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Quester's Corner

Donations to our community can be sent via check (made payable to the Franciscan Missionaries) or online at www.FranciscanMissionaries.com

"May it please Thee O Lord to reward with eternal life, all those who do good to us for the sake of Thy Holy Name"

About the M.F.V.A.'s, "Missionarii Franciscani Verbi Aeterni"

As *Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word*, we are a religious order of Priests and Brothers, founded by Mother Mary Angelica, P.C.P.A., in 1987, who are seeking to live an authentic renewal of consecrated life in the Franciscan tradition. Living in obedience, without anything of our own and in chastity, we share a common life of prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament and in Total Consecration to the Mother of God according to St. Louis Marie de Montfort. As consecrated friars, we bear new names in religion of various Saints or Blesseds as well as Our Blessed Mother's. We are dedicated to the work of evangelization - preaching and teaching the Catholic Faith so as to seek out the lost and make known to all men the love and salvation of Jesus Christ. *"The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back."* - Ezekiel 34:16

Contact Information

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Fishers Of Men

The Newsletter of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word

God is Near

Our life is sometimes described as a harsh journey in the desert. The dryness, distraction and hardship we experience can be overwhelming; the wilderness never seems to end. If our experience of pain continues, we tend to become skeptical when blessings come along. Though the God of all consolations is near, we still ask, "Is the oasis real, or is it illusory?" Because of sin (original and actual) we are blind and slow to believe. Yet the good news is that God has not left us in our solitude. The Lord has revealed Himself to us—He has sent the Spirit into our hearts that we may cry "Abba, Father!" We are in a true relationship with Him through the Holy Spirit. He walks with us on the way and takes our burden upon Himself. Just as God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness, God now sustains each one of us in our humble



condition. We can rely upon God for all our needs, even our most necessary as we pray "give us this day our daily bread." At times we are tempted to think that we can do it all on our own, that we do not need God. But this leads to some form of idolatry—we

think something or someone other than Jesus can save us. In *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that "at the heart of all temptations...is the act of pushing God aside because we perceive him as secondary, if not actually superfluous and annoying, in comparison with all the apparently far more urgent matters that fill our lives." Often we need to take some time to recognize the many and simple ways in which the Lord is with us. In our relationship to God we receive something much more foundational and beautiful than simply our physical needs. We enter into a personal and intimate relationship that is real. Over and over again we are tempted to trust in many things other than God. This is the problem of idolatry. The first commandment reminds us that God is the Lord and

Continued on page 2 ...



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God is Near *Continued ...*

He alone has brought us salvation. It also tells us that we are to have no false gods before Him. The second commandment teaches us that we are not to take the Lord's name in vain. We are not to give the Name of God to anything that is created. To call upon anything other than the true God is to call out in vain to idols that cannot save. God's Name is holy and should not be used irreverently. God loves us and deserves our thanks, love, praise and service.

We are on a journey to heaven. God has revealed Himself most fully in Jesus who proclaimed that "the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" (Mt. 3:2). It gives us great joy to know that the Lord is near to us in the new and everlasting manna from Heaven: the Eucharist. Once again we can exult with the Deuteronomist

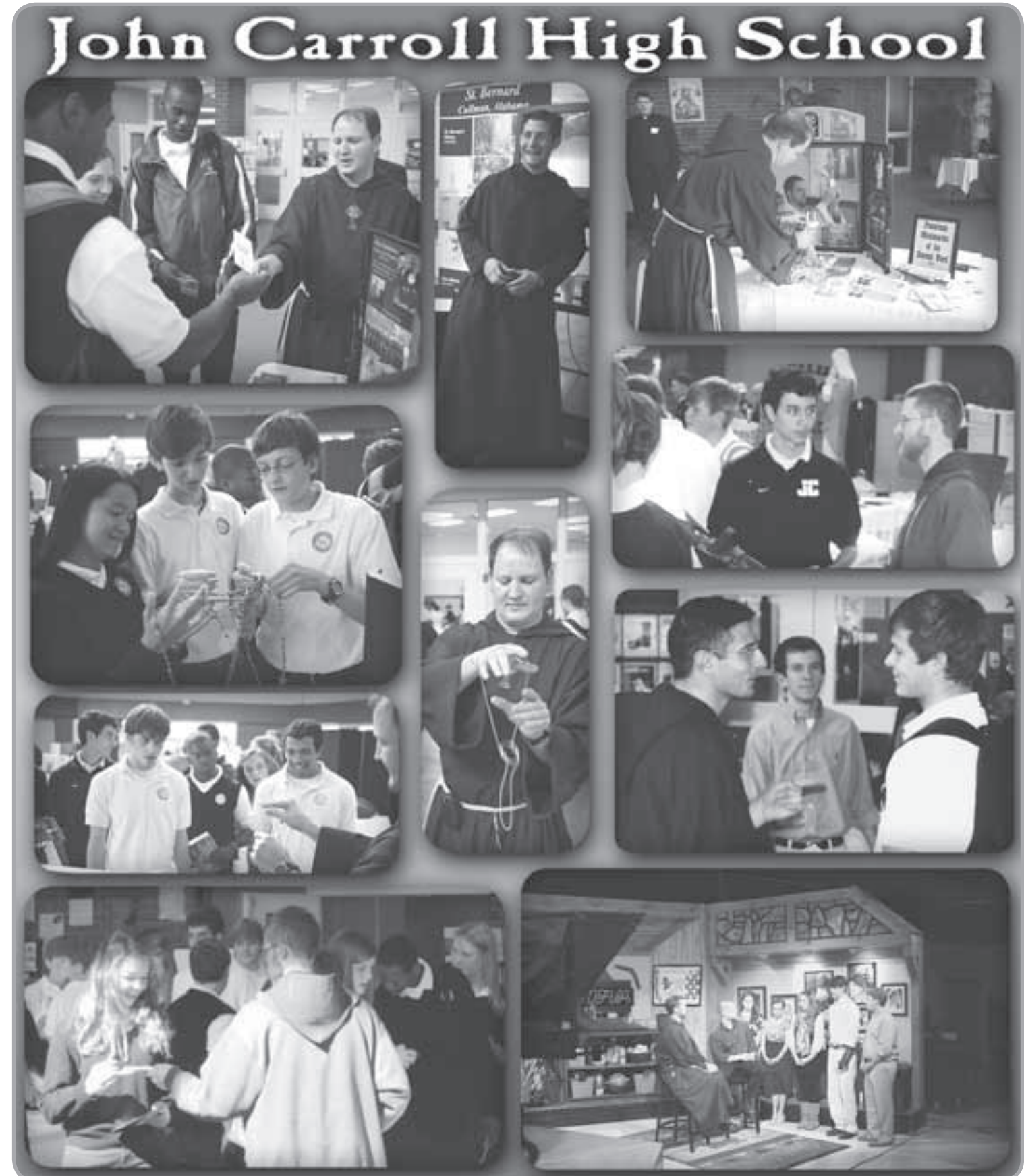
"what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon Him?" (Deut. 4:7). Daily He humbles Himself for us, that He might glorify His Holy Name.

Let us remember the good deeds of the Lord as we pray:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Br. Paschal Mary, MFVA

John Carroll High School



Brs. Leo, Pio, & Tarcisius recently participated in the Vocations Awareness Event at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham, AL. The friars set up a booth & handed out info about our community. Br. Leo did some magic tricks to get the attention of some of the students. Later some of the John Carroll students were interviewed on Life on the Rock.