak with me in English from time to time. Before the pandemic, I would sit in on the classes for Ilonggo to learn with the children. I want to become fluent someday. So, when the priest apologized for not being able to continue the homily in English, it bothered me.

Often in the United States and media, we can hear people complain about immigrants and their disdain for speaking any language other than English. When I was a young kid, I thought everyone spoke English and should speak so we could all understand each other. As people came into my life with various backgrounds, I quickly saw how cool it was that there were so many different ways people could communicate with each other. I would watch "Plaza Sesamo" (Spanish Sesame Street). I would watch movies in other languages. I just became fascinated with words. In college, I studied both Arabic and Russian. Through those lessons, my drive to see the world grew. I wanted to immerse myself in a world unknown to me. So, when I had the opportunity to serve in the Philippines, I booked a flight and did not look back.

There are so many situations

where Filipinos strain themselves to speak my language. Many times, I am the only English speaker in the room. Filipino culture is very hospitable. The people will meet you one day and the next invite you to a wedding or funeral of a family member (both of which have happened to me). Filipinos will ask if you have eaten and if you no, expect a full plate to appear in front of you. So, when it comes to language, often they will speak English. When they cannot find the words to express themselves in English, they will joke and say, "I cannot speak any more English, or I will get a nose bleed." That statement followed by a "joke lang" or just joking. When I go out in public, I get stares and many questions. I mean, I stand out. I stand one to two feet above most people in the area. I am Black with braids most of the time. People will always ask the following questions:

Where are you from?

Chicago? Do you know Michael Jordan?

I like your hair. How do your hair?

Wow, you are so big. Do you want to eat?



Do you speak Ilonggo?

I have told most people that Michael Jordan is my cousin. When they ask if I speak the language, I always answer "Gamay lang" or just a little. Many times, they get excited that I answered in Ilonggo. I was told that the people here appreciate it when you try to communicate in their mother tongue instead of just expecting someone will speak mine.

A study was done to see how Americans felt about speaking English. For people 50 or older, 81 percent say speaking English is very important. For the 18-34 group, only 58 percent say the same. Those who have only a high school diploma are 20 percent more likely than those with college degrees. The white evangelical Protestants were 84 percent, and the religiously unaffiliated are striking were 51 percent. The US does not have an official language, but Americans feel we must speak primarily in English.

I remember being in middle school, and we had a large number of people coming in whose first language was not English. I remember our teachers made them speak only English. They were not even allowed to speak their language in recreation time. The idea may have been to help them learn English quickly,

but how stressful it must have been to be forced to do so!

I am not saying all this to cast judgment on fellow Americans or to tell Americans what to believe. I want my fellow Americans to realize how difficult it is when someone comes to our country that is supposed to house the tired, the poor, and the masses yearning to breathe free. They are trying their best to learn our culture (which is diverse), learn our language (which we do not have an official one), and fit in (which there is so much room). We can adopt some elements of Filipino culture. We can become more hospitable. We can become more loving even we have known the people for only a little while. We can try to find a common way to communicate with those who do not share a common language.

My time in the Philippines as an immigrant has opened my mind and world of how I can become a better person and a better Christian. All I wish to do is share that growth and experience with my cousin, Michael Jordan.



Nia White is a missionary in the Philippines in an orphanage.

## Lived Experience

by Elena Ibarra

I have had big emotions about everything that has been happening. I have had to make time to organize my thoughts and feelings because it was uncomfortable!

See, the thing about feeling uncomfortable is that it comes with a risk. That risk is requiring of myself to think differently than what I know and see what someone else sees!

That risk is requiring me to step outside of my own lived experiences, stepping out of my own understandings and stepping out of my own biases.

A brother is dead. A black brother is dead.

That, in and of itself, merits frustration and anger because the reality is that years of oppression is tied to that death.

Now - here is where things get tricky, because what WE as individuals know to be true is based on our own personal understanding.

How we respond to this situation WILL vary because it WILL be based on our lived experience.

The response to this situation is valid. However a person sees fit is based on their judgment and their thinking process.

We can argue in circles what is right and what is wrong.

We can argue in circles what is an appropriate response to this situation.

What I can say is that we can be okay with having all of the emotions come up.

Being in support of people while being afraid. We can share experiences while being true to ourselves.

So I am here to say Black Lives Matter. Yes, it is correct that all lives matter, but at the present moment there are brothers and sisters who need to be seen.

There is a saying in Spanish that says: "Hoy por ti, mañana por mi."

Today for you, tomorrow for me.

We are killing each other. We are being pinned up against each other and losing sight of the end goal.

On a basic human level, every single person wants to be seen and heard! That comes without putting our thoughts and judgments before someone

This requires us to know our own biases.

Here is how I know this. Because as a brown woman, I was made to feel too white for my brown people and too brown for my white people.

I grew up believing I didn't have a place. I had to figure out who the hell I was and stand on what God put in me - I had to find my identity in the calling God placed on my heart. I had to be assured of the promise God gave me, without being bombarded by the voices who were not of God.

So I will end with this-

There are plenty of videos/memes and images to portray all people (insert any group of people) in a good light or in a bad light. No

## Easy Essays: They and We

by Peter Maurin  
(1877-1949)

People say:

"They don't do this,  
they don't do that,  
they ought to do this,  
this ought to do that."

Always "They"  
and never "I".

People should say:

"They are crazy  
for doing this  
and not doing that  
but I don't need  
to be crazy  
the way they are crazy."



The Communitarian Revolution  
is basically  
a personal revolution.

It starts with I  
not with They.

One I plus one I  
makes two I  
and two I makes We.

"We" is a community  
while "they" is a crowd.

matter who it is. How is this going to help us see someone?

As I was feeling overwhelmed by the amount of empathy I have, all I could do was cry. I want to be able to see someone, not just prove them wrong.

Here's what I came up with:

- Recognize that change has to start with me.

- I have to accept what I know and allow myself the opportunity to be stretched outside my own comfort level.

- People don't just change. They have to be ready, willing and open

to think beyond their lived experiences. No one can force that on them.

- Getting to know people and their story allows for me to connect and know why they think the way that they do, rather than defend my own thoughts.

& I can't wait for the day, that if God permits me into heaven to be ONE before Him as He intended.



Elena Ibarra is a wife, mother, and graduate student at Loyola University Chicago. She is seeking a double masters in clinical psychology and pastoral ministry.

## What You Can Do

by Brendan Hurson

*Our role in helping end systemic racism is to remember that everyone has human dignity and work on treating them with such. We need to see our wrong thoughts and actions towards others and educate ourselves on how to be and do better. Here are some action steps offered by Former Jesuit Volunteer and Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland, Brendan Hurson*

### 1) Wear a mask in Public.

COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the Black community. Every time you wear a mask, you affirm your belief that Black Lives Matter.

2) If you are serious about speaking out against the prosecution and incarceration of non-violent protesters, you need to contact your local state or county attorney and let them know that -

State and local prosecutors usually run for office and can be responsive to the public. All make their phone number and email easily accessible, and you can even reach out to their offices via Twitter and Facebook. What should you say? Easy, just let them know you are a resident of such-and-such City or County, and that you wish to express your opinion that they should not prosecute non-violent protesters arrested in your jurisdiction. Tell them you support dismissal of non-violent or property damage charges related to protesting, or, if you can't go that far, that you support release on recognizance for offenders facing those charges.

Remember, if you live in a predominantly white or affluent

area of the jurisdiction, maybe let them know that, too, so they will understand that the support is widespread among the community. When they say "People (or State) versus so-and-so" before a criminal case is called in court, the "people" they are talking about .... that's you! So be respectful, but be heard.

Note- do not call or email Judges. Judges are elected in many places and appointed in others - more on that later - but it is critical that they remain independent. While some in power make it a habit to routinely harass judges they don't agree with, this is a dangerous practice that threatens our democracy (and a waste of time for the instant purpose since charging decisions are made by prosecutors, not judges). So don't harass the judges.

### 3) Donate to a bail project.

Especially as jails are overrun with coronavirus and COVID-19, the need to get folks out of jail is more urgent than ever. Donations go to assist folks who are presumed innocent, and it can mean a world of difference to someone who will lose a job, an apartment, a relationship, or worse if they remain in jail pending trial.

4) Research laws and policies that keep complaints of police brutality secret, and contact your state and local government demanding that change.

In many states, it is impossible for the general public to know how many complaints have been filed against a police officer. So if an officer is walking around with dozens allegations of misuse of force - apparently like the one who pressed his knee into Mr.

Floyd's neck - the public would never know. Maryland is one of these states as it classifies disciplinary records as personnel matters, and prohibits departments from making them public without a court order.

For people in other states, there is a pretty decent list of how states handle access to police brutality allegations. Find your state and contact your state representatives to find out more about bills designed to expand action.

5) Research your state and federal prosecutors, and let them know whether you agree with their priorities.

Whether elected or appointed, top prosecutors (and their chosen staff) have agendas and priorities, so it is important to keep up on what investigations and prosecutions yours has chosen to prioritize. If you want to see state or federal authorities investigate police brutality, call, email, tweet, or write with a respectful request that they do it.

Plus, try to keep tabs on racial disparity in prosecutions in your state. For example, in 2019, nearly 70% of defendants in federal criminal cases in Maryland were Black (519 out of 767). In a state where the Black population is less than 30%, this number should be surprising.

If you have questions about the racial breakdown in federal prosecutions in your state, reach out to the media officer at your local U.S. Attorney's Office and ask about them. If you aren't happy with the answer, let your U.S. Attorney know, again, respectfully, and perhaps call your U.S. senators and let them know, too, as they play a big role in selecting the U.S. Attorney.

Find your federal district and take a look at the racial breakdown for federal prosecutions.

6) Attend an on-line or safely distanced in-person forum about police brutality and just listen -

Now is a great time for white people to really listen to the voices of people of color, particularly the stories of the George Floyds who weren't murdered. Remember, had Mr. Floyd survived his assault at the hands of the police, he would have been another Black man thrown in jail over a petty allegation that - even if true - caused no harm. Those officers would have likely charged him with resisting arrest or assaulting them, ensuring that he would remain in jail pending a trial that wouldn't have happened for months, perhaps even a year. He'd probably be having some sort of hearing in court this week (or it'd be postponed because of COVID-19, and he'd remain in jail having never met his lawyer) and would be begging for someone to listen to why his neck and back are covered in bruises. And aside from his public defender, probably nobody would listen. So in his memory, perhaps try to listen.

7) Research who your judges are and get involved in their selection.

A lot of the focus rightly falls on prosecutors, but judges have a role to play, too. Many are appointed in state court (and all in federal), but some actually run for office. Instead of simply voting for the first few names on the ballot, ask around about how a certain judge handles the disclosure of police records, or what their sentencing practices are.

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## Love in the time of the Pandemic

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great wedding feast where he is both the bridegroom and the actual feast. Maybe you are not exactly sure what that means but you did hear of a royal feast and celebration that lasts a really long time - longer than you could imagine. You are not sure what exactly he means but you believe him. He speaks with deep authenticity and conviction.

So you go into your community, your workplace, your family and begin to proclaim the message. How would that message be received? How would you go about being a prophet? That is what he is actually asking of you.

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During these days of Pandemic uncertainty has become the new normal. In my experience the human response to an environment that is constantly changing is varying stages of heightened anxiety.

A few weeks into the lockdowns and adventures in mask wearing I was sitting in my car, gearing up for my weekly grocery store adventure. In those early days it was unclear how the virus was transmitted so I was appropriately dressed - hoodie to cover my hair, gloves, mask, etc. All you could see was my eyes. I pulled down the visor and looked in the mirror. "This is ridiculous! Why are you even going into the store when so many don't even dare to go out!" Then I just laughed myself silly. The absurdity of how I looked, all of the precautions necessary for my safety coupled with the need to stock Nativity House with food.

I could have shopped online. But there was one sneaky caveat. I

was a proxy for our guest mom's food assistance. Our guest mom was in the vulnerable population with severe asthma and a recent bout with bacterial pneumonia. Food assistance in our state requires in-person purchase. She was a new mom. She had to have groceries and baby necessities and so I went to go out.

A few weeks ago Joliet public school district 86 announced two possible scenarios for students heading back to school in the fall. Plan A: all school encounters will be virtual learning. Plan B: students will be in class 1 day per week and 4 days per week will be virtual learning. From the perspective of keeping people safe and keeping the spread of the virus at bay this is necessary; Joliet is an urban center for this region. 96 % of Joliet District 86's 11,000 students are economically disadvantaged. These children's parents really need their children to go back to school so that they can work to barely make ends meet. Many of these families are essential workers: gas station workers, grocery workers, health care workers, etc. Joliet is just a snapshot of what other urban areas are grappling with nationwide.

Anxiety is high for good reason.

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Repent.

All of humanity is struggling.

Those of us who believe that the wedding feast is imminent are His hands and feet - His body. But part of the body is hurting and needs our assistance.

This is a time of repentance. Repentance is really a call to conversion, a turning away from our old ways. All of us have been

forced one way or another over these last months to leave our old way of doing things. Ironically, despite the widespread isolation due to the virus, we are being called outside of ourselves to be something new. In the spirit of one of my favorite Catholics, Peter Maurin, it is time for us to do something so old that it looks new. Now more than ever the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are the remedy.

You are the Body of Christ.

His Body is Creative because we are made in His image.

The time for creativity is now.

We must make these charges look new.

Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Shelter the homeless. Visit the sick. Visit the prisoner. Bury the dead. Give alms to the poor.

Counsel the doubtful. Instruct the ignorant. Admonish the sinner. Comfort the sorrowful. Forgive injuries. Bear wrongs patiently. Pray for the living and the dead.

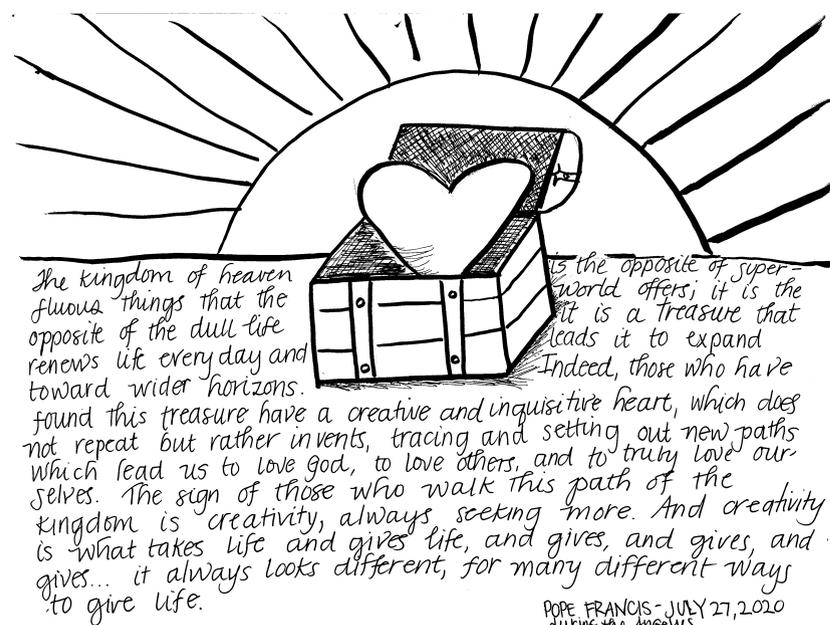
I always marvel at the work of the Apostles. If their lives had not been changed by Jesus you would

not be reading this newspaper. Their hearts were broken open and because of that they went into the world proclaiming, "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand!"

Because of their witness to the life changing power of Jesus lives continue to change. The Body of Christ needs this same vigor right now. Will you be one of these?



Venus Wozniak is the Director of Faith Formation at St Dennis in Lockport. She is also the co-director of Nativity House.



## Prophets in the Valley of Dry Bones

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streets each day, each night here in our city, in our land, they are prophets. They are witnesses to the truth. The truth about George Floyd, the truth about black lives, and the truth about America. A horrifying truth about our system, our way of life. Reading Ezekiel, the famous passage of the valley of dry bones, I realized something. This vision of the prophet walking up and down among the dry bones suddenly revealed a new truth. A truth about our world today and about these protests. That vision of Ezekiel wandering among the dry bones, that is exactly what is happening here, on the streets of this country each day, each night. The protestors, who our president wants to call anarchists and even terrorists, are nothing more and nothing less than prophets walking among the dry bones. The dry bones of our society; bones that once promised life, liberty, justice, freedom but have given so many of our brothers and sisters only injustice, brutality, racism, and death.

Late into the night these prophets walk through empty streets, through a valley of bones, up and down and all among them, a valley barren of hope. These towering buildings, our "high places," to so many of us they have become signs of commerce, success, abundance, pleasure and ease, economic growth. But seen through the witness of the prophets, they are finally revealed to be nothing more than white-washed tombs full of dry bones. They stink of the dead promise they symbolize; comfort, freedom, justice, security, equality, all nothing more than dry bones.

Like the prophet of old, these protestors walk among the dry bones of a society that has died. A society that still gathers in the valley of its own undoing, unaware even that it has nothing left but the dry bones of what it once hoped to be. The dry bones are gathered in piles, brick by brick, in store fronts and offices, shining steel and glistening glass piled high, looming towers of commerce and business rising to the clouds, and yet all of it empty of life, filled with nothing but dry bones, the dead dreams and promises of what was hoped or planned and finally what was settled for... All of it dry bones.

And each night the protestors, these prophets, come out and wander (like Ezekiel) among the dry bones and the white-washed tombs, wander the valley of death, calling, calling out to the bones:

Dry bones, dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

Wake up!



Herman Sutter is an award winning poet and a founding member of the Writer Guys. He is also an avid biscuit baker!

*The greatest challenge is how to bring about a Revolution of the Heart - a revolution that has to start with each of us.*  
-Dorothy Day

## What You Can Do

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If someone is up for a judicial appointment read up on them (you can usually find this info for federal judges on your U.S. senators' websites and on various state websites.) Are any of the nominees Black or non-white? Regardless of color, do they have experience representing Black lives in court? If so, did they act like they mattered? Did they prosecute crimes? If so, what were their specific priorities, or those of their office? How did they treat the defendants they prosecuted, most of whom are disproportionately people of color in many U.S. jurisdictions. If you don't know who to ask, then call a local public defender's office to ask about them. If you aren't happy with what you find out, let the nominating committee know that, or contact the governor's office and respectfully voice your displeasure with the possible nominee. If it is a federal appointment, reach out to your U.S. Senator to lodge a complaint. These appointments happen in silence, so people rarely find out who their judges are until its too late. It's time to change that.

8) Call your U.S. senators and congresspeople to demand full voting rights and citizenship for

residents of U.S. territories (and Washington, D.C.) -

The five inhabited U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Island, US Virgin Islands) are home to millions of people of color. One thing these diverse places share is that their mostly non-white residents have no right to vote for their president, and lack full voting representation in Congress. For example, the U.S. Virgin Islands has a population of around 100,000 people, nearly all of whom identify as Black. Puerto Rico is home to millions of people of color, many of whom also identify as Black. None have a right to pick all of their leaders but must live under their rule. This despite the fact that their residents serve in the U.S. military at higher rates than their fellow Americans stateside. Wyoming, on the other hand, gets to vote for president, two senators, and a Congressperson despite having just a fraction of that combined population (and one that's nearly 93% white). The point is not to demean Wyoming; its citizen deserve representation, too. However, it's hard to say Black Lives Matter when we continue to deny Black Americans the right to vote!





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## St. Anne and St. Joachim

Feast Day: July 25

by Janice Storey

Patron: Grandparents, Mothers and Fathers

When I was nine years old and preparing to be confirmed I was instructed to choose a saint to help me live my Catholic faith. I chose St Anne, Mary's mother and Jesus's grandmother. At this point in my life my older siblings were starting their families and I was learning to babysit. While I had been wondering if I was going to be called to be a nun I was being tugged to motherhood. I loved Mary and my mother was cultivating my devotion to her, and I came to the conclusion that Mary must have had a wonderful mother who prepared her to say "Yes" to God's will. I looked to her mother who had certainly had a great influence in forming her and prayed that St Anne would also prepare and form me to recognize whatever "yes" God had planned for me and that I would readily embrace it as Mary had. And further, if I was going to be a mother I prayed that St Anne would help me to be obedient to God and help me teach my children the same.

Gratefully I did marry and we had nine children. We will soon have five children married and already

have the joy of being grandparent seventeen times. When I think of St Anne these days it is always alongside her husband St Joachim and I believe my role as grandmother is primarily to love them and intentionally draw them to love God above all else.

There is not very much we can claim as factual information about Sts Anne and Joachim but I will share what we can infer from our scriptural knowledge of Jesus's parentage. Whether we rely on legends or are simply making guesses because of what we know of Mary she certainly must have been raised in an atmosphere of consistent prayer, obedience and devotion to the sacred Scriptures and steady resolve in times of crisis.

They were born to the tribe of Judah and the royal house of David. We believe they were a devout, religious couple who had a comfortable life with the great desire to be parents but years slipped by with no children. They were faithful in prayer and petition for many years when finally they had a message from



an angel that they would have a daughter who was to be the virgin mother of the Christ child. When their daughter Mary was three they made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem, the day we know as the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They taught and trained their daughter until she was ready to fulfill her role in the Scriptures. Anne and Joachim are hardly mentioned in Scripture but simply fulfilled God's Plan to the best of their ability. That is what we are called to do. While

their lives are obscure and details are few the effect of the obedience, love and devotion they had for God produced fruit that changed all of our lives forever in the life of our Blessed Virgin Mary.



Janice Storey is a mother of nine children and grandmother of 17. She is a CSA member and mother of our intern, Becca.