

The Eagle's Nest

ERCM, Vol 8

FEBRUARY 2025

Come fly with me



What Can We Do For Our God?

As I was meditating on what I should speak to you this month it dawned on me how much I pray and intercede asking God for so

much. We do need so much prayer and there is so much in the world today that needs our prayer. I was also reminded that we receive favors from God. We receive gifts from God. So, should we not give something back to HIM? He who created us, who formed us. Who “knitted me in my mother’s womb” as it is written in Psalm 139:13 Verse 14 goes on to say, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Our God made each of us, to think that the Lord that created the universe thought of me, every single part of me and not only that tells the preservation me that I am Fearfully and wonderfully made!”

That’s the highest acknowledgment anyone ever needs. That you, my dear reader, ever needs. How do I give back to the Lord? Do I thank HIM every day? Last Friday, January 24, 2025, thousands marched for Life in Washington DC. We at ERCM support life, the sanctity and dignity of human life from inception to natural death. Our Eagle ambassador fasted that day and prayed for life. That is one way we thank Him and give some of our time and comfort for His creation. Life He created. “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me”.

~Fr Samy, Spiritual Director~

Last month you heard about my childhood in Ethiopia and the challenges I faced. Now I will continue my story on what happened next.

An Ethiopian Odyssey (Part 2)

Through His grace, He sent people into my life who taught me that God is love in its purest form. Among them were the Maranita sisters from Ecuador, who were present at my parish at the time. Their lives profoundly inspired me. They had left everything behind to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Their unwavering faith and dedication were living testimonies of what it means to serve God wholeheartedly.

Another example of this love and dedication is Father Samy, who been

among us here at Eagle Rising youth ministry. He responded to God’s call and has dedicated his life to sharing the love of Jesus with everyone he meets. Following God’s call doesn’t always mean leaving everything behind; sometimes, it begins with taking one small, faithful step each day.

You and I may not be like the Maranita sisters or Father Samy, but we are still called to be the best children of God. This starts with recognizing and embracing God’s unconditional love—a love that does not waver based on our shortcomings but instead sees them as opportunities for growth. God’s love encourages us to stop focusing on the negatives and instead trust in His plan to guide us toward becoming



better versions of ourselves.

Taking small, deliberate steps each day to grow closer to Jesus is the path to responding to His call. It could be through prayer, acts of kindness, spending time in Scripture, or simply showing love to those around us. With each step, God leads us, gently teaching us how to reflect His love in our daily lives.

Today, it is a great joy to share my story, not as a tale of despair, but as a testament to God’s grace and faithfulness. Through the love and support of others, and the guidance of our Lord, I have been able to pursue my dreams and grow in faith. To all of you who are reading this, thank you for being part of this journey with me. May we continue to grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ, always trusting in His divine plan.

Blessings,
Serviam!



INFOCUS

As we step into February, we are reminded of the importance of faith, love, and service in our journey as a community. This month, we focus on deepening our connection with Christ through acts of kindness, prayer, and reflection.

Reflections for This Month:

Faith in Action – How can I put my faith into practice daily?

Love and Compassion – How can I extend kindness to those around me?

Growing Spiritually – How can I strengthen my relationship with God?

Eagle Rising Catholic Youth Ministry



I love our catholic faith that is so rich. Something I find amazing are the incorrupt saints. There are no preservatives or embalming or any

intervention made on the body yet the body in some cases is totally preserved and intact or some parts of the body is preserved naturally with no scientific explanation. According to Catholic tradition, incorruptible saints give witness to the truth of the resurrection of the body and the life that is to come.

Just because a body is preserved it does not automatically make them a 'saint', however in the church tradition there have been many examples of incorrupt saints. In the next few months, we will be introduced to some of my personal favorite saints whose bodies have stood for years with no corruption to their human bodies.

~Andrea, Chairperson~

Saint Rita

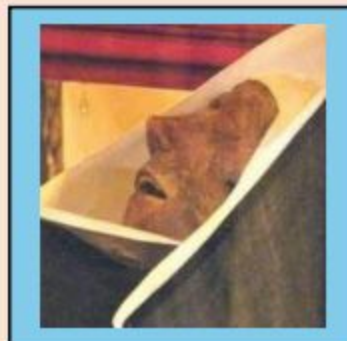
Rita is famously known as the Patron Saint of Impossible Causes. It was said that at the time of her death her cell was filled with a remarkable perfume, accompanied by a ray of light that was said to emanate from the thorn wound in her head. She received a thorn on her head that stayed for 15 years, like Jesus' thorn. The beautiful smell did not go away, even accompanying Rita's corpse long after. Inexplicably after her death, her corpse gave off a sweetly perfumed scent, which eventually filled the church where she was laid. The aroma was constant for centuries but now it happens only intermittently.

In July 1627 her corpse was examined by Church authorities and found incorruptible—some 150 years

after her death. "The body was carefully examined and found to be as perfect as it had been on the day of her death," writes Joan Carroll Cruz "with the flesh still of a natural color. The excellent condition of her body after the lapse of over 150 years seems quite extraordinary since it was never properly entombed."



"St. Rita's body, as viewed by countless pilgrims, appears only slightly discolored and is perfect in all its members," recorded Joan Carroll Cruz. The one exception is a mere single eyebrow, "which moved in its position about the year 1650, and a right cheek bone, which became dislodged. These were repaired with wax and string. The habit and veil which St. Rita wore from the time she entered the convent until she died, and which served for her funeral shroud are still intact and in good condition. From time to time the nuns are known to place pieces of linen or woolen cloth on the body of St. Rita. They then cut the cloth into very small pieces and distribute them among the faithful. These pieces of cloth have been the means for thousands of miracles.



Today, her incorrupt body remains in the Basilica of Santa Rita da Cascia. (source: <https://tandirection.com/pursuit-of-perfection/st-rita-of-cascia-one-of-the-incorruptibles/>). You can read more about saint Rita here: <https://www.saintrita Shrine.org/saint-rita-of-cascia>.

OUR PRAYER

Lord, guide us to be of service to you and others. Inspire us to care for all your creation, especially the youth. Fill us with truth, hope and love in all that we do. Unite us to faithfully journey together with you, as we work to build Your Kingdom within our community.

~Serviam~

Check out eaglerisingnyc.org to learn more!



@eaglerisingnyc
@eaglerising
@eaglerisingnyc



Youth Corner

St. Josephine Bakhita
Feast Day: February 8



St. Josephine Bakhita was born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869 and was kidnapped by slave traders and enslaved as a child around the age of

9. She was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles and was sold multiple times to different owners before being sold to an Italian diplomat that took her to Italy; here, she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity. Following her rescue, she was baptized, received other sacraments, and became a religious sister in 1896. Her enslavement during her childhood didn't get her down but by God's grace she used it to share her testimony with others and advocating for human freedom and dignity.



"I invite the whole Church to invoke the intercession of St Bakhita upon all our persecuted and enslaved brothers and sisters, especially in Africa and in her native Sudan, that they may know reconciliation and peace."

— [St. John Paul II, October 1, 2000](#)

February Event, Come Join Us!

Please join us for the next Youth night on Feb 21, 2025.

