

# FAMILIES ON MISSION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

## ABOUT OUR MINISTRY

by Sydney Palma

The Familiastery Ministry is a great place for learning. Kids can have fun with hands on activities, learning about the saints, and making tons of new friends! The start time for Tuesday Enrichment Days is 12:00 for Picnic and Play. It is a great experience for kids, and it lifts parents, too. In this newsletter, we share our learning adventures with you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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October 17: Pilgrimage of Hope to the Shrine of Saint Therese

October 19: Saint Paul's International Food Festival

October 21: First Day of Second Session for Enrichment Days

October 24: St. Anthony Mary Claret Feast Day & Community Garden Day

November 7: Sacred Heart Devotion with All Saints Procession and Litany

## Saint of the Month

Therese of the Child Jesus  
Lisieux, France

*Read about her life on page 3!*

## Bible Verse of the Month

*"Let all that you do be done in love."*

*1 Corinthians 16:14*

## Prayer of the Month

*"My God, I give you my heart. May it please you to accept it, so that no creature can take possession of it but you alone, my good Jesus."*

## What is a Missionary?

*Check out pages 5-9 for our interview with Fresno Claretians!*

# JOKES AND TRIVIA

## Catholic Trivia



## JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Espie and Hector taught us about the four Holy Doors of Rome shown above.

St. Peter's Basilica

St. Paul Outside the Wall

St. Mary Major

St. John Lateran.

*Can you guess which ones which?*

*Answers at the bottom of page.*

## LAUGH OUT LOUD: Kids say the funniest things

By Anna Kezele, Danna Flores, and Alexia Flores

Once Oliver was at our house for dinner. My dad was passing out the food and when it was Oliver's turn he said "Hey Tio Aon! Right here!"

Celine said, "My dad built a bagzebo!"

I pretended to scream and then the baby screamed. Mateo said "You are bad." I replied, "I'm going to tell Mama." And he said "I'm joking!"

"Papa is coming and Mateo says "That's not Papa! No, wait, that is Papa."

## Catholic Jokes

By Danna and Alexia Flores

How long does it take to pray the Rosary?

*About five decades.*

What type of car would Jesus drive?

*A Christ-ler.*

## Saint Trivia

By Joe Pucheu

**1: What is the name of the book that was published by the Carmelite community in Lisieux, a year after St. Therese of Lisieux died?**

**2: Who was the Pope that St. Therese of Lisieux met when she was 15?**

# SAINT OF THE MONTH

## SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

By Lizzie Mendes

Thérèse Martin was born in Alençon, France on January 2, 1873. Entering the Carmelite Monastery at Lisieux at age 15, she took the name Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus. She was known for her “Little Way”, which was her approach to the spiritual life of doing ordinary things with extraordinary love. She died on September 30, 1897 at only 24 years old, loving with a heart as big as the world itself: “I’m not dying. I’m entering into Life.” She was canonized on May 17, 1925. She was declared Patroness of the Missions in 1927 and a Doctor of the Church in 1997. We celebrate her feast day on October 1st, and she is popularly known as the “The Little Flower”. Her parents, Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin, were canonized in 2015.

### SAVE THE DATE ! THE VENERATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. THERESE

The Veneration of the Relics of St. Therese coming to Visalia on October 18-19! This will take place at Saint Charles Borromeo Church.

Her relics are traveling around the United States for the 100th anniversary of her canonization and the jubilee year. [stthereseusa2025.com](http://stthereseusa2025.com) is a website all about St. Therese - Her life, and her story, and the schedule of where the relics will be. They bring her Centenary Reliquary all over the World. They have brought her to places such as Spain in 2003, Wales in 2009, and the Philippines in 2023.

Stay tuned for a report after the Event.

### SAINT QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them”*

*“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love”.*

-St Therese-



# WHOA! TWO NEW SAINTS!!!

The Familiastery Ministry is thankful for our Family Ministry lead, Alberto Navarro, for coming to speak to us about his Pilgrimage to Rome and teach us about the two new amazing Saints recently Canonized by Pope Leo XIV on Sept 7, 2025.

Here's some fun facts we learned from his talk!

## FUN FACTS: ST. CARLO ACUTIS

By Sydney Palma

- He had his own website dedicated to Christ called "The Eucharistic Miracles of the World".
- His favorite superhero was Spiderman.
- He is known as "God's Influencer".

*"The Eucharist is my highway to heaven"*  
- St. Carlo Acutis

## FUN FACTS: ST. PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

By Trey Palma

- When they opened St Pier Giorgia's coffin, he was still there, untouched, as if he was still sleeping. They were expecting him to have decayed.
- He loved hiking.
- He was from a rich family and was secretly giving money to the poor.

*"The higher we go, the better we shall hear the voice of Christ"* - St. Pier Giorgio Frassati



## Follow in the Saint's Footsteps

*Ideas from the Moore Family*

- St. Carlo Acutis' mom, Antonia, said St. Carlo would limit his gaming to 1 hour a day. We can limit our screen time to 30-60mins/day, and offer the other time to God.
- St. Pier Giorgio loved nature. We can spend time in nature and reflect on ways God has blessed us in our lives.

# WHAT IS A MISSIONARY?

Saint Therese is a Patron Saint of Missionaries. So, our Claret's Crew of tweens and young teens decided to interview two of our Claretian Missionaries in Fresno, Father David Guiterrez, CMF and Father Art Gramaje, CMF. CMF stands for Cordis Mariae Filii, which is Latin for Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

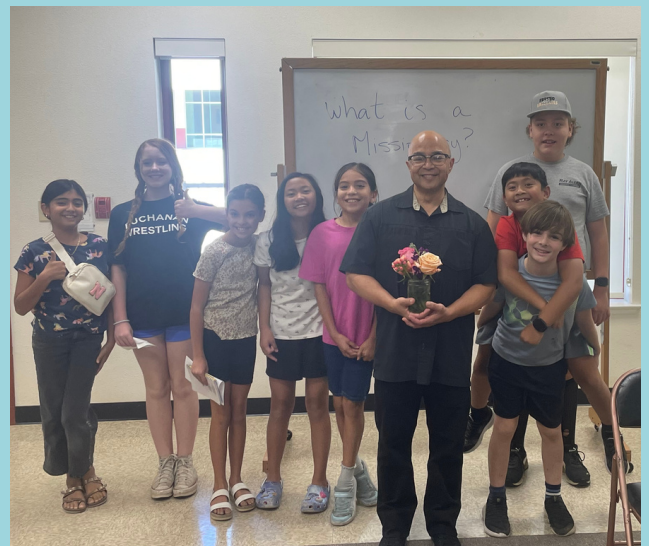
Check out the next few pages to read a little bit about them...

***"The heart of that word is mission. So, it is the mission of Jesus that we help with. We do that in various ways. When one is a missionary, we continue the mission of Jesus. And you know what, everyone is called to be a missionary. We take special vows toward that. But really, everyone who calls themselves a Christian is called to share the mission of Jesus in some form or fashion. So, each of you are missionaries, too, in your own way. And you'll discover that as you get older, what that means. It is essentially sharing the mission of Jesus, sharing God's love for everyone.... That is the heart of a missionary."***

**- Father Art**



**Claretian Missionaries**





# WHAT IS A MISSIONARY?

## *Why did you choose to become a missionary?*

**Father Art:** Because that's how I am wired. Like I said, when I was a kid I was all over the place. I am wired to be all over the place. In retrospect, looking back, being a missionary really fits my personality.

**Father David:** I grew up with the missionaries. All my life, I knew the Claretian missionaries. I was baptized at Saint Anthony's. I did my First Communion, my Confirmation. So I knew missionaries my whole life. But I didn't know what they did. When I felt God calling for me, that was the first place I went. I didn't know what a missionary was, but apparently we go all over the world wherever we are needed. I have been to Peru. I have been to Mexico. I have been to different places.

## *Why did you choose to become a priest?*

**Father Art:** I was a youth minister for two years. Before that time, I was never thinking about becoming a priest. I was actually a business major in college. I started off in sales and business. Once I started doing that, I started questioning my life. I sold 3M copiers in Southern California. I started questioning my life and then I switched over and became a youth minister for two years. Then the second year I thought maybe God wants me to be a priest because I was having all these positive experiences in the Church. That's when I started thinking... I started discerning like we talked about, figuring out what the Spirit was inviting me to. I kinda stepped in step by step. There wasn't like one big experience, like "be a priest! It was like these little steps toward it. Everybody has to figure out how that works. ... but God always calls us to more, he'll call us to love in specific ways. For most people that is by getting married.... but some of us are called to love lots of different people in lots of different situations. That's the life of service as a priest or a religious or a sister.

**Father David:** I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I honestly didn't. I had tried music because I wanted to be a musician. I had tried business because I wanted to be a businessman. I thought I was good with cars so I tried being a mechanic. I tried welding. I tried all these things. Finally, I was like "I don't know what I'm supposed to do." My mom said, "Go pray. Go to the Church and go pray." So I went to the Church and I prayed to God, "God, what do you want me to do with my life." I thought it'd be like the movies where the light shines on you and then, it's like, "Yes, exactly." Nothing happened. On my way out, there was a little sign that said Vocational Retreat coming up, which was for vocations, "Where is God calling you." I thought I hope someone goes to that because the Church needs priests. I didn't think it was for me, honestly. I was a rocker. I had my long hair. I had my band shirt. I didn't think God called people like me. But I just couldn't get it out of my head. Finally, I took a chance. The rest is history. Here I am.



# THE LIFE OF A MISSIONARY

## *What are some challenges of being a missionary?*

**Father Art:** I think it's moving around a lot. Once I think I've got my feet planted and I know a lot of folks and I am comfortable, then it might be time to move. So, I've had to say goodbye to a lot of people in my life who I think were really fantastic. I think that's a challenge. We're never totally settled.... saying good-bye sometimes is hard.

**Father David:** We take vows for the rest of our life, which is poverty, chastity, and obedience. Poverty means I will never own a house. I will never own my own car. I will never own my own property. Chastity means I will never get married. I will never have a girlfriend. I will never have kids. I will never have a family. Obedience means that if my Superior says "David, I need you to go to China." I don't get a say. I go. He sends me and I go. And then, living in community. We have to live with at least two people. Right now I am living with Father Rubiston. Over at Saint Anthony's, they have four priests living together. You never know who you are going to get. It could be your best friend and you'll be, "I am so glad I am living with you." Then it could be someone else and you don't get along too well. But you have to learn to work together. So, those are some of the challenges.



***"God wants you to be happy.  
So the more you grow in your  
relationship with Jesus, the happier  
you will be, even when you are not  
happy. God wants joy in your life.  
That will be a gift from the spirit to  
you. God's love entails you being  
joyful. That joy comes through even  
when you are not totally happy.  
Sometimes things don't go so great  
in our life, but it is still possible to  
have love and joy in our life because  
of our faith."***

- Father Art





# THE LIFE OF A MISSIONARY

## *How do you become a missionary and how long does it take?*

**Father Art:** Discerning your call is different for everyone. But we are trying to figure out what is the Holy Spirit inviting me to, given who I am and given what exists in the Church.... We live itinerant lives. We go in different places, different situations.... We go where other folks don't want to go.... We go all over the place. That depends on the person. Some people take a long time to discern, to figure out what God wants. Some people instinctively know. Then there is the added mystery. Somehow the Holy Spirit brings us where we need to go if we're really listening well. Once we enter... for missionary priests.... it is at least 6 years.... so if you already have your bachelor's and you already have your philosophy.... Then it's about 6 more years. 4 years of graduate work in theology. There's a pastoral year where we learn from people in a parish usually. Then there's what's called the novitiate. The novitiate is a prayer and reflection year before we take our first vows. We take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

## *What inspired you to be a priest?*

**Father David:** I wasn't going to be a priest. Our community of missionaries we have what are priests and we have what are brothers. Brothers can't celebrate Mass, they can't do baptisms. They can't do the Sacraments. They can be principals of schools. They do different ministries. We have one brother that makes beautiful stained glass windows. That's his ministry. I wanted to be a brother because I didn't think I had the stuff it takes to be a priest. Guys like me don't become priests. They asked me why don't you try. Go and take all the classes to be a priest, but if you feel like you are not going to be a priest just stop and you can be a brother. The more I did it, the more I felt the calling.

***“Vocation means to call. Everybody has a vocation. The Lord calls us to share in His mission in a way particular to how you are wired. You are wired differently than I am. So your call is going to be different than mine.”***

**- Father Art**





# THE LIFE OF A MISSIONARY



## *What was your childhood like?*

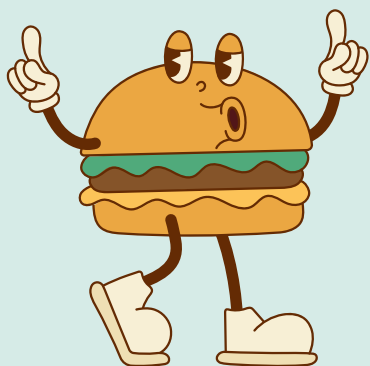
**Father David:** I was the youngest of 4 sisters, a brother, and myself. My sister, the youngest one next to me is 10 years older. So she was older and I was like a little kid. We lived on a ranch. There were no neighbors around. I used my imagination a lot. I had a dog. His name was Blackie because he was black. I wasn't very creative with my names. He was like my companion. I would use my imagination. Every tree was like a fortress and I would climb and I would use my imagination for everything. My dog would go on these adventures with me. Have you ever read Calvin and Hobbes? I was like Calvin, my imagination would take me everywhere.

**Father Art:** I think my childhood was pretty happy. I liked playing sports with my friends. We played a lot of basketball and baseball. Basketball is my favorite sport. I played a lot of it. That's when I was fast. I'm not fast anymore so I don't play too much.... A favorite childhood memory is when I was about 4 or 5, my dad brought me to the zoo. He brought a sword for me. It was a plastic sword. I remember he took the holder and I took the sword and we were playing sword fights.

## *What is your favorite food?*

**Father Art:** If Filipino, Dinaguan. If Italian, Carbonara. If Chinese, any hot pot dish.

**Father David:** Hamburgers. I'll tell you the story. When I was little, I grew up very poor. In my family we had 4 sisters, my brother, and my mom and my dad. Only my dad used to work. So my mom would take me downtown to the second-hand store to buy clothes because we couldn't afford new clothes. So we would buy the clothes there. Right across the street there was a place like a diner where they served hamburgers. Every time she took us to go there I would smell the hamburgers and I would see them and I would say, "Mom, can we go buy a hamburger?" She would say "We cannot afford it, I am sorry."



*"I always wanted a hamburger. I would see people eating it with the fries and everything. Finally, when I went to school, at lunch, they would give us hamburgers. I was like, 'We get hamburgers here?' To everyone else it was just a hamburger. For me, it was so special."*

- Father David

# FAMILIASTERY FALL ADVENTURES



**The Familiastery Ministry: Equipping Families on Mission  
is a family ministry of the Saint Paul Catholic Newman Center.**

***We seek to transform how people live by accompanying families  
raising children so that each family might become  
Christ's light in the world.***