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**Our Sunday Visitor**  
*Bringing Your Catholic Faith to Life™*

# Parish Life!

News and resources for your parish

October 2009

Welcome to **Parish Life!** from Our Sunday Visitor. We've filled it with helpful hints and faith builders.

The online [Parish Resources pages](#) have been newly updated for October. The themes this month include October is Mary's month, Respect Life, and Autumn Things. You'll find columns by parish experts Lorene Hanley Duquin, Anne Neuberger, Woodeene Koenig-Bricker and Mary Lou Rosien written for early childhood, elementary, adult, youth, catechists, and the workplace! It's free! [Help for your parish is here now»](#)

This newsletter is designed with parish leaders in mind. We'd love to hear from you as well, so please e-mail us with questions or topics you would like to see discussed in future editions:  
[yyoung@osv.com](mailto:yyoung@osv.com).

 Forward to a Friend

## Celebrating life in October



October is rich with opportunities to celebrate life in all of its stages. As the first full month of autumn, nature reminds us of the plan God has for all of His creation. Our days are transformed by shorter periods of sunlight, new colors unfurling over familiar trees and landscapes, and fresh winds ushering in crisp, cool evenings. As a breath of fresh air rejuvenates our everyday, we too should seek to renew the spirit with

### In This Issue

Celebrating Life in October  
St. Damien of Molokai  
Prayer for Our Holy Family  
Another Month for Mary

which we appreciate our families, our work, and those we serve through the Church.

Who better to draw inspiration from than the many members of the Communion of Saints to which we ourselves are all called? Father Damien of Molokai, to be canonized by Pope Benedict XVI this month, is a perfect example of the adventure and purpose a life dedicated to the value of each human life can attain.

Let us know what YOU think, and what's working for you, by emailing us at [yyoung@osv.com](mailto:yyoung@osv.com).

## Saint Damien of Molokai: Virtuous Example



St. Damien is an extraordinary example of the virtues practiced to a truly heroic degree. But two, I think, are especially apparent in Damien's life on Molokai: charity and fortitude. In his charity, he was willing to give his life for others -- even to the point of making the ultimate sacrifice in emulation of Christ. In his fortitude, he found the strength to get up every day and care for women and men ravaged both physically and mentally by the horrors of leprosy. For the

average person, his fortitude can serve as a model for all of us in our daily lives, helping us to get up every day and care for our families and do our jobs out of love for Christ. And when we are burdened with the challenges that life brings, the leper priest's charity shows us the way. We will probably never be asked to give our lives for the forgotten and outcasts, but by following his example, we can give deeper meaning to what we are called to do.

-- *Matthew Bunson, author of "St. Damien of Molokai: Apostle of the Exiled" (OSV, \$14.95) [Click here to order St. Damien and receive FREE shipping \(for a limited time\)](#)*

Along with St. Damien of Molokai, the Pope is scheduled to enter four additional saints into the small, but growing canon of American saints Oct. 11.

[Check out OSV Newsweekly's "Saints in waiting" here](#)

## Prayer for Our Holy Family

Heavenly Father,  
You have given us the model of life  
in the Holy Family of Nazareth.  
Help us, O Loving Father,  
To make our family another Nazareth  
Where love, peace, and joy reign.  
May we love one another  
As God loves each one of us,  
More and more each day,  
And forgive each other's faults  
As you forgive our sins.



October 14, 1683

**Thomas Dongan,  
governor of New York,  
grants religious liberty  
in the colony, 1683.**

James II, the last Catholic king of England, sent Dongan, a fellow Catholic, to New York as governor. There he sponsored "A Charter of Liberties," which, among other things, guaranteed Catholics, Jews, and non-Anglican Protestants the right to worship according to their consciences.

**(From America's Great  
(and not so great)  
Catholic Moments by  
Thomas J.  
Craughwell (OSV).  
[Order it here](#))**



Help us, O Loving Father,  
To take whatever you give  
And give whatever you take with a big smile.

-- *Adopted from a prayer by Bl. Teresa of Calcutta*

## Another Month for Mary

By Lorene Hanley Duquin

Most people automatically think of May as Mary's month, but October is also a special month for honoring Mary, as Queen of the Rosary. It's the perfect opportunity to help people understand the significance of this traditional Catholic prayer and how it evolved over the centuries.

According to legend, Our Lady appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century, and gave him beads and instructions on how to pray and meditate on the life of her Son.

Long before this apparition, however, monks who could not read used beads or small stones to count off 150 Our Fathers as an alternative to the recitation of psalms during the Liturgy of the Hours.

In the early 1400's, 50 Hail Mary's with references to Gospel passages formed what was known as the Marian Psalter.

In the 1500's, the Marian Psalter was changed into the basic prayer we know today, and was called the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Over time, additional prayers have been added to the Rosary, such as the prayer for souls that was given by Our Lady during the apparitions at Fatima in 1917.

Pope John Paul II changed the Rosary one more time when he added the Luminous Mysteries or the Mysteries of Light.

Pope Benedict calls the Rosary, "the unique contemplative prayer through which, guided by the Lord's Heavenly Mother, we fix our gaze on the face of the Redeemer in order to be conformed to his joyful, light-filled, sorrowful and glorious mysteries."

[Read all our monthly parish columns online»](#)

## A Study Guide to Living Charity in Truth

by Woodeene Koenig-Bricker

Pope Benedict brings his critical message to life with a universal small-group study program that calls parishioners to action. This study guide helps parishioners make a direct connection with one of the most critical messages of our time. It provides them the tools necessary to incorporate Pope Benedict's voice of reason in their families, their ministries, and their work.

For ordering information, call 800-348-2440, or [click here»](#)

### Quick Links

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