

# ***Gifts of Grace Ministry Newsletter***

**September / October, 2014**



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## **Greetings Friends & Saints:**

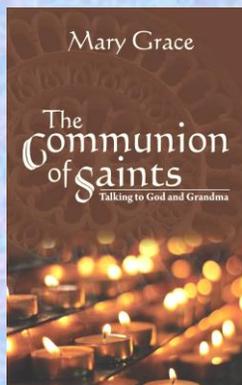
As I write this, I am recovering from a major surgery, which I had two weeks ago. I am normally a very private person and did not even share this information with my immediate family and closest friends, until two days before the operation. Although I don't talk about my personal life in general, writing about such matters in the comfort and privacy of my own home is another story. Therefore, readers of my book and newsletters know me better than many who have been acquainted with me for years.

The reason I decided to write about my recent surgery (a complete hysterectomy) is because of the incredible spiritual experience that came from it. Again, I have not shared this with many I know personally, because most people don't believe in such matters; I know you do.

Anyhow, immediately after the surgery, I found myself in what must have been the post-op room. I was just coming out of the anesthesia when, to my surprise, I was greeted with a large group of family and friends in spirit. They were all crowded around my bed in a semi-circle; there must have been at least a dozen "people!"

Indeed, this was the most amazing and humbling sight. To name a few, I recognized Mom, Dad, my godparents, father-in-law, grandmother, and my priest friends Father Al and Father Tom (I wrote about in our book). As I lay in my bed, I could feel myself grinning from ear to ear as tears of great joy and profound gratitude were welling in my eyes. These were all people I stay connected with on a regular basis, but seeing them together, huddled around my bed, was confirmation that they remain an active part of my life and still care about me.

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As I looked at the individuals, I telepathically thanked them for staying in touch and helping me on my journey. I also asked each one if they had a message for me. In response, I did receive many messages of love and even some advice. One of the suggestions involved the names of people to contact regarding collaborations for projects I would be working on in the future. The biggest message, however, was that I had the continued support and help from the communion of saints on the other side. I also knew they would be aiding me in the healing process so I could continue to share the light and love of God with people around the world.

While I was still in my euphoric state, I was suddenly brought back to “reality” when I heard a nurse repeat my name while gently shaking me. Although I was still quite drugged, I wondered how strange it must be for the nurses to see a patient smiling, after a major surgery. After that, I must have gone right back to sleep, because the next memory was of being wheeled into my hospital room. That’s when I had another paranormal experience.

As my bed was pushed through the doorway to my new room, I was amazed at the sight of a very tall, male angel standing in the corner of the room. He must have been close to seven feet in height with very large wings that peeked out from behind his back. He was wearing what appeared to be a leather vest, which reminded me of pictures of Michael the Archangel who is depicted in warrior-type armor. I telepathically asked the angel who he was and told me “Nephi.” I recognized the name of my guardian angel, but it is the first time I actually saw him; it was an impressive and astounding sight.

I don’t recall any specific messages from Nephi, but his presence brought me great comfort and I felt he was there to help me during a most difficult recovery. With much assistance from my wonderful husband, family and friends (both in heaven and on earth), I am quickly recuperating and feeling better each day.

I never cease to be amazed at what a magical, miraculous world we live in. My latest supernatural experience confirms that I am on the right path in teaching people about the importance of staying connected to loved ones in heaven. They provide help and healing as active members of the communion of saints.

Have a fabulous fall! Love, Mary Grace

## Upcoming Events

**After Death Communication Presentation  
Life After Life Club &  
The International Foundation of Survival Research  
Saturday, October 4: 9:30 – 11:30am  
Club at Laguna Woods Village  
Laguna Woods, California  
\$3.00 donation  
RSVP Elizabeth: 949-707-1633**

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**Mystics, Mediums & Muggles Workshop  
School of Multidimensional Healing Arts & Science  
Saturday, October 4: 3:00 – 7:00pm  
18271 McDermott West  
Irvine, California  
\$45.00; RSVP Frances @ 949-752-5272**

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**Near Death Experience Presentation  
Orange County IANDS  
Saturday, October 11: 1:00 – 4:00pm:  
Unity Church of Tustin  
14402 Prospect Ave., Tustin, California  
\$10.00 donation  
For more information call Robin @ 949-855-1102**

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**Near Death Experience Presentation  
Mary Magdalene Catholic Church  
Tuesday, October 28: 6:30 – 8:00pm  
1008 Main Street  
East Rochester, NY  
Love donations accepted, but not expected  
For more information call: 585-586-4104**

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**If interested in hosting a workshop or presentation go to:  
[www.giftsofgraceministry.org](http://www.giftsofgraceministry.org) or call Mary Grace @ 585-766-9318**

### **Publishing News**

The Catholic publishing company I am with has expanded and reorganized; it is now called *Amor Deus Publishing*. In addition, the imprint, or division, my book is listed under has changed to *Vesuvius Press*. It will no longer be found under *Tau Publishing*, which is now reserved for Franciscan subjects. The book is going into its third printing this fall and will reflect the publisher's new name. Copies can still be ordered by going to my website:

[www.giftsofgraceministry.org](http://www.giftsofgraceministry.org)

### **New Friends & Lily Dale**

Thanks to all who attended my book signing in Lily Dale this summer. I had a tremendous time and met many wonderful people. During my four-day trip, I had the opportunity to have some interesting, long conversations while hanging out at the Maplewood or just sitting on a park bench. I was humbled by the wonderful response and positive feedback from people I met from Canada, Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, as well as those from my neck of the woods, in Rochester, NY and the Finger Lakes area.

I am truly grateful to all of you who took the time to talk with me and share your views on spiritualism and the Catholic Faith. So many people are struggling with how to stay true to their faith, as well as to themselves and their God-given psychic gifts. One woman shared with me how distraught she was during her time in Lily Dale because she knew it was a "sin" to be there. I assured her that the practice of spiritualism did not go against the teachings of the Catholic Faith and briefly explained why. She bought a copy of my book and it brought me great solace to know that her fears would be comforted further after reading it. At the same time, I was disturbed by the continued emotional abuse that is brought upon devout members of the communion of saints. It was clear that this woman could not possibly enjoy her "vacation."

Now, if only the church leaders would read the book. Please recommend *The Communion of Saints* to any priests, bishops, theologians or lay people you may know who are involved with the Church. Much more work needs to be done to educate practicing Catholics about the help and healing that comes from our connection with family and friends in heaven and with the communion of saints.

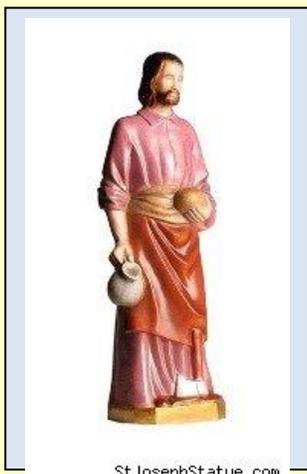
**If you have any questions or comments on this newsletter, or any related subject, please feel free to e-mail me at [mgrace-888@outlook.com](mailto:mgrace-888@outlook.com)**

Spiritual Quote

## Featured Saint: Saint Joseph

**Feast Day: March 19 & May 1**

**Patron Saint of Home, Family,  
Carpenters & Real Estate**



St.JosephStatue.com

I decided to feature St. Joseph for this newsletter because my husband, Bob and I are planning on selling our rental house. We acquired the home, which Bob grew up in, after his father passed away and his mom moved to senior housing. Tired of the upkeep and landlord headaches, we decided to try and sell it. Of course my first thought was that we needed to purchase a statue of St. Joseph to bury upside down in the yard; this would ensure a sale!

My second thought was wondering about this strange custom, which is an example of how we practice the communion of saints. Why St. Joseph, and why upside down; what does any of this have to do with real estate? I embarked on the research.

Joseph was husband of Mary, the Blessed Virgin and “foster father” to Jesus; they lived in Bethlehem and Nazareth around the first century. Joseph was previously married and had four sons and two daughters. After his wife died, Joseph became engaged to Mary, who was over fifty years younger than the elderly groom. It is thought that Jesus’ brothers, who are mentioned in the bible, refers to his step-brothers; the youngest was “James the Less.”

We all know the story of how Mary became miraculously pregnant and how upset Joseph was to learn about her condition. Lo, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream to dispel his distress and explain the intervention by the Holy Spirit. Their child would be the Son of God.

Joseph was of royal, Jewish descent from the House of David. He was a carpenter by trade and provided a home for the first family. Because of this, he is considered the patron saint of home, family and carpenters. Eventually, he became patronage of real estate.

It is thought that Joseph died sometime before Jesus, due to his old age (some accounts say he was over 90 years). He has two feast days. March 19 was the original day assigned to him. In 1870 he was declared patron of the Roman Catholic Church by Pius IX, who dedicated May 1 to him and called the saint “Joseph the Worker.”

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## St. Joseph and Home Selling

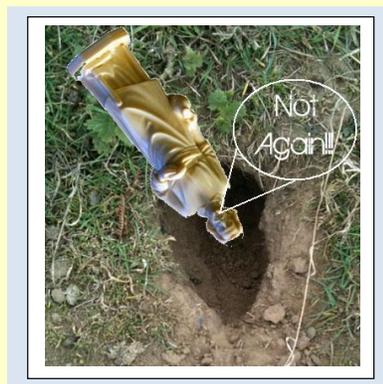
There is an old Catholic tradition of burying a statue of St. Joseph in the yard of the home you are trying to sell. This custom began with the great St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) who founded the Discalced Carmelite Order. A new convent needed to be built for the many Christian converts, and in order for this to happen, land needed to be bought. The nuns decided to ask for the intercession of St. Joseph. To show their devotion, they buried medals imprinted with his likeness in the ground, and prayed for their desired property. It worked!

Over the years, the medals were replaced with statues of St. Joseph. It is thought that burying the figure upside down came from a tradition called the “degradation of saints.” At that time the custom was that you threatened the saint by burying him and saying, “I will keep you with your head down in the dirt until you sell my house for me.” Another source states that Joseph is buried upside down so that he will have to work extra hard to get out of the ground and therefore the house will sell faster. Neither of these explanations sounds very Christian to me; people have more respect for the saint in today’s world.

No matter how it started, St. Joseph will forever be employed by devote believers to sell their home. Instead of threatening him, however, we pray to his good will and that he will help us with a fast, smooth and profitable sale. As part of the tradition, once the house is sold, St. Joseph should be dug up and put in a place of honor in your home. He can also be reused, if needed, in the future.

There is a host of suggestions on the proper procedure for burying St. Joseph:

- Bury the statue head down in the backyard.
- Bury it in the front yard near the “For Sale” sign.
- Bury it head down, facing the road.
- Bury it within six inches of the house.
- Say a prayer after the burial asking St. Joseph for his help in selling the home quickly.
- If you are selling a condo, the statue can be buried in a pot with a plant.
- After the sale, dig up the statue and put it in a place of honor in your home.



It is estimated that over 2 million St. Joseph statues are sold nationally each year for the purpose of selling a home. I will be sure to let you know how well this tradition works for our house. After much research, I now know why and how the bazaar custom started. I would love to hear if you tried this tradition and if it was successful.