

"All generations shall  
call me blessed" (RSV).  
— Luke 1:48

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May 2009

# GRACE IN Action



LIVING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP™

newparable

## Make time for moments of beauty

A man sat at a metro station in Washington, D.C., and started to play the violin. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, thousands of people rushed through the station. Three minutes into his playing, a middle-aged man noticed the music, slowed his pace and listened for a few seconds. A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in the till, and without stopping continued to walk. A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. The one who paid the most attention was a 3-year-old boy. Finally, the mother insisted that the child continue to walk, but he turned his head to continue watching. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on. In the 45 minutes the musician played, only six people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing no one applauded. No one knew this small fact: the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth \$3.5 million. Two days before playing in the subway, Bell sold out a theater in Boston at a \$100 per seat.

Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by The Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people that asked whether we perceive beauty in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour. If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing some of the best music ever written, we are missing many other moments of beauty as well.

— Adapted from an item circulating on the Internet



Photos by James Baca

MIRROR OF JUSTICE: The Litany of Loreto refers to Mary as "Mirror of Justice."  
Photo by Ken Papaleo: highcountrycoloring.com

celebrate

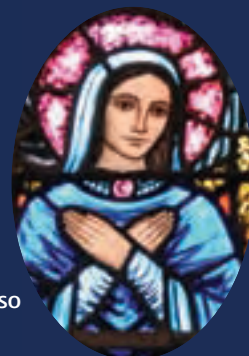
# May

- 7 National Day of Prayer
- 14 St. Matthias
- 21 Ascension of Our Lord
- HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
- 31 Pentecost

faithfact

## Mary reigns as queen of hearts

"Mary is Queen of heaven and earth by grace, as Jesus is King of them by nature and by conquest. It is principally in the hearts that she is more glorified with her Son. And so we may call her, as the saints do, the Queen of All Hearts," wrote St. Louis de Montfort. The Queen of All Hearts medal is worn by the members of the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of All Hearts, established in 1899. Members live and publicize the Marian way of life as explained in the writings of St. Louis de Montfort. The confraternity promotes consecration to Mary, Queen of All Hearts, and its members share in all the good works and prayers of the members of the Company of Mary and the Daughters of Wisdom. The medal is heart-shaped. On the front is a design of the Queen of All Hearts statuary group found in the Regina dei Cuori Chapel in Rome.



sowing seeds

## Look to Mary, the ideal steward

“After Jesus, we look to Mary as the ideal steward.”

— Stewardship: A Disciple's Response  
U.S. Catholic bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship

In 1964, the Second Vatican Council issued the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, also known by its Latin title *Lumen Gentium*. Pronounced LOO-men GEN-see-um, the Latin translates to “light of all nations.” This document included an inspired and inspirational section on Mary, including these truths about Our Lady:

- “Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creations, both in heaven and on earth.”
- “She stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from Him.”
- “Her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation.”
- “She is a mother to us in the order of grace.”

Log on to [www.graceinaction.org](http://www.graceinaction.org) to read the section on Mary from *Lumen Gentium*.

## kidsCorner

### Call your mother

What do you call your mother? “Mommy” or “Mom”? “Mama” or “Ma”? The Church has many names for the Blessed Mother, too. Unscramble these phrases to discover seven poetic titles for the Mother of God. If you're stumped, ask your parents, a sibling or a friend to help you solve the puzzle.

- 1) EWORT FO RIVYOY
- 2) SHOUE FO LOGD
- 3) RORRIM FO CEJSUTI  
(Hint: See caption below photo of trees on pg.1)
- 4) TYMLACIS SOER
- 5) TAGE FO VEAHEN
- 6) GRONNIM RATS
- 7) NEQUE FO LESGAN

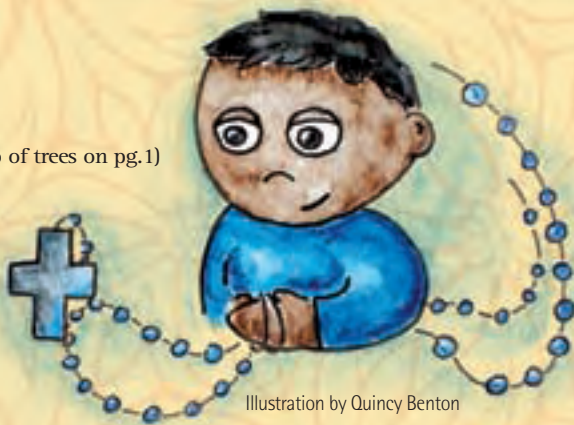


Illustration by Quincy Benton

ANSWERS:  
[www.graceinaction.org](http://www.graceinaction.org)



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## the way we pray Pentecost prayer



### PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, divine Consoler, I adore you as my God, with God the Father and God the Son.

I adore you and unite myself to the adoration you receive from the angels and saints.

I give you my heart and I offer my ardent thanksgiving for all the grace which you never cease to bestow on me.

O Giver of all supernatural gifts who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favors, I beg you to visit me with your grace and your love and to grant me the GIFT OF HOLY FEAR, so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.

Grant me the GIFT OF PIETY, so that I may serve you for the future with increased fervor, follow with more promptness your holy inspirations, and observe your divine precepts with greater fidelity.

Give me the GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE, so that I may know the things of God, and enlightened by your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation.

Give me the GIFT OF FORTITUDE, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul.

Give me the GIFT OF COUNSEL, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement, and may discover the wiles and snares of the tempter.

Give me the GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries, and by contemplation of heavenly things detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this passing world.

Give me the GIFT OF WISDOM, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end; so that, having loved and served him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing him eternally in the next. Amen.

— Alphonsus Liguori, Source: Catholic Family Prayer Book/Our Sunday Visitor