



St. John the Baptist Catholic School

# 4B News

Mr. Nguyen's Classroom Newsletter



St. John the Baptist Catholic School

1021 Baker Street  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

September 18, 2010

## Our Lady of Mercy (Ransom)

by Fr. Paul Haffner

The story of Our Lady of Ransom begins with St. Peter Nolasco, born in Languedoc about 1189. At the age of 25 he took a vow of chastity and made over his vast estates to the Church. After making a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Montserrat, he went to Barcelona where he began to practice various works of charity.

He conceived the idea of establishing an Order for the redemption of captives seized by the Moors on the seas and in Spain itself; they were being cruelly tormented in their African prisons to make them deny their faith.

He spoke of it to the king of Aragon, James I, who knew him well and already respected him as a saint; for the king had already asked for his prayers when he sent out his armies to combat the Moors, and he attributed his victories to those prayers.

In effect all the Christians of Europe, and above all of Spain, were praying intensely to obtain from God the remedy for the great evil that had befallen them. The divine Will was soon manifested. On one night — August 1, 1218 — the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Peter, to his confessor, Raymund of Penafort, and to the king, and through these three servants of God established a work of the most perfect charity, the redemption of captives.



On that night, while the Church was celebrating the feast of St. Peter in Chains, the Virgin Mary appeared first to St. Peter, saying that she indeed desired the establishment of a religious Order, later known as the *Mercedarians*, bearing the name of her mercy. Its members would undertake to deliver Christian captives and offer themselves, if necessary, as a ransom pledge.

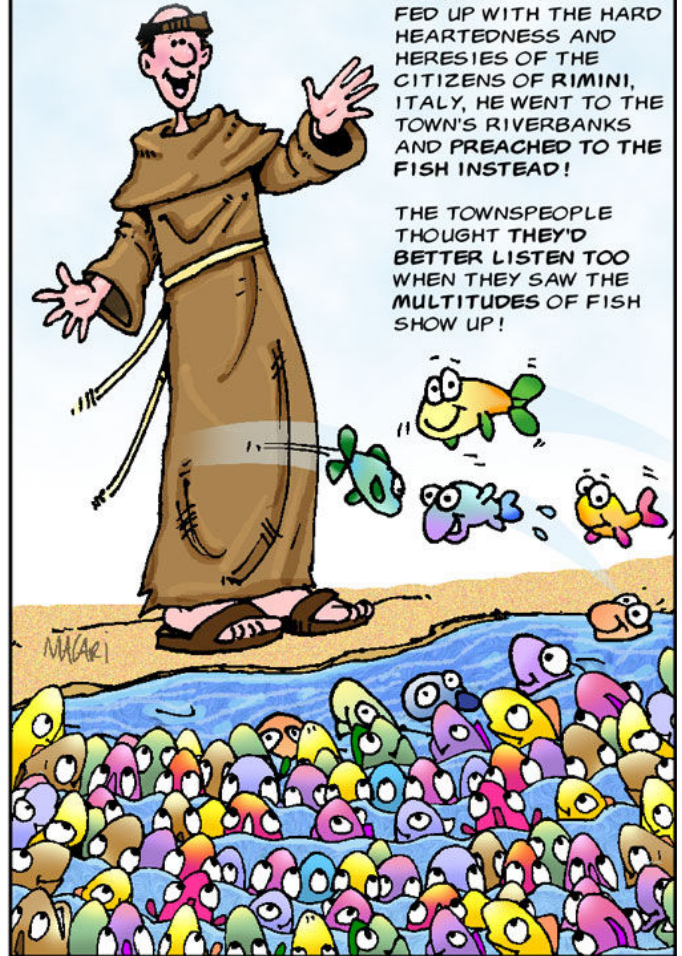
The Order, thus solemnly established in Spain, was approved by Pope Gregory IX under the name of *Our Lady of Mercy*. By the grace of God and under the protection of His Virgin Mother, the Order spread rapidly. Its growth was increased as the

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by mario d. macari

**S**AINT ANTHONY OF PADUA WAS ONCE SO FED UP WITH THE HARD HEARTEDNESS AND HERESIES OF THE CITIZENS OF RIMINI, ITALY, HE WENT TO THE TOWN'S RIVERBANKS AND PREACHED TO THE FISH INSTEAD!

THE TOWNSPEOPLE THOUGHT THEY'D BETTER LISTEN TOO WHEN THEY SAW THE MULTITUDES OF FISH SHOW UP!



charity and piety of its members was observed; they very often followed Our Lady's directive to give themselves up to voluntary slavery when necessary, to aid the good work. It was to return thanks to God and the Blessed Virgin that a feast day was instituted and observed on September 24, first in the Order, then everywhere in Spain and France. It was finally extended to the entire Church by Pope Innocent XII. Pope Leo XIII encouraged the devotion by making this feast proper to all the dioceses of England, with a focus on how Our Lady ransoms us from the slavery of our sins, and brings us the grace of conversion.

## Lunch with God

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer, and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry so he offered her a Twinkie. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Once again, she smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave but before he had gone more than a few steps; he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever. When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." But before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

- anonymous



# Congratulations!

... to the following students who earned an A+ on the following tests.

<i>Spelling</i>			
George	Cameron	Matthew	Liandra
Izabelle	Bridgette	Madeleine	Emily
Ethan	Nicholas	Bryan	John
Riley	Cade	Alyssa	
<i>Vocabulary</i>			
Jorge	Riley	Cade	Alyssa
Megan	Cameron	Hannah	Bryan
Charlene	Izabelle		
<i>Religion Ch. 1</i>			
Ethan	Riley	Cade	Hannah
Bryan	Roisin	Cameron	Francine
Liandra	Izabelle		
<i>Parts of a Sentence</i>			
Bryan	Matthew	Izabelle	
<i>Math 1A</i>			
Bryan	Cade	Roisin	George
Francine	Izabelle		

## Upcoming Tests

Religion	Ch. 2	Mon. 9/27
Reading	Little House Ch. 2	Wed. 9/22
Spelling + Vocab		Friday 9/24
Math	Ch. 1B	Tues. 9/28
Language	Nouns	TBA
Science	Unit A, Ch. 1	Thu. 9/23
Soc. Studies, Spanish, Music, Comp.		Check Planner

## Weekly Giggle

A little girl came home from school and said to her mother, "Mommy, today in school I was punished for something that I didn't do."

The mother exclaimed, "But that's terrible! I'm going to have a talk with your teacher about this ... by the way, what was it that you didn't do?"

The little girl replied, "My homework."