

FROM FR. JOHN:

Countenance Change

"His voice you have never heard." John 5:37

My brother shared with me how my whole countenance changed when I transferred colleges. Here is how it (countenance change) happened and why it happens when we listen to God.

About six months before my birthday between my sophomore and junior years in college I felt like I was going to get a note or letter or some other form of communication that was going to be really important for me in my life. I really did not think twice about it, but I remember having that premonition or whatever you want to call it. Sure enough my July birthday came around. I had gone to dinner with some friends and when I came home there was a note on the counter from mom and dad, "John, we strongly feel you should go to Steubenville next year. It can be done financially." I thought, "Steubenville, why would I want to go there? They are crazy for God and the church and things like that there. Probably just a bunch of straight-laced, socially maladjusted people who are so un-athletic that they cannot chew bubble-gum and walk at the same time."

With reluctance, I decided to transfer to Steubenville which is now known as Franciscan University run by Franciscan Priests. I found it to be a very alive place - college students and faculty alive with love and joy and hope. So many people were smiling so much - it struck me strange from what I knew of the sadness of student's faces on other college campuses. Their countenance was one of joy and smiles and love and hope. It was a countenance of what I knew I did not have, but exactly what I wanted. I really did not know the joy and love and hope they knew. But day after day I listened to their words and lives and learned that I, too, could have the countenance change. It was a free-gift, ever available. All I had to do was invite Jesus into my life and let him speak his love and joy to me. I did that (and still do each moment) and Jesus changed me forever. To hear Jesus, who is responsible for every ounce of goodness and love in this world, tell me that he was infinitely crazy in love for me was incredible. Talk about countenance changer! Now I knew why the people were so alive and excited/crazy for God on this campus.

What is still so difficult for me to fathom is why Jesus would take the time to sit down and talk to a broken brother like me. In no way am I worthy. How could I offer him anything to make him even want to spend one second with me? And how could I be interesting to him - he is God, maker of the heavens and earth? I am just an insignificant spec, right? But, all I know is that he did! And does! And he will complete the job one day! I listen and he speaks and he changes my countenance with his in filling.

He speaks and speaks and speaks to me. He showed me that the thought I got six months before my birthday was him speaking to me-that he was the difference maker in my life. He changed and is changing my countenance to one that is being more and more filled with heaven.

Do you need a countenance change? Listen to his voice.

Blessed by the BEST
+Fr. John



Fr. John's New Book - It is almost here! The title is: "**More of You Through Prayer.**" God-willing, there will a book signing after all the Masses the weekend of October 3rd and 4th.

RCIA and Confirmation: Our first meeting for those interested in becoming Catholic and high-schoolers interested in being Confirmed started Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 PM in the church. There is still time to sign up for each of the classes by calling the Parish Center **NOW at 503-761-8710.** Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 21, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Nicholas Guarriello, Jr.

(John & Sandy Guarriello)

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Pat Sabrowski

(Frances Wenner)

Thursday, September 24, 2009

The Loumena Family

(Donna Wood)

Friday, September 25, 2009

+Julian Misa

(Geraldine Misa)

Saturday, September 26, 2009

5:00 PM-+Joan Marie Bowen

(Joe Bowen)

Sunday, September 27, 2009

8:30 AM- +Gloria Lux

(Rosemary Linhart)

10:30 AM-People of the Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

7:00 PM-Choir practice

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

7:00 PM-RCIA/Confirmation-SR

Thursday, September 24, 2009

7:00PM-Back to Prayer Night-SR

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Saturday, September 26, 2009

8:00 AM-Red Cross Blood Drive in SR

Ministry Fair after 5:00 PM Mass

Ember Day: Archbishop Vlazny has named Wednesday, September 23rd an Ember Day to pray and fast for the victims of child sexual abuse. St. Joseph the worker will have Adoration on that day starting after the 8:00 AM Mass until 12:00 Noon. Please sign up for an hour of Adoration or just drop in for a visit with Our Lord.

Ministry Fair coming Saturday, September 26th and Sunday, September 27th. We ask all organizations to have someone represent them at the Fair. Questions - please contact Deacon Mike at 503-761-8710 ext. 106.

Care Ministry

WOWS Dinner: This is a social activity open to all widows, widowers and those who are single for any reason. We will enjoy our last 5:00 PM dinner of this year on September 22nd at The 4th Street Brew Pub in downtown Gresham. We will have the bus, holding the first 14 callers, at the parish ready to leave at 4:30 PM. The bus ride is \$2.00. For reservations please call me, Becky, at 761-8710 ext 105 by Monday the 21st.

Back to Prayer Night and Community Pot Luck!

Back To Prayer Night returns, **Thursday, September 24th, 2009!** With our special guest speaker **Sharon Standley.** Please come and be inspired! And don't forget to bring something yummy to share at the pot luck! The evening will begin in the church at **7:00 PM** followed by the pot luck in the Social Room. Hope to see you there!

LOOP Baby Shower

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our baby shower. The Pregnancy Resource Center will be so happy to get all the wonderful gifts. Your donations will make a huge difference in these young women's lives. Thank you again. URLVD!

Mark Your Calendars - Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast coming Sunday, October 4th after all Masses in the Social Room and Basement.

Looking for Catechist Helpers for Grades 4 & 5

Have you ever thought about being a Catechist? This is an excellent opportunity to learn to be a Catechist while working and helping a Catechist in the classroom. Please contact Mary Robinson at 503-761-8710 ext 104.

Weekly Contributions

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 7,824.00

Over/Under: + 892.00

SEEKING: Young adults (21+) for our High School Youth Ministry Core Team. Be a part of helping our youth grow in their faith. Be energized by sharing your faith with the teens. To learn more about being on the Core Team contact: Janet @ 503-761-8710

40 Days for Life is starting again this Fall on September 23rd. This national campaign of prayer and fasting is from September 23rd to November 1st. We unite with those across the US in praying for the end of abortion. Peaceful prayer will take place at the Planned Parenthood on S.E. 50th and Franklin, 2 short blocks north of Powell. We will have a sign up sheet available after Masses for Wednesdays 9 am to 10:30 am. Also times are available at MLK and Beech at the future PP site and at the Lovejoy Surgicenter on Saturdays. Please contact me if you would like to take part. Kathi Nordlund (503) 760-8429 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/portland.

Coffee and Donuts: Volunteers are needed for Coffee and Donuts. If we do not have volunteers we will no longer have Coffee and Donuts in the Social Room after the Sunday morning Masses.

We do have Coffee and Donuts scheduled for **Sunday, September 20 and 27th.** If you wish to volunteer there will be sign up sheets available during the Coffee and Donut hour on the above dates.

Baptism Class for Infants will be held on Saturday, October 31st at 2:00 PM in the Parish Center. Pre-registration is required for both the class and the Baptism. Please call Carolyn at the Parish Center to register. Baptisms will be held on Saturday, November 7th at the 5:00 PM Mass.