



## Shepherd's Corner

9 Jan 2022

Dear Parishioners,

Cathedral Mass. Thank you for helping make our celebration of the Epiphany a wonderful event. Unfortunately, with so many falling sick, a solemn high became impossible. Maybe next time! Thank you to Miriam for leading our choir, Nathan for augmenting, Laura for playing, Matt and the others for serving, Cameron for ushering. And thanks to all of you for being (ahem) on your best behaviour! Prayers. It is important for us to pray for each other. One Hail Mary said for another is more powerful than one said for oneself. Let us really do it. It is also a way to effect in ourselves forgiveness, forbearance, patience, charity, justice—in short, all the works of mercy.

Private revelations. These are super tempting! Why bother reading a dusty old book when my “little seer” is taking dictation from the BVM? Exciting! Our religion is real—often not exciting. To have a real harvest, tedious work is required months in advance. Private revelations are like TV dinners falling from the sky, and ready to eat, no work required. Experience shows that the vast majority of them (the unapproved) are false.

Ever heard of Conyers Georgia? (I knew many adherents in my former city.) Conyers was a flash in the pan. It sparked many legitimate devotions, but only for a while. In its wake, liturgical abuses were committed, shady spiritual practices happened, people became confused, and some were very hurt, and the monastery involved has dissolved. In my humble estimation, not ONE good fruit came from the excitement.

It is not my intention to criticize; it is, however, my duty to call you back from these: Mary Refuge of Souls dot com, and Green Scapulars dot org.

Will your loved ones be saved because you wrote their name on a green scapular? No—not even close. Where does the Church teach this?! This is nothing more than pious, wishful thinking, not from heaven, but from an overactive imagination. Please don't be fooled; it sounds nice, but it contradicts real theological principles. It is, therefore, complete garbage.

Serious dangers, of the unapproved private revelations: a) a distraction from what is real, b) a false sense of security, c) possible superstition, a sin against the 1st Commandment, d) pride in having secret knowledge—I know best, e) perpetuating a never-ending fear, and f) diminishment of real moral, doctrinal authority of the Church. These dangers can easily put one's salvation at risk.

What is it that we believe? I believe in God, the Father, the almighty, Creator of heaven and earth! Let us pray for each other.

- Fr. Novokowsky, FSSP