

AuthenticLIFE

news for November 2010

The Lead

LIFE Latest:

Thomas Merton Series:

The fall 2010 Thomas Merton series continues Nov. 10, 17 and Dec. 1, 8, 15. Sessions are 6:30 to 8:30 at St. Thomas church in Naperville. The sessions start with dinner and socializing and then move into small group discussion. Come join us! For more information email Ron at mrrondavis@gmail.com.

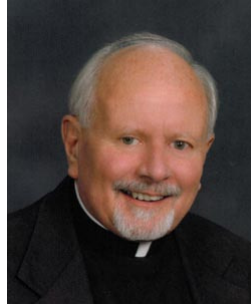
Bible Study:

Tom Mark has started an Authentic Life bible study. It will be bi-weekly at his apartment in Naperville. The beginning of Genesis was discussed at the first meeting on Nov 2. The next meeting is Nov 16. Come to hang out and learn more about the book of our faith! For more information email Tom at thomasjmark@gmail.com.

Harvest Sunday:

The annual St. Thomas collection for the food pantry began last Sunday Nov 7 and continues this Sunday Nov 14 at local grocery stores. If you are interested in helping out email Brett at badams@stapostle.org

by
Fr. Joel
Fortier



Dear Friends,

“Young Adults” are being studied today, and sociologists report that you represent a strong hope for our faith today. As a group it is reported that you are very value centered and have a grounded sense of idealism that can transform faith into action.

It is also reported that you come from a place of internal values, not just form and externals, that you have a sense of authenticity and realism. That is a wonderful thing, to be authentic people, sincere in your faith and your quest.

Fr. Joel was ordained in 1969 and has served at several parishes in Illinois in his time as a priest. He has been pastor at St. Thomas in Naperville since 2002. A priest of the Second Vatican Council, Fr. Joel strives to incarnate the vision of Vatican II, and the heart and mind of Christ into parish life.

We welcome your quest. It is good to be curious sometimes. Scripture says, “Those who ask, receive; those who knock, get the door opened; those who seek, find.”

I find that an exciting thing in young people, because it captures my own spirit and attitude. The best is always yet to come! It is good to have you along on the venture of discovery with us!

With you in Christ,
Fr. Joel



the official
Authentic Life
jack-o-lantern



cow and
butterfly

heart, wind, fire,
captain planet,
water, earth



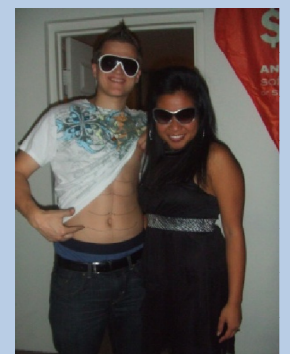
Jersey shore



soccer player, eskimo #1, fire, water, heart,
wind, aerobic instructor, eskimo #2



glow worm



Famous Christians: Amy Grant

Sometimes it is easy to forget that there are others in the world that strive to live their faith. The words and actions of these men and women can be an inspiration to us.

By Agnes Soriano



The commute to work is one of my favorite times of the day. It helps to have a measly 15-minute drive from my apartment in Clarendon Hills to my classroom in Downers Grove. However, there are days I actually wish the drive was longer. I especially feel like this when I am anticipating a stressful day at work with piles of papers to grade.

My commute is a sacred time -- one of the few times in my day in which I am alone with God. The drive has become a time when I can re-energize. With a flip of a switch, I tend to blast praise and worship songs from a radio station that inspires me to live my day for Christ.

One day toward the end of first quarter this school year, I found myself belting along to Amy Grant's "Better than a Hallelujah."

Despite its seemingly somber opening of "God loves a lullaby/In a mother's tears in the dead of night/Better than a Hallelujah sometimes," the song captured my heart. Her resonating voice immediately pulls listeners into her world, and the lyrics intrigue the analytical type, like an English teacher such as myself.

During this particular 15-minute commute, Grant encouraged me to give up my grief to God. In her song, I found a prayer for my day. The lyrics of the chorus, "We pour out our miseries/God just hears a melody/Beautiful the mess we are/The honest cries of breaking hearts/Are better than a Hallelujah" comforted me in a time of anxiety. I "poured out" my misery and left my "mess" from yesterday behind before stepping out of my car and into the school building. Her song opened my heart to what God had planned for me that day.

As an elementary school girl (in the days of cassette tapes), Grant played a role in my life besides providing spiritual comfort. I sang along on family karaoke nights to such classics as "That's What Love is For" from Grant's 1991 chart-topping album "Hearts in Motion." She has touched many other fans in the secular and Christian music arena with her upbeat fun tunes.

Bolstering Grammy awards and platinum albums with what critics call "crossover appeal," Grant is a mainstay in the music industry. According to Amy Grant's official Web site, fans and critics alike find her endearing and down to earth. For more information on how her career and faith intertwine, check out www.amygrant.com.

And next time you're in the car, whether it is for 15 minutes or 45, tune into a radio station or listen to an iPod playlist with Grant's music that can help inspire you to live God's will for the day.

Member Profile: Tom Mark

Get to know you fellow Authentic Lifers! This section will help you get to know a member of the group.

Tom is 28 and lives in Naperville. He got involved with Authentic Life as a way to fellowship with other young adults and experience the fullness of life.

Background: From Zionsville, Indiana

School: St. Louis University (Missouri), St. Louis University (Madrid, Spain), Midwestern University

Job: Physician's Assistant, Greater Elgin Family Care Center

Interests: Guitar, Soccer, Hiking, Inspiring people in their faith

Memorable life moment: Spending two months in India traveling and helping out at an orphanage

Quote to live by: "Be the change you want to see in the world" by Mohandas K. Gandhi



On the Authentic Life

bible study: I haven't done enough bible reading so I found this to be a good way to motivate myself and others to do it

Thanks Tom. Thanks for taking initiative to start the bible study!

Hi all,

I hope everyone had a great Halloween and is looking forward to a great Thanksgiving. Don't forget to give thanks for the blessings in your life in this season!

As always please let me know if you have any ideas for articles or if you would like to get involved. My contact email is listed below.

-Ron Davis



From
the
Editor



Contact info:

Authentic Life at St. Thomas Parish, 1500 Brookdale Rd. Naperville, IL

Feel free to pass this newsletter along to a friend.

To be added to the contact list please email Ron Davis at mrrondavis@gmail.com