

A Note from the Pastoral Council:

On July 9th, during Sunday morning mass, Fr. Eze mentioned that 5 of his family members had passed away. He has also included them in the mass intentions since then. Over the past couple weeks, we have learned more about this.

Over approximately the 3 weeks prior to July 9th, 5 of Fr. Eze's elderly uncles and cousins passed away. He also mentioned that they were all high-profile people in his society in Nigeria. Culture is much different in Nigeria and Fr. Eze, as part of the extended family, has a significant commitment to the funeral process, including financially.

Current airfare to Nigeria is very busy now and very expensive. So, he is currently not planning to travel to Nigeria for any of the funeral processes.

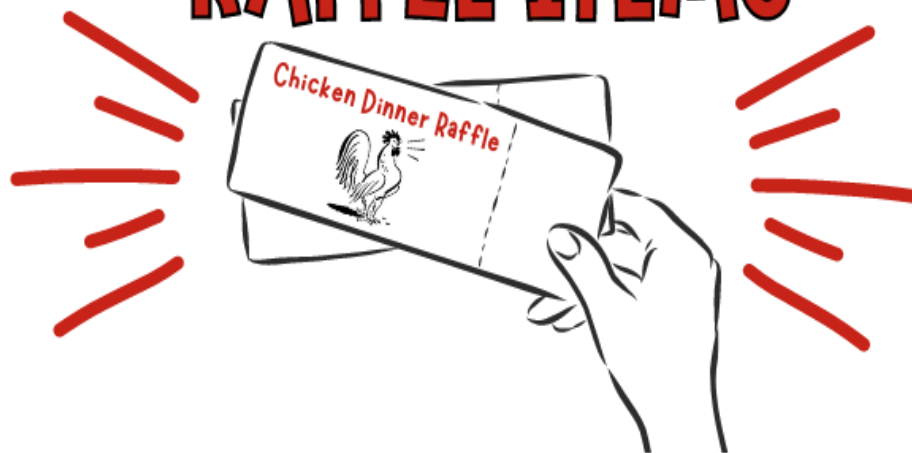
We, the Pastoral Council, want to support Fr. Eze as much as possible in this time of need. We will have a 2nd collection after mass this Sunday, July 23 to help Fr. Eze with the financial commitment. We ask that you prayerfully consider helping as much as you can.

If you were not able to read the bulletin prior to Sunday's mass and don't have your support with you, or if you will not be at mass this Sunday and would still like to help Fr. Eze, you can give your support amount to Fr. Eze, or any Pastoral Council member and we will get it to him.

Thank you,

Immaculate Conception Pastoral Council

78TH ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER RAFFLE ITEMS



28" Blackstone Griddle Bundle (Hard Cover and Protective Cover)

6 Gallon 5 Peak HP Stainless Steel Wet/Dry Vacuum + Bonus Car Cleaning Kit

Under the Weather Insta Pod Pop-Up Tent

Nautica Beach/Sports Umbrella

Karaoke Machine with 2 wireless microphones

Pickleball Paddles Set of 2 with 1 Carry Case, 2 Cooling Towels & 4 indoor balls - donated by Jonna Mitchell

Portable Hammock Chair

Massage Gun

Countertop Ice Maker

Tumblers - Set of 8

Timber Ridge Directors Chair

Northside Gift Card - donated by Tina & Patrick Minor

Keurig K-Iced - donated by Indianola HyVee

MstM stadium chair - donated by Irene Glade

I-35 school stadium blanket - donated by I-35 boosters

Fareway Gift Cards

Excerpts from Butler's *Lives of The Saints*

ST CHRISTINA THE ASTONISHING, VIRGIN (A.D. 1224)

CHRISTINA was born at Brusthem in the diocese of Liège, in 1150, and at the age of fifteen was left an orphan, with two elder sisters. When she was about twenty-two Christina had a seizure, was assumed to be dead, and in due course was carried in an open coffin to the church, where a Mass of requiem was begun. Suddenly, after the Agnus Dei, Christina sat up, soared to the beams of the roof, and there perched herself. Everyone fled from the church except her elder sister, who, though thoroughly frightened, gave a good example of recollection to the others by stopping till the end of Mass. The priest then made Christina come down (it was said that she had taken refuge up there because she could not bear the smell of sinful human bodies). She averred that she had actually been dead; that she had gone down to Hell and there recognized many friends, and to Purgatory, where she had seen more friends, and then to Heaven.

This was only the beginning of a series of hardly less incredible occurrences. Christina fled into remote places, climbed trees and towers and rocks, and crawled into ovens, to escape from the smell of humans. She would handle fire with impunity and, in the coldest weather, dash into the river, or into a mill-race and be carried unharmed under the wheel. She prayed balancing herself on the top of a hurdle or curled up on the ground in such a way that she looked like a ball. Not unnaturally, everyone thought she was mad or 'full of devils' and attempts were made to confine her, but she always broke loose. Eventually she was caught by a man who had to give her a violent blow on the leg to do it, and it was thought her leg was broken. She was therefore taken to the house of a surgeon in Liège, who put splints on the limb and chained her to a pillar for safety. She escaped in the night. On one occasion when a priest, not knowing her and frightened by her appearance, had refused to give her communion, she rushed wildly through the streets, jumped into the Meuse, and swam away. She lived by begging, dressed in rags, and behaved in a terrifying manner.

The last years of her life Christina passed in the convent of St Catherine at Saint-Trond, and there she died at the age of seventy-four. Even while she lived there were some who regarded her with great respect. Louis, Count of Looz, treated her as a friend, welcoming her to his castle, accepting her rebukes, and on his deathbed insisting on manifesting his conscience to her. Bd Mary of Oignies had regard for her, the prioress of St Catherine's praised her obedience, and St Lutgardis sought her advice.

ST THEOBALD OF MARLY; ABBOT (A. D. 1247)

THIS monk, the great ornament of the illustrious family of Montmorency in France, was born in the castle of Marly. His father, Bouchard de Montmorency, gave him an education suitable to his birth, trained him for arms, and sent him for a time to the court of King Philip Augustus II. But Theobald manifested a strong inclination to a state of retirement; he spent a great part of his time in prayer, and resorted often to the church of the nunnery called Port Royal, which had been founded in 1204 by the wife of Matthew de Montmorency, and on which his father Bouchard had bestowed so many estates that he was regarded as a second founder. Theobald took the Cistercian habit at Vaux-de-Cernay in 1220, and was chosen abbot in 1235. He lived in the midst of his brethren as the servant of every one, and surpassed all others in his love of poverty, silence and prayer. He was known to and much venerated by St Louis. Theobald died on December 8, 1247.