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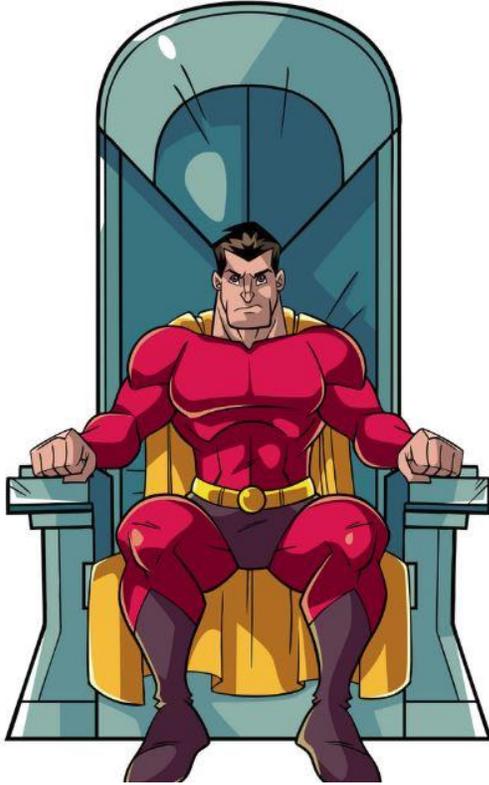
Everything you did not want to know. Not sorry.

# CarlosMichael360

“Tacos y Frijoles!”

Published monthly by Carlos Michael Padilla.

[www.carlosmichael.com](http://www.carlosmichael.com)



## WELCOME

Hi there, friends! Welcome to the April edition of **CarlosMichael360** – a monthly publication by yours truly that is focused on topics that might be of interest to you.

**CarlosMichael360** is written to appeal to *baby boomers* like me, however, I would like this to be a publication that can be enjoyed by anyone regardless of the generation they were born into.

Think of **CarlosMichael360** as an extension of what I like to call *the best virtual coffee shop in America*, also known as *The Cup!*

A place where we gather as a group of friends at the local coffee shop talking about a variety of topics that only a small intimate circle of friends would be interested in talking or hearing about.

This publication is available in PDF format and is received via email or on our website: [www.carlosmichael.com](http://www.carlosmichael.com)

Keep sending us your questions and comments. We love hearing from you.

“Let’s Coffee Break!”

Carlos Michael Padilla, Publisher

# CarlosMichael360

by Carlos Michael Padilla

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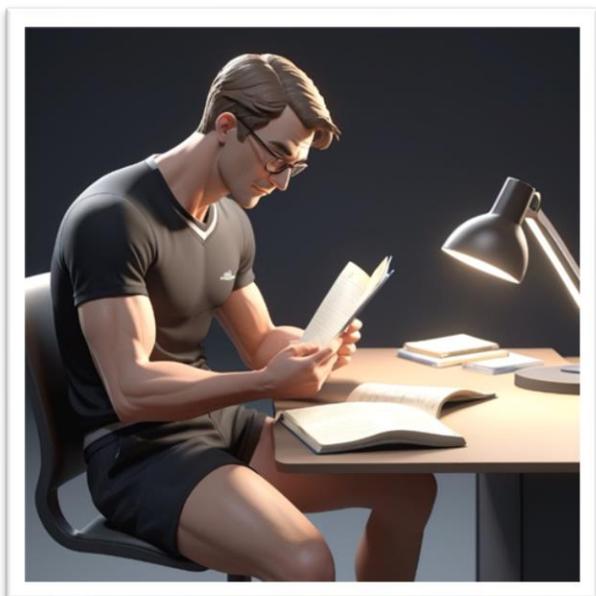
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### **Once Upon a Time...**

Why is it many children's stories begin with **once upon a time**? Yeah, I do not know either, but it is something familiar, right? I mean, we all know when we read anything that begins with those three words and one letter, we are most likely reading a fictional children's story, unless you are the Brothers Grimm.

So, what exactly (exactly) is **CarlosMichael360**? Well, I am glad you asked.

**CarlosMichael360** or **CM360** is like a journal, handbook, yearbook, and almanac all rolled into one with the focus being on God first, neighbor second, and self, third—meaning, I intend to share aspects of my life journey (1961 to the present), which I hope you will find insightful, educational, humorous, tragic,

intriguing, and downright just plain weird, not right, wrong on every level, and whatever else comes to mind.

This will be an interactive project, meaning, after reading the latest issue and you find that you have a question about something you read, something I said, or would like me to elaborate further on, you can send your question or comment to [carlosmichael@carlosmichael.com](mailto:carlosmichael@carlosmichael.com) for me to answer in this publication or on my podcast: **Coffee Break w/Carlos Michael**. Yes, it is coming back.

All I ask is that you keep your questions and commentary family friendly: respectful, use good judgment, stay away from any foul language, that sort of nonsense.

I want this to be a place where all neighbors can come, feel safe, and hang out, even if in your underwear!

I realize we all view life, religion, politics, parenting, education, the workplace, fashion, etc., from a variety of different peepers, but I have always believed in "seeing" the person that is blessed into my life, be it for a short or long season, rather than judge, which I should not do, based on their lifestyle versus mine.

If there is a natural disaster and I see a neighbor in need who happens to be a full-blown nudist diva or who loves only cats and is a vegetarian, I am

not going to not help them because of their lifestyle or belief. In that situation who or what they are isn't important. Helping them is.

So, having said that, let's see each as we are and love just the same. "Let's Coffee Break!"



FYI: We will be using more bite sized images in contrast to full sized images to better utilize space and to streamline the format of the publication.

Most articles and entries will consist of two-column format.

*Italicized text* is used to indicate when I am speaking.

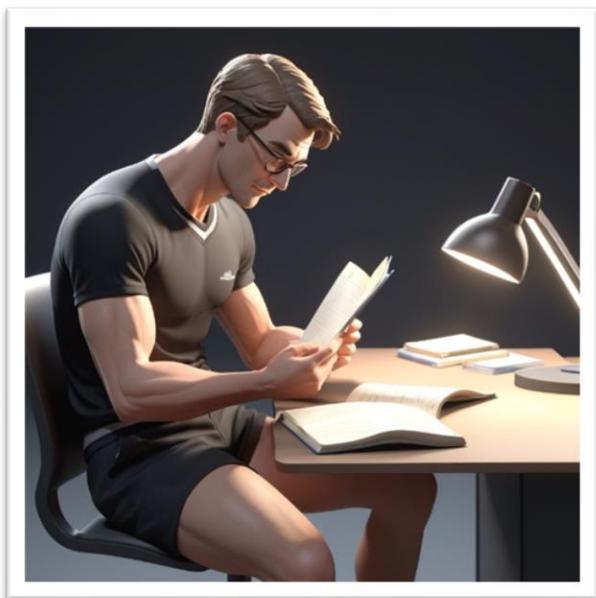
**Bold text** is used to highlight a specific word, location, event name, date, etc.

***Bold Italicized text*** is used to indicate when someone else is speaking.

**bold red text** generally indicates the name of someone who is deceased.

We hope you find this helpful, and we appreciate your readership.

CM



### *In the beginning ...*

*Ha! I bet you thought I was getting ready to quote Genesis. Oh no, that is far too holy and sacred Scripture for me to sacrilege with humor.*

*So, let's talk my timeline beginning. I was born at 5:52 AM to Carlos and Mary Alice Padilla (later she became Flores), at **Los Angeles County General Hospital**.*

*At the time of my birth, my oldest brother **Frank** had beaten me out of the womb by 25 months. He was born October 11, 1959 (d.2013). I was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December.*

*Mom was 23 years old. Dad was 28. Mom was a stay-at-home mom. Dad, a furniture delivery person. Not long after that, Dad went to work for **Thunderbird Freight Lines**, where he worked until the business closed.*

*Mom, dad, and brother were living in a duplex in Azusa by the time I came along. I must have resided there for a short time because by the time I was 3 to 4 years-old, we were living in a duplex in Irwindale before moving to the house on **Francisquito Avenue**.*

*Since my sister Cindy had already been born while we were living at the duplex in Irwindale, I would have to guess that we moved into the house on Francisquito Avenue sometime between late 1964 and 65. I believe that to be correct because I started kindergarten in at **Orangewood Elementary** (1966-1973).*

*Orangewood Elementary was like most elementary schools at that time in America. Sure, there was racism and other nonsense going on at the time, but there were also good people, amazing teachers, wonderful principals, authoritative figures, etc.*

*We pledged allegiance to the flag each morning, something I was very proud to do and looked forward to. I had some amazing teachers from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade: **Mrs. Hamilton, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Moss, Ms. Peters, Mrs. Reader, and Mr. Lopez**.*

*I had best friends, good friends, not-so-good friends, and those passing through the night friends. I also had my share of bullies, female bullies no less.*

A trend that would continue through junior high.

My crowning moment or sole achievement was winning the role of the **Scarecrow** in the PTA sponsored, "Wizard of Oz" play. It was the first time I found the courage to step out of my comfort zone and go after something I believed was meant for me. I would not do that again until 1974.

**1970s:** Let's fast forward to the summer of 1974. I had just completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade. It was the year that I told a male cousin who had been sexually molesting me (among others) for quite some time that he could no longer do that to me. It was also the year that I confided to my best friend (**Ken**) that I had been sexually molested for as far back as I could remember and that I thought something was wrong with me because of my attraction to the same sex.

No! I was not attracted to my friend that way!

That was a very difficult time for me. Not to mention that only four years earlier (1970) my grandmother had passed away (mom's mom). It was also the year that elderly gentlemen said to me while standing in line to check out at the local grocery store, **"You Mexicans are nothing but dirty people!"**

Ouch! I don't know which was worse, being molested or what that elderly man told me. Either way, I was devastated. "Bucked up" (keeping it clean here), was more like it.

Because of that man's comment I wanted nothing to do with being Mexican and by golly, save for the color of my skin, I was going to do everything I could to be anything but Mexican.

However, even bigger than that was what to do with my same sex attraction. Not the word used back then. I dared not let my family find out nor the Church for I would have been doomed for sure. Not to mention the shame I would have brought on both. Those were my thoughts and mine alone as I thought I understood my family and the Church back then.

While this was a great time to be a kid as far as I was concerned, going through life confused, scared, and ashamed was a lot for a dumb kid like me to handle. But, by the grace of God (who never abandoned me), we got through it. Scarred and messed up, but still with a heart full of love and my belief in and love for God unaverted. Well, except for that moment in the summer of 1984, which I will speak to later. **Let's look at the timeline.**

## 1950s

1958 Mom and dad get married.

1959 Brother Frank is born.

## 1960s

1960

1961 It is my turn. Happy birthday to me! > **John Kennedy elected 35<sup>th</sup> President.**

1962 **Sacrament of Baptism, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Irwindale, CA.**

1963 **Lyndon B. Johnson elected 36<sup>th</sup> President.**

1964 Sister Cindy is born.

1965 Family moves to 14249 E. Francisquito Ave., Baldwin Park, CA 91706. > Begin school K-6, Orangewood Elementary, West Covina, CA.

1966 Mumps and appendicitis. Appendix removed. Quarantined.

1967

1968

1969 Sister Kristina is born. > **Richard Nixon elected 37<sup>th</sup> President.**

## 1970s

1970 **Sacrament of First Holy Communion, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Irwindale, CA.** > Grandmother **Margaret Quihuis Salcido** passes away. > Brother Ralph is born. > I am called a dirty Mexican in supermarket checkout line by an elderly Caucasian male. > Queen of

the Valley Hospital. Surgery. Experience with beautiful lady in surgery room. > Introduced to message of Our Lady of Fatima.

1971

1972

1973 6<sup>th</sup> grade audition for the role of the "scarecrow" in the PTA sponsored "Wizard of Oz." > Twin brothers Manuel and Jesse are born.

1974 Confession to best friend of sexual molestation and same sex attraction. > 7<sup>th</sup> grade: Learn to play the violin. > **Gerald R. Ford elected 38<sup>th</sup> President.**

1975 Eighth grade: Learn to play the trombone. > Sign up to join high school band in '76.

1976 Start smoking. > Grandfather **Timoteo Padilla** passes away. > **James Earl Carter is elected 39<sup>th</sup> President.**

1977 Trip to San Francisco with high school band.

1978 Audition for band Drum Major. > Band Director resigns. > **Pope Paul VI passes away.** > **Albino Luciani (John Paul I) elected Pope.** > **Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, Archbishop of Krakow (John Paul II) elected Pope.**

1979 **Sacrament of Confirmation, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Irwindale, CA. Bishop Thaddeus Shubsda. Sponsor: Ralph Salcido.** > **U.S. Embassy in Iran seized.**

## 1980s

**1980** Drop out of high school (senior year). > **Employment:** Tom Sawyer's Old-Fashion Crispy Chicken > Carl's Jr. > Disneyland > Knott's Berry Farm > Rent first apartment > **Purchase first car:** 1959 Ford Mustang Fastback > **Ronald Reagan elected 40<sup>th</sup> President.**

**1981** Marry, separate, and divorce high school sweetheart. > **Employment:** Kentucky Fried Chicken. > Sell Mustang to move into apartment.

**1982** Answer call to priesthood. > Enroll in adult school to complete high school education. > Receive **Declaration of Nullity** from Catholic Church for 1981 marriage. > See former friend (Amy) at Orangewood Elementary event. > Postulant: **Missionaries of the Holy Family**, Overland, Missouri. > Dismissed from seminary. Return home.

**1983 Employment:** Country French, Cie (Santa Fe Springs) > Accepted as postulant with Society of Divine Vocations, Newark, New Jersey > First flight: LAX to Newark, NJ. > Befriend fellow seminarian: Alex Di Carlo.

**1984** Alex leaves order and commits suicide. > Leave order. Plan to abandon God and faith. > Alex dream changes those plans. > Grandmother **Maria Cruz Padilla** passes away.

**1985** Visit Legionnaires of Christ, Cheshire, Connecticut. Rejected. > Revisit Society of Divine Vocations, Newark, NJ. Rejected. > Visit Norbertines, Silverado, CA. Rejected. > **Employment:** Southern Cal Office Supplies > Bell+Howell Corporation. > Lease apartment (Pheasant Ridge, Rowland Heights, CA) with coworker. **1986** Former wife wants to get back together. > Roommate falsely accused of being gay, move out of apartment, return home. > Terminated from Bell+Howell. > Begin visiting, "**Scene One**", West Covina, CA.

**1987** Weekend visit to Palm Springs, CA. > Amy calls house. > Brother Frank marries Terry. > **Employment:** All New Stamping, Monrovia, CA. > **Whittier Earthquake (5.9).** > Meet coworker's daughter Deborah. Fall in love but cannot pursue a relationship.

**1988** Marry Amy: Outpost Wedding Chapel, Adelanto, CA. > **George H.W. Bush is elected 41<sup>st</sup> President.**

**1989** Carlos Joseph Michael is born. > **Employment:** San Bernardino Sun/USA Today Newspaper. > Family moves to Victorville, CA.

## 1990s

**1990** Kristina Justine Marie is born.

**1991** Matthew Phillip Andrew is born. > Family moves to duplex on Sequoia in Hesperia, CA. **Employment:**

Hesperia Resorter (Reporter). > Matthew becomes ill. Admitted to Loma Linda. > Neighbor admits to being a devil worshipper. > Register with **Holy Family Catholic Church**, Hesperia, CA. Pastor: Fr. Peter Kovas.

**1992** Family moves to mobile home in Adelanto, CA. > Dream about Native American boy praying. > **Big Bear/Landers Earthquake (6.7)** > Out-of-body experience. > Purchase of U.S. Postal mail truck. > **William Jefferson Clinton is elected 42<sup>nd</sup> President.**

**1993** Family moves to house in Apple Valley, CA. > Register with **Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church**, Appley Valley, CA. Pastor: Fr. Maurice Cardinal. > Mother informs Amy and me that we will have one more child together, a boy. I vehemently disagree. > Temporarily share house with the Haley Family.

**1994** Joshua Joseph Brandon is born. > Family loses house. Stay in shelter one day.

**1995** Family moves in with Carlos' parents (temporarily). > Family moves to house in Adelanto, CA. > Share house with friend Paula. > Sister Cindy and family move in temporarily.

**1996** Carlos and Amy separate. > Carlos moves back with parents temporarily. > Rent apartment on Orick Ave., Victorville, CA. > First Thanksgiving alone with kids. >

**Employment:** Dalton Trucking, Fontana, CA. Western University College, Pomona, CA. > Temporarily harassed by former Dalton Trucking supervisor.

**1997 Employment:** Terminated from Western University. > **Mother Teresa** passes away. > Share apartment with Bob and Jim, former Orick Ave., apartment managers.

**1998** Move to Whittier, CA (Labor Day weekend).

**1999** Amy tells son Michael about my same sex attraction. I speak with son. > **Employment:** Contract position with Parsons Corporation, Pasadena, CA. > Assigned to Northridge Recovery Project, Alhambra, CA. > Befriend Chandra Sutton, Lydia Martinez, and Linda Romero.

## 2000s

**2000** Close escrow on house in Adelanto, CA. > After one month, move out of house to allow Amy and children to move in. I return to Whittier. > **Employment: GKK Corporation**, Pasadena, CA. > **George W. Bush is elected 43<sup>rd</sup> President.**

**2001** File for divorce. Divorce granted. Receive custody of Michael, Matthew, and Joshua. > **World Trade Center attack.** > Laid off from GKK. > Develop friendship with **John Mark Bergner** of Tulsa, OK.

2002 File bankruptcy to save house. > Lose house. Move into dad's garage. > Help Amy move into apartment. > Amy refiles for custody of Matthew. Awarded custody. > **June:** Visit Tulsa, Oklahoma. > **November:** Move to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

2003 **Employment:** ResCare (Tulsa Job Corps). Executive Assistant to CDSS Manager.

2004 January: Terminated from Tulsa Job Corps. > **Employment:** Tulsa Marriot Southern Hills, CC'S Cosmetology College. > Travel to California with Michael and Josh. > Michael remains in California. > Travel to Philadelphia, PA.

2005 Travel to Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C. > Travel to Las Vegas, NV. CEA > Borrow 5k from C. Carter to travel to California. > Matthew admitted to Loma Linda Behavioral Center by mother > Matthew asks to move to Oklahoma, retain attorney > Travel to California a second time for custody hearing. Motion denied.

2006 Publish **Baltimore Monday: A Celebration of Life beyond Sexual Abuse.** > Matthew visits Oklahoma. > Travel to St. Louis, MO. CEA > Last time that I fly. > Launch **Carlos Michael Communications.**

2007 Enroll **University of Phoenix, Tulsa.** > Publish **Two Fist Running**

**Horse.** > Keynote Speaker: Cosmetology Student Appreciation Day, Tulsa Convention Center. > Participate in Tulsa Pride parade.

2008 Speaker: Lunch Bag Series, University of Tulsa.

2009 Publish **Let There Be Light.** > **Barak Obama elected 44<sup>th</sup> President.**

2010 Publish **Twelve Doors Knocking.** > **June:** Resign from CC's Cosmetology College. > Lease office space on Garnett Ave., Tulsa. > Rent to own commercial copier from Drake Copier (now SumnerOne). > **October:** Lose office space.

2011 Graduate from UOP, BA Human Services Management. **Employment:** **March:** Williams Corporation.

**November:** Laid off from Williams Corporation. **December:** Interview with WPX Energy. > Enroll: Graduate program, University of Phoenix.

2012 **Employment: January:** WPX Energy. > Graduate UOP, ME Education.

2013 **January:** Receive word that brother Frank has cancer; 8 months to live. > **August:** Travel to California to assist with brother's care. > August 21: **Frank Padilla** passes away. >

Michael asks to return to Oklahoma. > Michael hired by Target. > Purchase 2013 vehicle. Give to Michael. >

**December:** Informed by WPX Energy that contract will not be renewed. >

**February:** Pope Benedict XVI resigns. >  
**March 13:** Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, elected Pope. Takes the name "Francis."  
**2014 March 2:** Quit smoking. >  
Contract with WPX Energy expires. >  
Hear voice: "**Who said this is about you?**"  
**2015 January-March:** Travel to California. > **February:** Participate in Los Angeles Cupid Undie Run for charity. > **April:** Called back to former position at WPX Energy.  
**2016 January 29:** Last day at WPX Energy. > **July:** Unemployment ends. > Lose medical insurance. > Launch "No Pants Charlie!" podcast. > Gary Christensen visit. > Oklahoma City Cupid Undie Run for charity.  
**2017 February 13-24:** Michael/Joshua travel to California. > **March 7:** Gary Christensen moves in. > Gary moves to Arkansas. > Gary moves back to Oklahoma. > **March 12:** Holy Week. Respond to invitation to return to God and Church. > First confession with Msgr. Mueggenborg of Christ the King. (Later becomes Bishop of Reno, NV.) > Renew devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. See the traveling pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima at Holy Family Cathedral. (100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mary's apparition to the three shepherd children). > Join COURAGE Tulsa. > Register at St. Patrick Catholic

Church, Sand Springs. Fr. Todd Nance (Pastor). > Best friend, **Terry Stephens** passes away. > Gary moves back to California. > **Donald Trump elected 45<sup>th</sup> President.**

**2018** Become volunteer website administrator at St. Patrick. > Become auxiliary member of St. Patrick Legion of Mary. > Complete First Saturday Devotion. > Observe Divine Mercy Sunday and novena. > **November:** Travel to California to assist sister with caring for mother. > **December 27:** **Mary Alice Flores** (Mom) passes away.  
**2019** Mom is laid to rest at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Rowland Heights, CA. > Launch "Coffee Break with Carlos Michael." > Gary picks me up and drives me to Oklahoma. > Bergner Family Reunion, Oklahoma City. > Travel to Colorado for Hollie and Sean Kosinski's wedding. > Gary moves back to Oklahoma.

**2020** Gary moves back to California. > **Covid pandemic.** > **August 21:** **Carlos C. Padilla** (Dad) passes away. > **October:** Sister Cindy and friend, Connie visit Oklahoma.

**2021** Travel to Colorado. Meet sisters in Colorado Springs. Visit Estes Park and Stanley Motel (The Shining). > **Joe Biden elected 46<sup>th</sup> President.**

**2022** Gary moves back to Oklahoma. > **Boby Purcell** passes away. > Form friendship with Fr. Leo Morales at St.

*Thomas More Catholic Church, Tulsa.  
> Partner with St. Thomas More as  
Communications Coordinator. >*

**September 24:** *First UTI (Urinary Tract  
Infection).*

**2023** *Elected to serve on COHO  
(Coalition of Hispanic Organization's)  
Board. > Sponsor **2023 Good Neighbor  
Awards.** > Elected COHO Second Vice-  
President.*

**2024** *Pre-need arrangements made  
with Calvary Cemetery, Tulsa  
(Cremation). > Purchase funeral  
insurance policy (\$20,000) from  
Lincoln Heritage > Matthew develops  
Kidney stone. Take to ER twice. > Mark  
falls in bathtub. Take to ER due to right  
leg and foot swelling > Gary  
experiences detached retina. > **June:**  
Gary moves to Utah.*

**To be continued ...**

**Note:** *Some dates do not have  
information listed after them. That is  
because I have not yet recalled what,  
if anything major occurred during that  
time. If I should recall something, I will  
be certain to add it to and revise the  
timeline. I appreciate your  
understanding.*



## Employers

Here is a list of employers (that I could recall) I was privileged to be employed with over the years.

Tom Sawyer Old-Fashioned Crispy Chicken  
Kentucky Fried Chicken  
Carl's Jr.  
Del Taco  
Snap-E Taco  
Norm's Restaurant  
Marriott Southern Hills  
Best Western  
Red Lion Inn  
DoubleTree Ontario  
Tulsa Community College  
CC's Cosmetology College  
ResCare/Tulsa Job Corps  
Dennis R Neill Equality Center  
Williams Company  
WPX Energy  
St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
College of the Muscogee Nation  
Montgomery Ward  
K-Mart  
Zody's Dept. Store  
Bullock's Dept. Store  
Archie's House of Pets  
Sega Center  
West Covina Elks Lodge  
Knott's Berry Farm  
Disneyland  
Los Coyotes Country Club  
Country French Cie

Bell+Howell

So. Cal Office Supplies

Kent H. Landsberg Co.

Bandini Fertilizer Co.

Apex Bulk Commodities

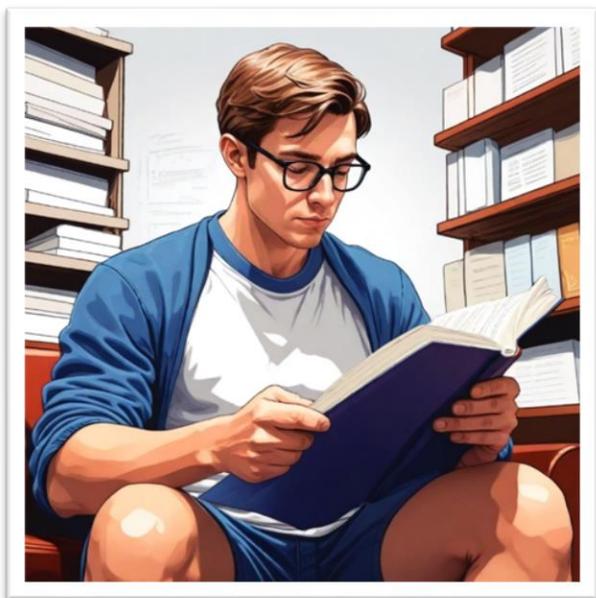
All New Stamping

Dalton Trucking

Various employment agencies

*My first job was a telemarketing position with a company located in Covina, California.*





Saturday 040624 | 7:55 AM

Hey Journal!

As I mowed the front and back lawns Friday afternoon, it occurred to me how exhausted I am. I asked myself, **“Am I tired due to my age, not resting enough, doing too much, all the above?”** I concluded it is the latter.

Friday alone was busy: get Fr. Leo’s notice drafted, scheduled, and sent, pick Gary up at the eye clinic, mow the lawns, prep everything for First Saturday, take Mark to the emergency room.

I am getting too old for all this round-robin activity. Not complaining, just stating a fact. Still, **not my will but God’s will**. The highlight of Friday was seeing my dear friend, Rosemary Gomez checking out at Walmart. How I love her smile and hug. In fact, any

*“Sally Sister” hug is a definite cure all for whatever has you down.*

*Thank God (literally) Mark turned out okay. No blood clots. That was my concern after he took a fall in the tub two weeks ago Friday (March 22), the same day I took Matt to the emergency room due to a kidney stone.*

*I will not complain. It does no good. Besides, what would I be if not a servant of the Lord? It is exhausting but rewarding. It truly is. The old saying, **“Service is its own reward,”** is spot on. Do not ever shrink away from serving God in the service of others. Sometimes you must decline a request, but any opportunity you get to serve another, do not think about it. Just do it. You become a better person for it. Remember, God is always merciful!*

CM

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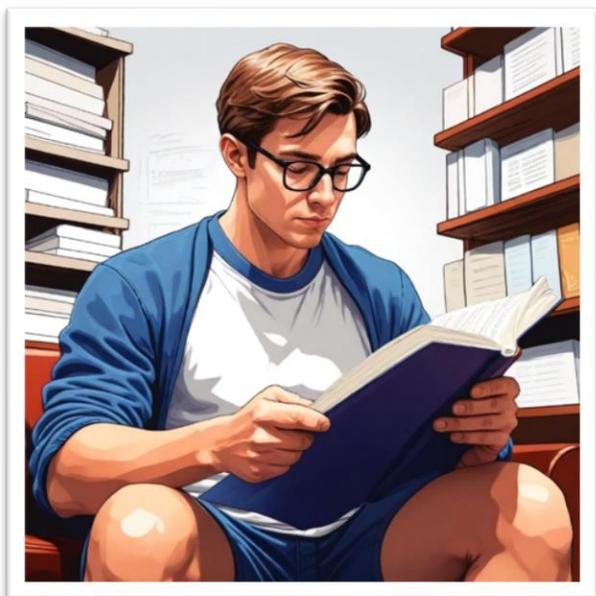
## CarlosMichael360

by Carlos Michael Padilla

**“If you cannot physically serve your neighbor, pray for them. That works too.”**

--Carlos Michael

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Sunday 040724 | 7:16 AM

Hey Journal!

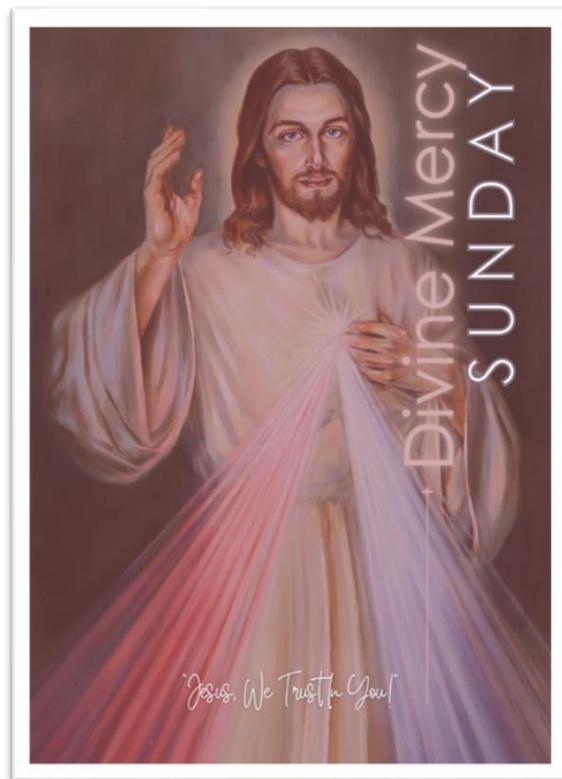
Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. A most special day indeed. **What is Divine Mercy Sunday?** Divine Mercy Sunday is a feast day that takes place on the first Sunday after Easter. Jesus established it to provide a refuge for souls who are struggling with sin and despair. The feast day is said to be a source of graces for penitent souls, particularly poor sinners.

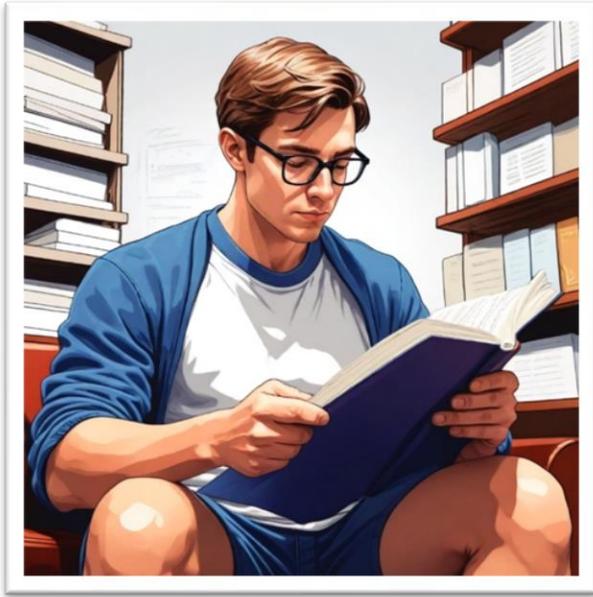
Although I attended the Vigil Mass Saturday evening, I feel that I should be at Mass this morning, which I plan to do. I also hope to make it to the Church of Saint Benedict in Broken Arrow this afternoon (3:00 PM) to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song with the Saint Benedict choir.

*I cannot speak for our Lord and our Lady with respect to their thoughts regarding our little group of First Saturday devotees, but I can only pray that they were pleased with our efforts Saturday morning despite a certain someone breaking Our Lady's pedestal and a coffee maker. SOME PEOPLE'S CHILDREN! (LOL). To be fair, I should have used bungee cords to secure the tubs onto the cart—that was my bad.*

*Tip: The Lord's mercy is greater than our sins. Turn to His mercy. Trust in His mercy. Live His mercy. Adios!*

CM





Monday 040824 | 7:25 AM

Hey Journal!

I just finished reading Chapter 1: **Surrender: Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit, The Way of Beatitude: Living Radical Hope in a World of Division and Despair**, by Rev. Casey Cole, OFM.

Fr. Cole is the creator of **Breaking in The Habit** (YouTube) and a Franciscan Friar.

The main goal of the time I have left remaining to me in this life is to **meet Jesus where He is in the Beatitudes through my neighbors**. I cannot help but believe that God's will for me is not just to be a servant, but a joyful, giving, loving, cheerful, servant. To share my blessings. To give back to God through neighbor that was never really mine to begin with.

*Not because I want to "buy" or "earn" my way into heaven. Piffle! Anyone with an ounce of anything knows that the only true way to heaven is...um, what was it that Fr. Casey said, "Entry into the kingdom is not granted based on the status of one's bank account, but by the wholehearted commitment to God's love. It is about humility, trust, and complete dependence on God," (p.6).*

*Which caused me to consider what I have been blessed with and ask, "How many computers, monitors, cameras, and underwear do I really need? I mean, seriously!?"*

*When the time comes I will voluntarily and joyfully surrender that which can be shared with my neighbors and trust completely in Jesus. Amen.*

CM

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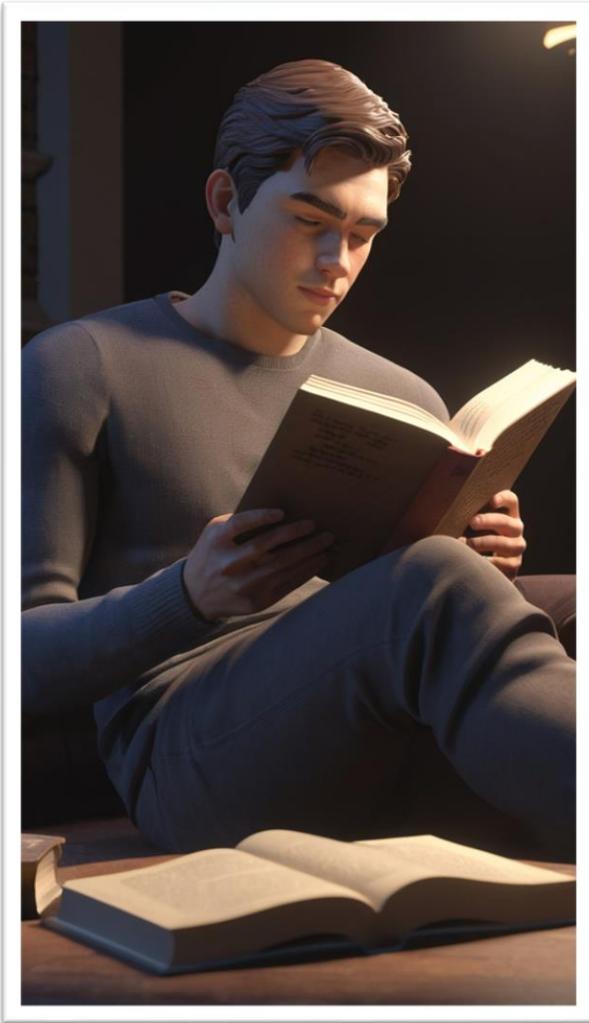
## CarlosMichael360

by Carlos Michael Padilla

"I believe the 'less is more' approach is best."

--Carlos Michael

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## Coffee Break Short Break

by Alejandro Armando Armand.

*Sometime in 1986*

Dear Journal:

I received the worst news I could receive today. Stan informed me that I am going to have to move out of the apartment. I did not know how to react, at first, except to stand there like an idiot with my mouth gaped open as if I was ready to swallow a mouthful of bugs.

**“What do you mean, move out!?”** I asked with a hint of anger in my voice.

Stan provided two explanations. The first, he met a girl here at the complex whom he has fallen in love with. They plan to get married and move to the Midwest.

**“Okay,”** I said to myself. **“I can live with that. He met a girl, they fell in love, and they want to get married. I am all about two people falling in love, getting married and starting a family.”**

However, it was the second reason that curled my chest hairs and furrowed my brow.

Stan confessed that his sister’s new boyfriend, Don Juan the idiot has accused Stan of being gay.

**“He accused you of what!?”** I asked Stan as if I did not hear him the first time. The next words that came out of my mouth must have made me sound like an idiot.

**“Is that the reason you met that girl, are getting married, and moving out of state because your sister’s boyfriend accused you of being gay? I mean, would your sister not have told him how untrue that is—and what does it matter what he thinks about you?”**

The only thing Stan said in response was that he believed he was

doing the right thing and that this was best all the way around.

**“Well, I am glad you think so,”** I said in response, **“although it seems that I have no say in the matter.”**

This discussion took place in the living room at our apartment. I was livid. I could not believe what I was hearing. I never would have taken Stan to be so easily offended, especially at an accusation we both know is not true!

Stan did not say anymore. He just sat in his chair, quiet, staring toward the mountains through the sliding glass door that leads to the balcony outside.

**“Aren’t you even going to look at me and throw me a line of hope here,”** I asked.

**“Nothing to say,”** Stan said in response still staring toward the mountains. **“What is done is done. It is time for me to move on.”**

**“Fine!”** I shot back. **“None of this makes any sense to me, Stan, but if nothing else, I thought we were friends...brothers. How can you just cast me out as if this past year and our time at work did not mean anything? How can you let your sister and her boyfriend dictate...”** then I stopped.

I suddenly remembered a recent sermon Fr. Cheswick had given a couple of Sunday’s ago—something

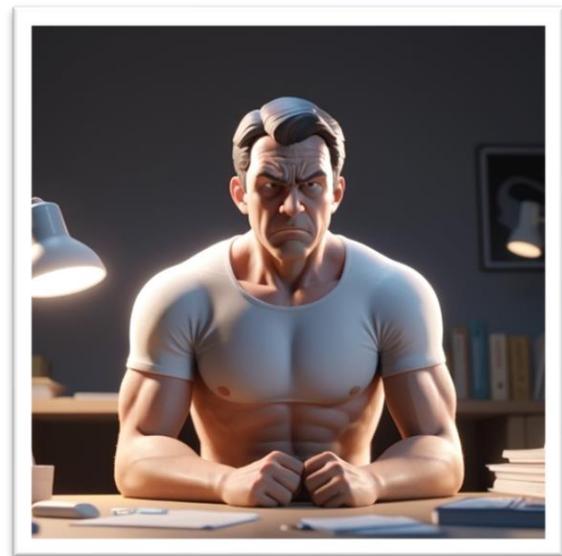
about mercy, being a good Samaritan, turning the other cheek, trusting in God’s will, etc.

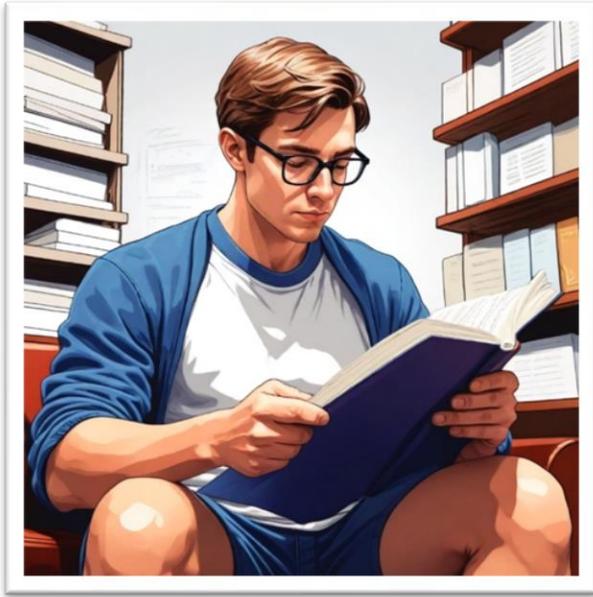
After a brief silence, Stan finally looked over at me and asked why I had suddenly gone quiet.

Still upset, I stood up, looked at Stan and said that I was going to do my best to walk in his shoes; try to understand what he is going through, be charitable, etc.

However, I also told him that I thought it was wrong that he made the decision on what was best for “him” before coming to me as his friend and trusting that I would do the right thing for the sake of our friendship.

At that moment I left the room, went into my bedroom, closed the door, flopped face first on my bed and cried. Not the manly thing to do, I know. However, it was all I could do in that moment. *(To be continued).*





Monday 040824 | 3:53 PM  
Addendum

Hey Journal!

*I just finished taking a shower. I thought I could change the current office arrangement around, however that plan backfired. That is okay. It turns out I prefer the current arrangement. If nothing else, I got a good workout and I more than exceeded my steps for the day. Woo Hoo! 12,468 steps as of this entry.*

*I missed the eclipse, and that is okay. I much preferred spending the day in prayer.*

*I am proud of Josh and the fact that he is entertaining the idea of going into business for himself. Prayers! Prayers! I am also praying for my friends Irma and Janet who are not feeling well, and for my son Matthew.*

*He has an appointment with the Urologist Tuesday morning.*

*Mark is in good spirits today and Gary had a productive day.*

*I know losing weight is a challenge the older one gets; however, I am determined to eat better, work out, and lose weight.*

*I pray that I can put together a more thoughtful meditation for the First Saturday Devotion in May. It is the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady's apparition.*

*I do not know if I will be able to move forward as planned with leasing an office, but I will talk with Mark about producing the money to purchase the furniture John is selling. I watched both Aquaman movies on Sunday. I really enjoy Jason Momoa's acting. –*

CM

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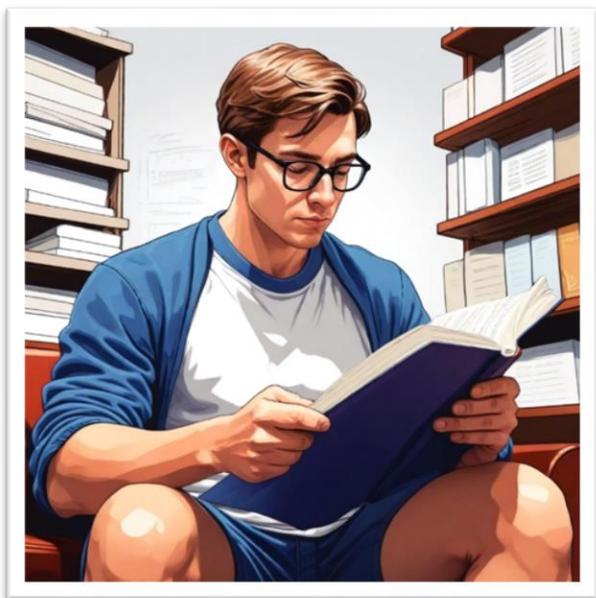
## CarlosMichael360

by Carlos Michael Padilla

**“If God deigns it to be, it will be. He has this!”**

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--Carlos Michael



Tuesday 040924 | 6:10 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*"Peace be with you." Ahh, the words of Christ..." Peace be with you." That is how he greeted the apostles when He met them in the room despite the locked door. It is a beautiful greeting.*

*Matt's kidney stone is on the move. Started last night. He began to feel pain and nauseated. He had blood in his urine. He took medication for the pain and nausea. He has an appointment (praise God) with a Urologist this morning.*

*As I was getting ready this morning, I saw my physical body as I am and was disgusted. Why did I allow myself to get this way? Then I began thinking about the fatigue I continue to*

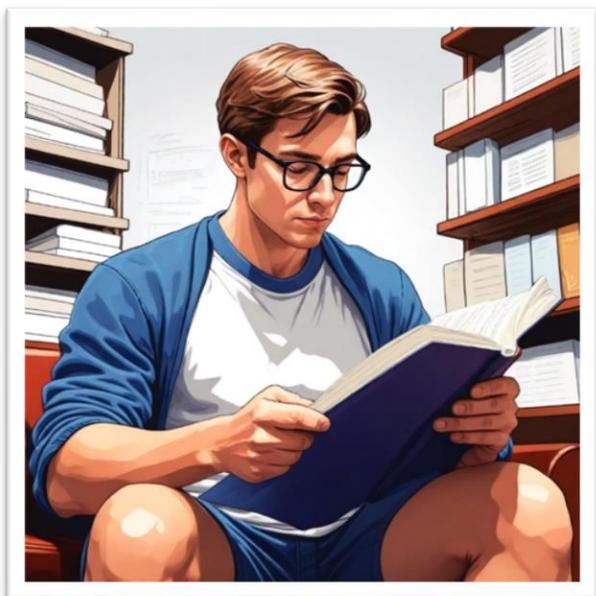
*experience but then reminded myself, "It's not about you, Carlos!"*

*Ahhh...those same words I heard in 2014, only the words I heard were, "Carlos, who said this is about you!?"*

*Touche. Amen. It is not about me and that needs to be my focus. It is about the Lord and neighbor-serve joyfully and trust in Christ. I like that. Sounds good to me!*

*I wonder if anyone is reading these journals that I am posting to the website each month? I need to order the hardcover book for March. I am enjoying this project.*

*I need to reach out to all my friends on Facebook (and family) just to check in and see how everyone is doing. I need to write a letter to my Tia Margaret as well. I will do that this week. Almost time to take Matt to see the Urologist. Prayers! Prayers! **CM***



Tuesday 040924 | 11:13 PM  
Addendum

*Peace be with you!*

*I open with that phrase, but do I truly mean it in this situation? I should not say it if I do not mean it, if it is not said with a heart of love. Hold on while I adjust my attitude!*

*Done! Moving on. I had a frustrating morning with my son at the Urologist. Not certain if it is more my fault, than his. He is difficult to read. I cannot figure him out. I should stop trying and just let him be.*

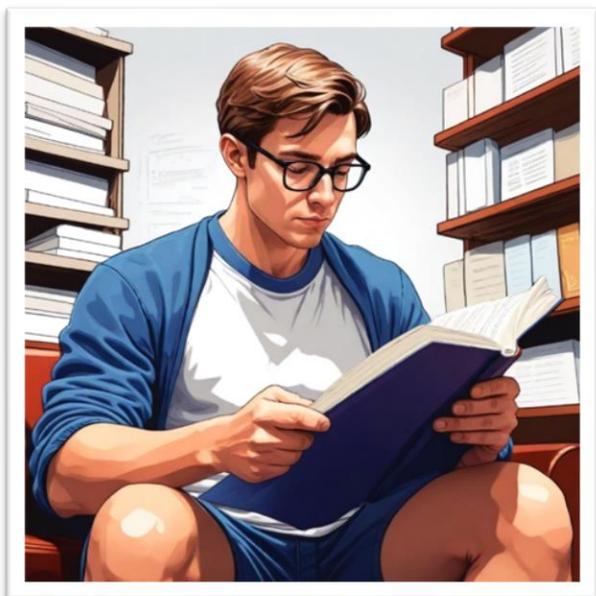
*I am so frustrated right now. That upsets me because it goes against everything I write about, preach about, ask others NOT to do, and yet, here I am, acting as we humans often do—like an idiot!*

*I think I need to go dark for a while, perhaps “incognito” is the better word. I am not liking myself very much right now and therefore, not liking my neighbors very much either. Love them, yes. Like them and me? No!*

*I am tired of feeling stuck. I am tired of living someone else’s life. I am tired.*

*I do not want to feel sorry for myself. I do not want to feel this way. I need to let this frustration serve the better good. It cannot be about me. It must not be about me. I do not want to focus on me!!!*

*I made a mistake. I have apologized and asked forgiveness for that mistake. I need to trust Jesus. There is no other way. That is what I will do. **He is the only way for me.** He will fix me because I freely choose to allow it. **CM***



Wednesday 041024 | 8:46 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*If yesterday was a test, I most certainly failed that test! I spent Tuesday acting like a privileged brat who had been done wrong when that indeed was not the case.*

*Shame on me! If my behavior is a representation of how a loving Christian should behave, I flunked big time! While I am ashamed, I will not hesitate to confess my error, ask forgiveness, and do better today.*

*Thank Christ for the Catholic Church and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I plan to avail myself to the sacrament later this evening at St. B's, Broken Arrow. The "B" stands for St. Benedict.*

*Why do people comment about how much you do and then ask you to*

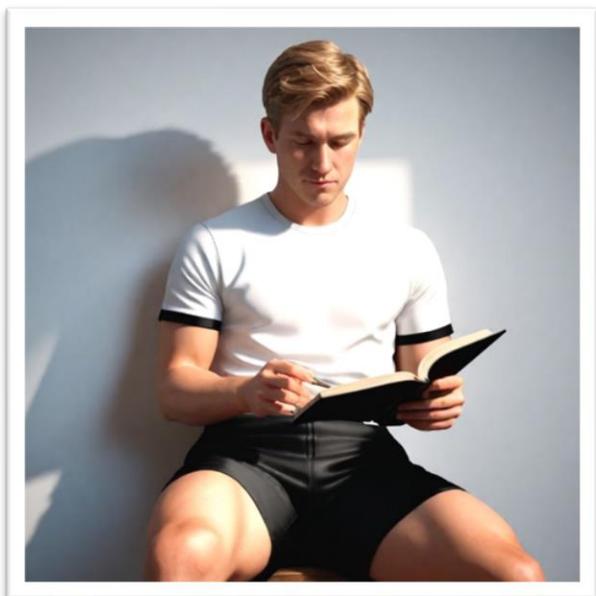
*do more? To quote a certain somebody, "Some people's children!"*

*I signed up to listen to the 33-day consecration to Our Lady of Fatima with Ken and Janelle Yasinski. I completed this a couple of years ago, however, I feel it bears repeating.*

*I have examined my conscience and am prepared to meet the Lord through the sacrament of Reconciliation this evening.*

*UPDATE: I went to confession this evening at St. Benedict's. Father felt that I made a good and thorough confession. I also spent 30 minutes with the Lord in adoration prior to confession. I am so grateful for the church and this sacrament. So grateful.*

**CM**



## From the Mailbag!

“Dear Carlos: If given the opportunity to confront the elderly man who called you a ‘dirty Mexican’ when you were 9 years old, what would you tell him today?”

--San Dimas, CA.

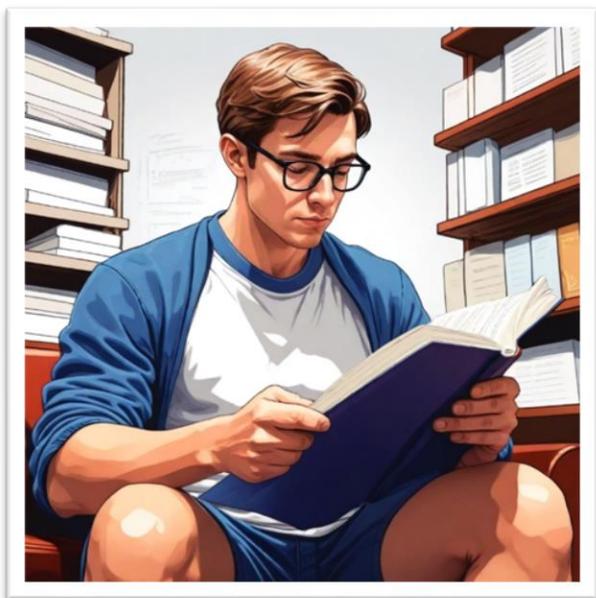
*Dear San Dimas, thanks for the question. BTW, I love San Dimas. To your question—I suppose the first thing we need to consider in this scenario is the elderly gentleman. Despite what he said, “**You Mexicans are nothing but dirty people!**” we need to see Christ in him. We need to understand where he was in his mind and heart back then? Had those circumstances been different (assuming that is the case),*

*would he have made that comment at all? Maybe, he believed his statement but not necessarily in an ‘ugly’ sort of way.*

*When I am grumpy in the morning, am I grumpy because I am angry with someone, frustrated, annoyed, etc.? Not necessarily. The point being my perception of what he said may have been misunderstood on my part. What he said was still wrong, but perhaps he was reacting inappropriately to something that had gone wrong for him earlier that day, the previous week, when he was a child. Who knows?*

*What is important here is not so much what he said, but why he said it without judging the man. Is there anything that could have been done to change his perception of Hispanics? I just don’t know.*

*To your question, I suppose I would explain to him that his comment did hurt and affected my life in a way that might not have occurred otherwise, however, what would be important to me now is that he knows he is loved and forgiven. **CM.***



Friday 041224 | 7:11 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*I find it fascinating that I go to bed tired and wake up tired. How is it that I am so tired, when in my mind I feel that I have accomplished extraordinarily little in the service of God through my neighbor?*

*Am I doing too much of the wrong thing and not enough of the other? No worries. God will steer me in the right direction with assistance from my guardian angel, of course.*

*Yes, even though I was not present to witness certain events in history (e.g., the resurrection of the Lord), I believe the event occurred as I believe angels are real, including our guardian angels.*

*Can I prove it? No. Do I need to prove it? No. You have heard it said*

*that we need air to breathe, right? We know it exists even though we cannot see it, right? Well then, there you go. I do not need to see to believe that something is true. It just is and that is enough for me.*

*By doing too much of the wrong thing, by “thing” I mean “service.” Am I serving as God desires me to serve? Am I serving with a selfless, joyful, loving heart thinking or desiring nothing for myself but the greater good and the glory of God? I hope so. I truly do.*

*I may be the old man nodding off in the chair while watching television-- at least it is for a good reason. “Tacos y Frijoles!” **CM***



### ***Why the Trombone?***

*This is not a mailbag question but is a question a friend asked me while still in school. What he really asked was, “Carlos, why did you give up playing the violin for the trombone?”*

*If your recall from the timeline, I learned to play the violin in seventh grade, but switched to the trombone in eighth grade. Why? One reason: parades!*

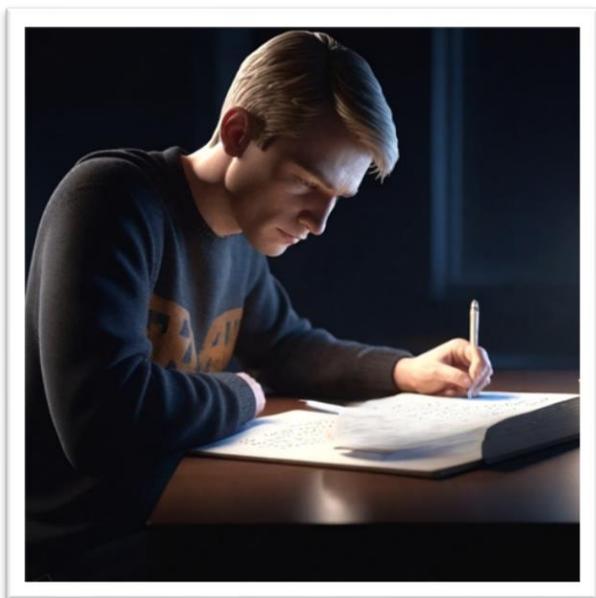
*I have always enjoyed watching a parade. I especially enjoyed watching*

*the bands march in parades. I was fascinated by the instruments they played, who the person was walking with that cool stick, and the uniforms.*

*I knew that if I wanted to be that person, a band member marching in a parade, it was not going to happen playing the violin. So, over the summer as I prepared to transition to eighth grade, I decided to switch instruments.*

*Okay, so why the trombone? It was the only instrument available and so I went with it. Really glad I did too! That trombone and I were like a perfect marriage. We were just made for each other.*

*The next year as a freshman in high school, I was marching in parades and band tournaments living the dream, until my mother once told me anger, “Your sister plays better than you!” CM*



### This 'N That!

1 On a recent visit to Target, there was a woman standing behind me who had one item in her hand while I had a basketful. As a kindness, I offered to let her go ahead of me, not due to her gender but because she only had one item in hand. While she thanked me and noted that it was kind of me to do that, I could not help but feel that I might have offended her because of her gender. I hope that was not the case. I was just attempting to be kind. I would have done the same had she been a man.

2 Again, as I was checking out at Target, I was being checked out by an exceptionally kind cashier. The only problem I had was that I did not know how to address the cashier because I could not determine what gender this

individual was. I suppose I should have looked at the individual's name badge. Duh!

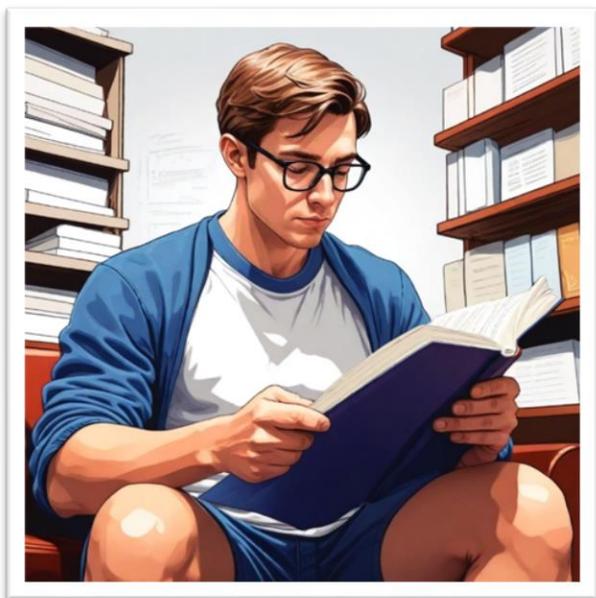
3 What do you do when the *protagonist* in your story moves on (in the story). You celebrate!

4 Humans truly are two peas in a pod. I have learned that Person A is not that much different from Person B, save for their gender and age. Sheesh!

5 I am determined to drop back down to a thirty-eight-inch waist or die trying. Thirty-four would be even better, however, at my age I will take what I can get.

6 An elderly lady once said to me, **"You are a saint!"** I thought to myself, **"Naw! A saint is canonized and recognized for their virtue among other holy qualities. As for me, I will be lucky to make it into Purgatory!"**

7 **Man crush.** Interesting word. Let us talk about that next.



### Man-crush versus Bromance!

Two interesting words that were not part of the *lexicon* growing up—*man-crush* and *bromance*.

Back in those days, if you even hinted of having a man-crush or bromance with someone of the same sex you were doomed to name-calling, labeling, or worse! It was brutal back then. Well, I suppose it still is but thankfully, not so much in that regard.

Why am I talking about this? Because I feel that I need to clear the air. What was thought of as being gay relative to my same sex attraction toward certain individuals back in the day was, in fact, not same sex attraction in the back in the day sense—meaning, that I wanted that attraction to lead to a sexual encounter with said individuals.

*That simply was not the case. The last thing I wanted to do was to offend God, sever my relationship with Christ, offend my parents, or become the punching bag of everyone at school. Are you kidding!?*

*I was attracted to certain persons of the same sex because I was hurting, confused, angry, and ashamed. I needed the understanding and camaraderie of **brothers** (unlike members of a gang although I imagine that is why young people join gangs) who were like me, or at least had a basic understanding of what I was going through and despite that fact, walked with me just the same. The same way your brother would if you shared a close relationship with your sibling.*

*However, to have that type of intimacy in a friendship—a friendship completely devoid of anything sexual, was considered an act of same-gender attraction.*

*That was taboo! Back in those days, men were supposed to be tough, rough, he man grunts, the defender of the home, the hunter, the muscle of the family.*

*Men were not supposed to be soft and effeminate, for lack of a better word as woman were perceived to be.*

*What a tragedy it was back in the day that women were considered*

“weak” simply due to their gender. While I am not a fan of the over zealot anybody, I am glad that the women of today are being respected for their intellectualism, knowledge, business savvy, motherhood, and positive contributions to society.

The point is: Yes! I man-crushed and bromanced with many men in my day, however, I am sorry that ignorance or naivete ended two friendships while keeping what would have been great friendships from being anything more than a quick hello and handshake for fear of receiving that dreaded label—**“You are one of them!”**

You may be asking yourself, **“What is a man-crush and bromance and what is an example of both?”**

The official definition of **man-crush** according to the **Oxford Learners Dictionary** is thus: **a strong feeling of liking and admiring, not usually sexual, that a man or boy has for another man or boy; the person who is the object of this feeling.**

A man-crush is something one feels toward someone of the same sex (again, non-sexual) but is not realistic.

For instance, as a boy, I had a man-crush on actor **Bill Bixby**, who starred as Tom Corbett in the **Courtship of Eddie’s Father** (1969-1972). However, that was unrealistic. It was never going to go beyond the television

screen and my living room. Just a boy’s fantasy. That is the definition of a man-crush, you respect or admire someone that you will never share a friendship with.

**Bromance**, on the other hand is different. According to Wikipedia, Bromance is defined as: **a remarkably close and non-sexual relationship between two or more men. It is an exceptionally tight, affectional, homosocial male bonding relationship exceeding that of usual friendship, and is distinguished from normal friendship by a particularly elevated level of emotional intimacy.**

When I think of an example of this type of friendship, I think of David and Jonathan from the Bible. Jonathan is the son of King Saul, while David is the shepherd boy who eventually becomes the King of Israel. David mourned the loss of his friend Jonathan who, along with his father and brothers were killed in a battle against the Philistines at Mount Gilboa.

According to [kidscorner.com](http://kidscorner.com), The story of David and Jonathan is one of great friendship. Jonathan went to great lengths to protect David from his father Saul, and David looked after Jonathan's children long after he was dead. Great friends do those kinds of things for each other.

*These are the types of relationships (friendships) I craved as a boy—always looking for that Jonathan to my David.*

*It was never the sexual aspect of a relationship that I desired, but the emotional—a friendship so deeply rooted in emotional parity that it (the friendship) almost becomes covenantal; brothers with a bond so deep they become inseparable.*

*This is why I believe with all my heart that I was not **born** same sex attracted but made. Made because those Jonathan “wolves” who were covered in sheep’s clothing gave me reason to believe that giving that part of myself to them was necessary to the stability and strength of the friendship. I mistakenly believed that acquiescing to that behavior meant that I was loving and being loved as two good friends should be—and to a degree, being obedient to the desires of those older than me.*

*Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! All of that was wrong. I was wrong, and, I have only myself to blame. It is easy to point the finger at the other person and say, “He made me do it!” But in the end, I went along with it regardless of the reasons behind it or my age.*

*However these types of friendships may appear to someone looking in from the outside, there is*

*nothing, outside of the Holy Trinity and Blessed Mother Mary more satisfying in life than the friendship shared between two boys and later when they become men that is on the level of friendship shared between David and Jonathan.*

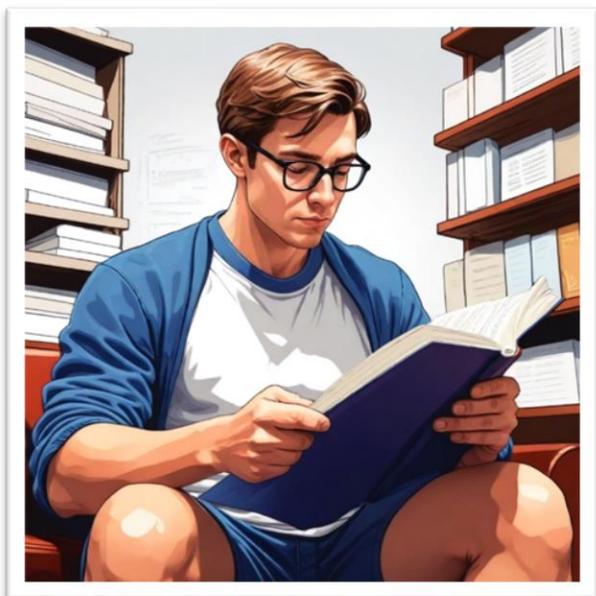
*These are the types of friendships I find the most comforting, enjoyable, satisfying, and blessed by God. A “bromance” is the friendship of two males who are brothers in every sense of the word. There is nothing more to the friendship than truth, beauty, and Godly love.*

*I know because that was my experience with my best friend Alex with whom I spent an entire year getting to know in the seminary between 1983 and 1984. When he died, I was heartbroken; devastated! I felt as David must have felt upon hearing of the death of Jonathan except that I was angry. There was no consoling that loss unless that consolation came from God. In my case, it did. Had it not, I believe my grief [and anger] would have destroyed me.*

*Once again, God did not allow my pain to linger. To experience it, yes. Linger? No. God is great indeed!*

**CM**





Tuesday 041624 | 6:57 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*Here is how I spent Monday: I listened to the 041524 Eastertide reflection on **FORMED**, "The Will of the Father." I listened to Day #6 of the **Fatima Consecration**. The topic was "love." I sent an email to the **First Saturday Group** requesting prayer and mentioning about the Fatima Consecration. I added the vocations graphic Fr. Leo requested to the 041924 **newsletter** and the 042124 **bulletin insert** (which I emailed to **Alex Arevalo** as a revision).*

*I called **Flawless Dentistry** and cancelled Matthew's appointment. Will reschedule. I created an account on **UBER**, and sent an email to **Amy** regarding a statement I received for Matthew from **Tulsa Radiology***

***Associates, Inc.** She is looking into it. I scheduled an appointment to see **Dr. Michael Sayler** on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 PM. I am thankful that he will be my primary physician again.*

*I sent a message to my current primary physician requesting a refill of the **Lisinopril** on Saturday (041324) through the portal. Still no word as of this morning. Stephanie, who assisted me with scheduling my appointment with Dr. Sayler advised me to call his office back if Dr. Browning does not respond to my request. They will check with Dr. Sayler to see if he will refill the prescription.*

*I collected the indoor trash and placed the outdoor trash receptacles by the curb for Tuesday pickup.*

*Gary reminded me about his eye appointment on Tuesday except that he has been asked to be there at 12:10 PM instead of 12:30 PM. This is his second follow-up in five days following the procedure to repair his detached retina at St. John's on Thursday, 041124.*

*I had an opportunity to chat with **Diogo** by telephone after returning his call. We agreed to meet for breakfast next month.*

*I also had an opportunity to speak with **Fr. Todd Nance** by telephone as well. There is a special place in my heart for Fr. Todd. Our friendship goes*

*back to 2017. I wanted to confirm that he will still be my priest of contact should I become gravely ill and at the time of my death. He confirmed my request. We agreed to set a time to meet in McAlester for lunch. McAlester is the halfway point between Hugo, OK and Tulsa.*

*Around noon, I sat down to eat the meal that Josh had prepared for me while watching a Dennis Quaid film. Of course, I dosed off. So tired, but a good tired.*

*I spent the entire day in prayer. In fact, I offered my entire day as a prayer. My heart hurts that in all of that – prayer and service, I still **sinned**. I DO NOT like when I sin. I have asked forgiveness and will go to confession at my first opportunity. I will continue to pray for grace (**for without God I am and can do nothing**), and for that **heart** that I asked for from God this morning.*

**CM**

## Did You Know ...

1 My mother once became so angry with me for wetting the bed, she had me wear rubber pants over my underwear. True story. Humiliating is hardly the word, however, not to worry, everything turned out okay.

2 To date (praise God), I have never experienced a broken bone.

3 My physical body nemeses as a child were my ears, bladder, tonsils, and appendix. Three of the four resulted in hospital admittance.

4 In all my years of life, three things have always remained the same: hair, underwear, and shorts. How I comb, preference, and length.

5 My greatest fear was to reach age 60, poor and unaccomplished. As of this writing, I am both but joyful.

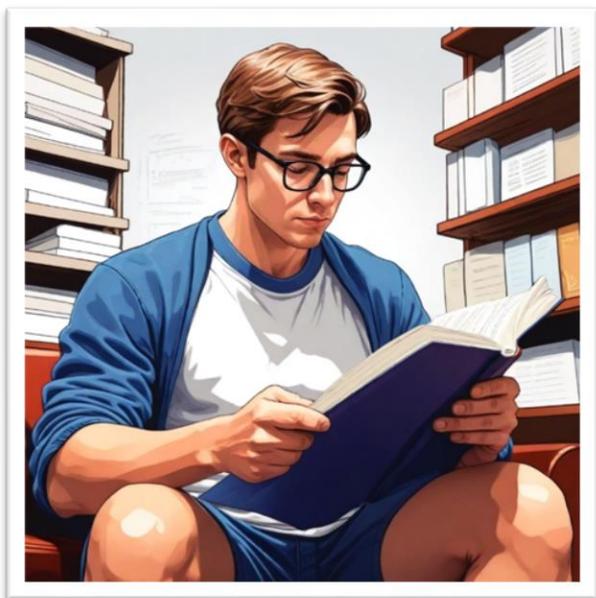
6 Sadly, other than their names, I do not know my grandchildren and they do not know me.

7 My dream job was to work at Anaheim Disneyland from the day they hired me until retirement. Sadly, that did not happen.

8 If I had my way, I would live in a secluded rural area of Oklahoma and never wear pants except when necessary. Not nekkid, just no pants.

9 The most painful shot I experienced was the shot in my foot as a boy. Man, that hurt!

10 I never suffered head lice, but dandruff was just as bad as far as I was concerned.



Wednesday 041724 | 7:25 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*I read a quote this morning by St. John Henry Newman which truly gave me pause to think:*

*"Each of us must come to the evening of life. Each of us must enter on eternity. Each of us must come to that quiet, awful time, when we will appear before the Lord of the vineyard, and answer for the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad. That, my dear brethren, you will have to undergo. ... It will be the dread moment of expectation when your fate for eternity is in the balance, and when you are about to be sent forth as the companion of either saints or devils, without possibility of change. There can be no change; there can be no reversal. As that judgment decides it,*

*so it will be for ever and ever. Such is the judgment. ... when we find ourselves by ourselves, one by one, in his presence, and have brought before us most vividly all the thoughts, words, and deeds of this past life. Who will be able to bear the sight of himself? And yet we shall be obliged steadily to confront ourselves and to see ourselves. In this life we shrink from knowing our real selves. We do not like to know how sinful we are. We love those who prophecy smooth things to us, and we are angry with those who tell us of our faults. But on that day, not one fault only, but all the secret, as well as evident, defects of our character will be clearly brought out. We shall see what we feared to see here, and much more. And then, when the full sight of ourselves comes to us, who will not wish that he had known more of himself here, rather than leaving it for the inevitable day to reveal it all to him!" —Saint John Henry Newman, p. 101*

*Key takeaways from this meditative quote:*

- 1. Each of us must come to the evening of life (death).*
- 2. Each of us must appear before the Lord to be judged.*
- 3. We will either be the companion of saints or devils—and it is permanent.*

4. *The outcome of the judgment is eternity.*
5. *Everything that we are in word and deed will be revealed.*



*The more I meditate upon these words, (which should not have taken me so long to consider) the more I know that I must be right with Christ while I still can, for when my “evening of life” comes, it will be too late to correct what I am currently being given time to do. May the grace of God be my salvation, guide, and hope.*

*I posted the following quote to my Facebook page this morning:*

***“I am a mouthpiece, only insofar as it serves God. Anything else, I will shut up and let my action be my words.”***

*If I am not serving God’s will by what is coming out of my mouth, then I should remain silent and let my actions speak for me. I learned early on from my mother about how best to serve God with the mouth, “If you cannot say anything nice about the person you are about to speak about, then it is best if you say nothing at all.”*

*There is a shorter version of that saying, but you get the gist. I made that mistake today. I gave into the temptation of gossip and allowed my tongue to speak what was not truly in my heart. I have asked forgiveness. I must now learn from my mistake.*

**CM**

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## **CarlosMichael360**

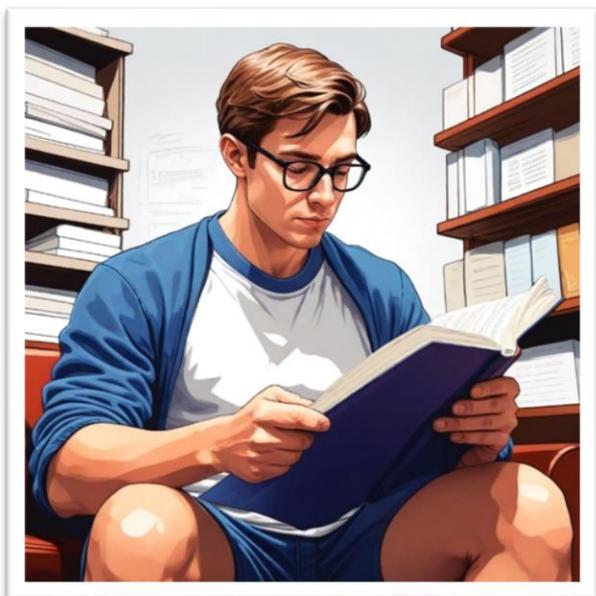
by Carlos Michael Padilla

**“Stay on the straight and narrow. The alternative is frightening.”**

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**--Carlos Michael**





*cross of Christ gains grace—much needed grace.*

*Rule of thumb: stop complaining, stop thinking about yourself, and focus on giving the sacrifice and glory to God. Amen.*

**CM**

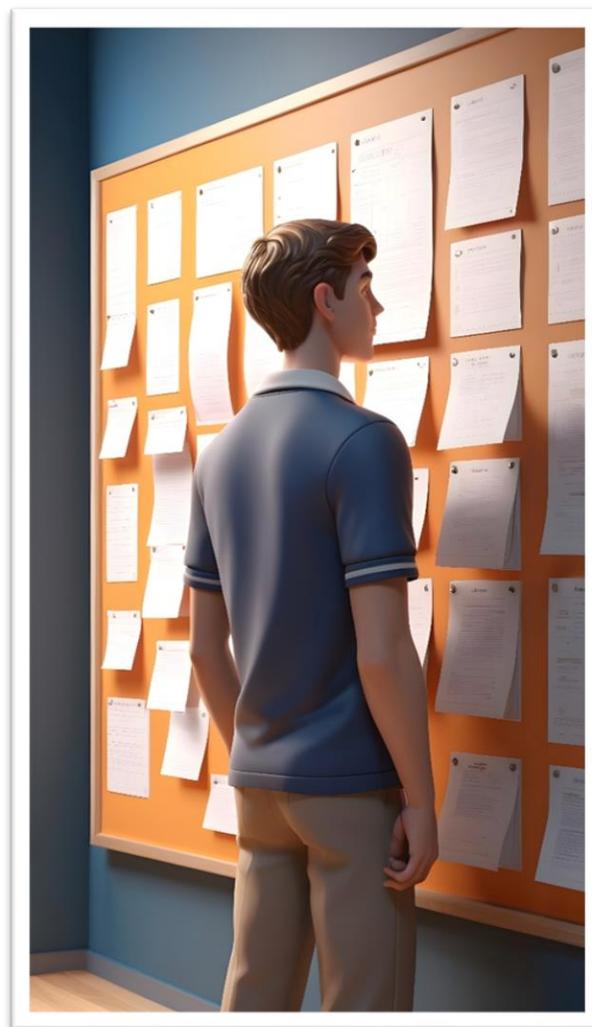
Thursday 041824 | 10:33 AM

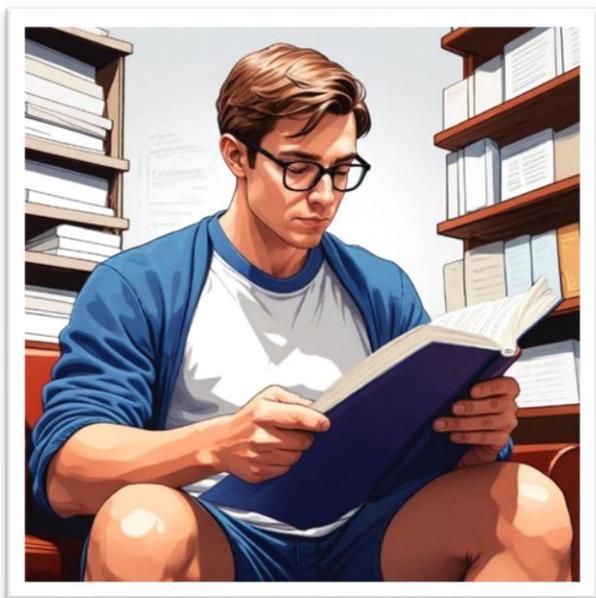
*Peace be with you!*

*Whoops! Getting off to a late start this morning with the journal entry.*

*I listened to day #9 of the **Fatima Consecration** this morning. Today's topic: **Sacrifice**. Uniting our daily crosses in whatever form they take to the cross of Christ, thus turning each sacrifice into an opportunity of **grace** not just for ourselves but for the world.*

*Although I realized this immediately after speaking it Wednesday morning, complaining and speaking negatively about another are not the way of the cross. Embracing their quirks and other annoying behaviors as an opportunity of sacrifice and uniting that annoyance to the*





Friday 041924 | 7:13 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*I have been doing a great deal of thinking. Thinking, I believe, that will lead to good for self and neighbor and hopefully a deeper relationship in my walk with Jesus.*

*Jesus...the name above every other name. How I love Him so, apart from those wretched sins. How I hate my sins!*

*While I like to believe that I am making great strides in that area, meaning, I am cognitively aware of the areas that I need to work on most—I keep falling and that frightens me. How will I respond to my Lord at the time of my judgment when he reveals all of myself to me—what will be my testimony for this and for that—will I go to Heaven?*

*All I can do is trust in His promises and mercy, and in the words of our heavenly Mother and pray that grace does the rest.*

*I am not trying to accomplish my will, but His. The problem is that I am frightened by the “Did I’s...” and the “what ifs...”*

*Did I do enough for the poor? Did I donate properly to the Church in time, talent, and treasure? Did I apologize for what I said to so and so? Did I confess all my sins?*

*What if I had finished school rather than dropping out? What if I had stayed in the seminary instead of leaving? What if I had been a better son to my parents?*

*I want to spend my eternity with Jesus but fear that I am not doing enough; not changing enough, not loving enough.*

*When I use the word “fear” I use it in the sense that I am aware of the consequences of said actions. However, I do not wish to remain ignorant or obstinate, I do seek repentance and to change in accordance with God’s will for eternal salvation is the desired goal for that is what God desires for all of us.*

*Look for all the little opportunities to **give back to God**. Let everything that challenges me be my **cross offering** to Jesus—placing that*

*small sacrifice at the foot of the cross and uniting it to the Lord.*

*Perhaps, if the Lord permits me to occupy the office space that John Story has so graciously assisted with, I can work at the office on Tuesday and Thursday, volunteer time to Catholic Charities on Wednesday, and work from home on Monday and Friday.*

*I need to take whatever amount I am personally receiving each month and give 10 percent of that back to God. Yes! That can be done.*

*The objective is to cooperate with God's grace in the performance of His will. Do what I can to make everything a "holy moment" as Matthew Kelly, founder of Dynamic Catholic likes to say.*

*Keep the spirit of the 3-year-old Carlos is my mind and heart and I should be okay. That is my daily prayer, **"Father God, bless me with the spirit of 3-year-old me (before the storm) and I will be good to go!"** Amen.*

*I believe that is when I loved and trusted God best. I will not fear any longer for I have the word of Jesus and Mary—His grace, love, and mercy is enough for me. Amen. **CM***

## Did You Know ...

1 Prior to the birth of my first-born son, opposed being in the delivery room based on how it was for my father. I am grateful that my former wife opened my eyes because it turned out to be a beautiful experience.

2 There was a time when I would not be caught dead shopping in a thrift store. Mom was instrumental with that change of heart.

3 I dreamed of opening an amusement park with my best friend, Ken, called "Seven Worlds."

4 I once became angry with my brother's friend who lived down the street that I conked him on the head with a broom handle. Not nice.

5 I once dreamed of opening a small-town old fashioned coffee shop or a bed and breakfast. Obviously, I did not open either.

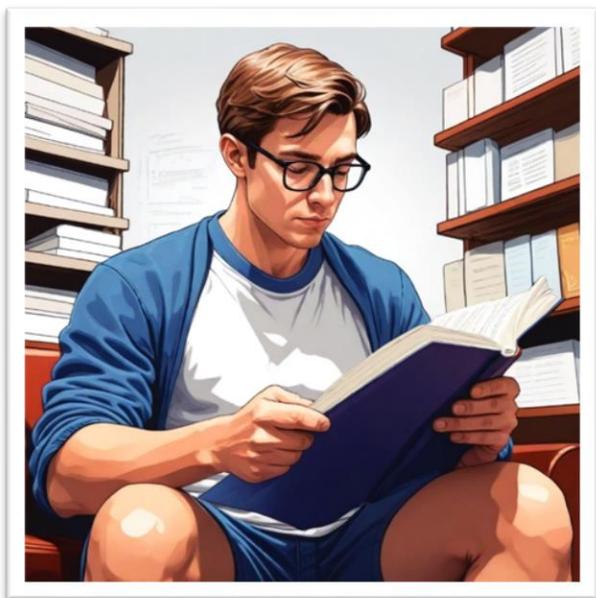
6 The largest audience I had the privilege of speaking to was in 2007 at the Tulsa Convention Center. There were over 3,000 cosmetology students from across five states attending Cosmetology Student Appreciation Day. I was the keynote speaker that year.

7 A cousin once thought I was making googly eyes at his wife. He threatened to knock my block off. I was like, "Dude, not even close to the truth." We never spoke again after that.

8 Three things I disliked more than coconuts: growing up were bell-bottom pants, and a flat top or crew cut haircut. Yikes!

9 I once helped toilet paper a house. Got caught too.

10 My mother gave me the nick name "Sapito" as a boy. It means "toad" in Spanish. "Mom what were you thinking? That really helped me to feel good about myself growing up...not!"



Saturday 04/20/24 | 9:22 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*I awoke this morning, joyful for the gift of life and the blessing of a new day, but not at all happy because of sin. I have sought forgiveness in prayer and later through the confessional but am not at all pleased with myself.*

*I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned through my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sister, to pray for me to the Lord our God.*

*Thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

*Aside from that Friday blunder, my Friday was well spent in the service of the Holy Trinity through my neighbors, work, writings, prayers, etcetera. That I do feel pleased about. At least I pray that those efforts did give glory to God.*

*I can just hear the kids now if they are reading these entries, “**Man, dad has gone off the deep end.**”*

*Kids or grandkids, relatives or friends, if you are reading this, I am not going off the deep end. I have, for as far back as I can remember, believed in and loved God. While there are segments of my life journey that may have given one cause to believe otherwise (and for that I am truly sorry), the truth of the matter is that I have never **not** believed in or loved God.*

*I once considered completely abandoning my faith in the late summer of 1984, but God would have none of that. I for one remain profoundly grateful for that act of love on God’s part, for had I gone through with the anger that was in my heart, I shudder to think how much worse my life (and eternity) would have been like. I have enough to answer for already.*

*I sometimes wonder to myself how much longer I can go before my old body decides to give out? At what point before the diabetes (where my father is concerned), and the point where mother fell and broke her hip did, they resign themselves to the fact that they had reached the point of no return and the best thing to do was to sit back and allow the life clock to take its course.*

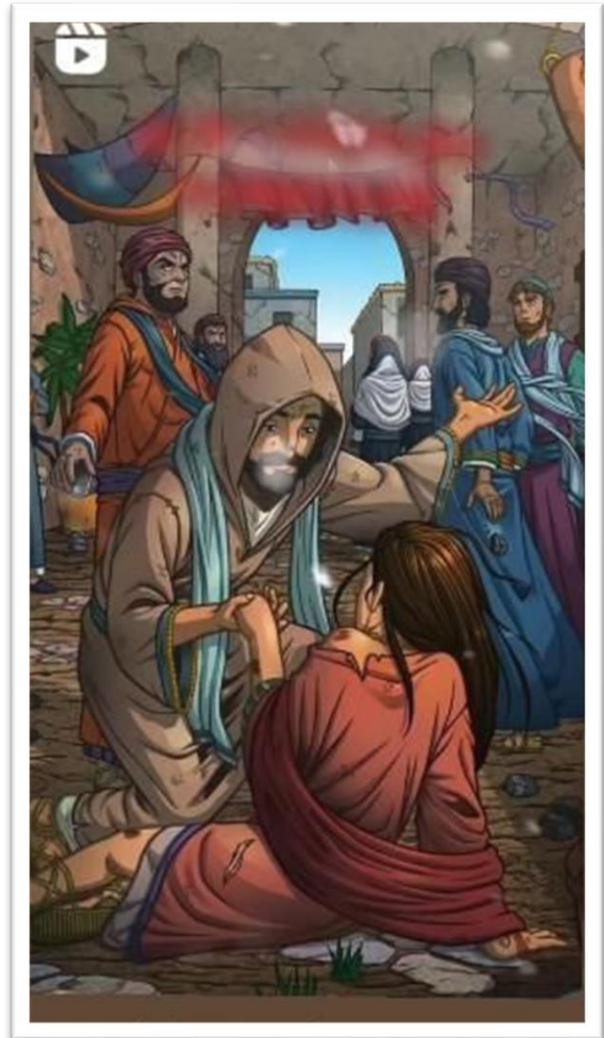
*I remember arriving at the hospital where mom was in November 2017. On that day she was alert, joking with my sister Cindy, happy to see me (I think), and in good spirits. The following month, she was gone. Bam! Here one day and gone the next. Situations like that puts life into perspective.*

*Life is too precious to throw away by wasting time being angry, hanging onto old wounds, dismissing God, not believing in God, etc.*

*Say what you will, I personally believe that God always has been and always will be. I do not require proof to know that He exists, and I truly believe with all my heart, mind, body, and soul, that He created us out of love.*

*Listen, no sin is greater than Jesus' mercy. He is waiting to forgive and love on you. Confess whatever those sins are, be contrite, and trust in*

*His mercy. His love for you will do the rest. Amen. CM*





## From the Mailbag!

“Hey Carlos, at what point did you start exercising and what led to your decision?”

C.J.

*Hey CJ, thanks for the question. I hope I have not answered this question previously. If I have, sorry.*

*The year was 1985. I was living with a co-worker at the Pheasant Ridge Apartments in Rowland Heights, CA.*

*One weekend I was visiting my parents when I came across a photograph of me holding my goddaughter, Geanine. I don't know what year the photograph was taken but it was still while she was a toddler.*

*You should see her now. Love you, Geanine.*

*It was when I saw myself in that photograph looking as rotund and cheek face as a squirrel that I knew something had to change.*

*It was not long after that when my roommate invited me to jog with him one mile per day around the apartment complex every day. I agreed and we hit the pavement running—literally.*

*In a period of 6-8 months, I went from whatever waist size I was then to a 32” waist. That was the thinnest I had ever been in my life, until I married Amy, caught wind of her great cooking, and...well, you know how that goes.*

*Thankfully, however, I never stopped jogging or walking which I credit (only after God) to my overall health today. Had I not, including quitting smoking in 2013, being a social drinker (which was not often), etc., the UTI's of last year and 2022 aside, I believe I would be in worse condition physically today.*

*Call it Divine Intervention, the Holy Spirit, interior locution, a premonition, whatever—all I knew is that if I did not do something to improve my overall health in 1985, I would not be where I am today in 2024.*

*Yes, it is true that my weight has gone up and down since 1985. The*

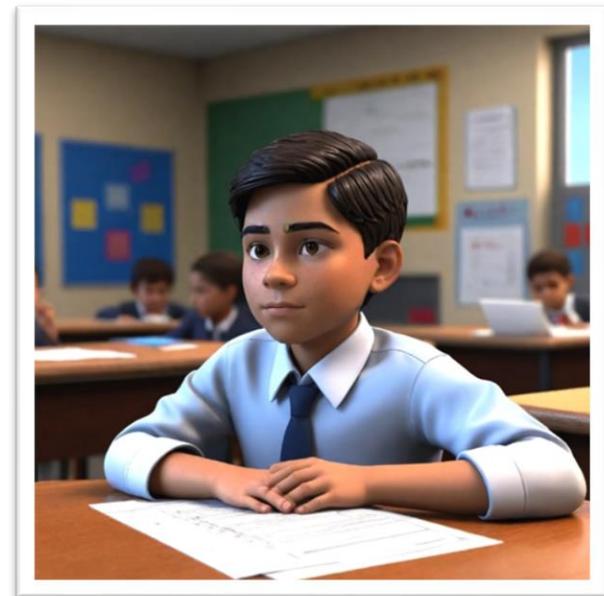
*highest I have weighed was almost 240 lbs.; the lowest being 199 lbs. Maybe less.*

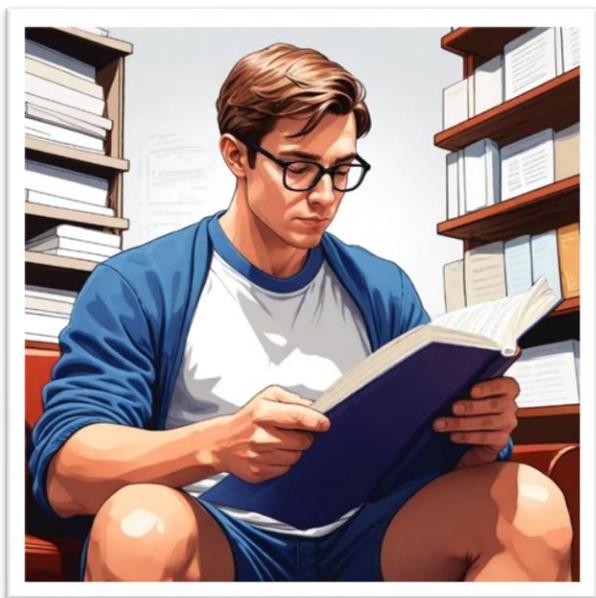
*All I can say is that I would have been a medical smorgasbord of health problems if not for remaining active and changing my eating habits, especially in 2022. I did not do so well eating wise in 2023 but have recommitted to doing better in 2024.*

*After witnessing the hardships others had to endure because of their weight, I did not want that weight to be a problem for me or for someone who might have to care for me due to the aging process—which I embrace.*

*The goal here is not vanity. I am not losing weight or doing what I do to look young, although I do not want my underwear to be mistaken for bed sheets due to their size (LOL). This is about taking care of the body that the Lord has blessed me with so that I may be fit enough to do His work (or will) in my current capacity and age.*

*Sure! I am feeling my age in terms of fatigue and that nonsense, but I am enjoying life and feeling good otherwise and that is what counts most. **CM***





Sunday 042124 | 6:28 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*Praise our loving Father, Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Mother Mary. I went to confession at St. Bernard Clairvaux parish (Tulsa), Saturday afternoon. I am so thankful that I did not listen to my inner voice. It was telling me to put my confession off to later. I am glad that I did not listen.*

*Mark said his right shoulder and back were bothering him all day. As soon as the ice packs froze, I put one in the new ice pack holder he purchased and affixed it to his back. He felt that it helped. I am happy to hear that. I will offer prayer for him.*

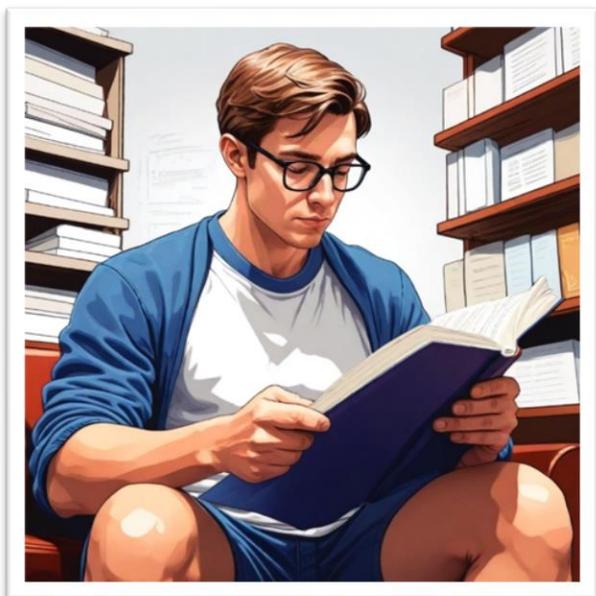
*I hung the new curtains that I purchased from Walmart onto the rod that leads into my office area. They look great. Two are long and two are*

*short. I did not notice the difference in sizes at the time of purchase, but it worked out to my satisfaction. The curtains are much nicer than the shower curtain and less noisy as well. Praise God!*

*Brother G is doing better. His eye is looking better. I imagine that condition has been challenging for him. I am thrilled to see how well he has endured it. God Bless him. I am always offering prayer for him. He has a good heart.*

*My son continues to challenge my spirit but that is a good thing. It's like spiritual exercise. It keeps me in prayer and humble. God is good indeed. Amen. **CM***





Monday 042224 | 6:55 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*Other than not feeling well, I enjoyed a beautiful Sunday. I went to Mass at St. Benedict's and was blessed to receive my Lord through the Holy Eucharist.*

*Following Mass, Gary and I stopped for breakfast at the IHOP located at 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Garnett. We learned from our server that this location will be closing on the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month. She said the lease of \$30,000 per month for the building was too much. I was flabbergasted! \$30,000 per month for the building. That is insane.*

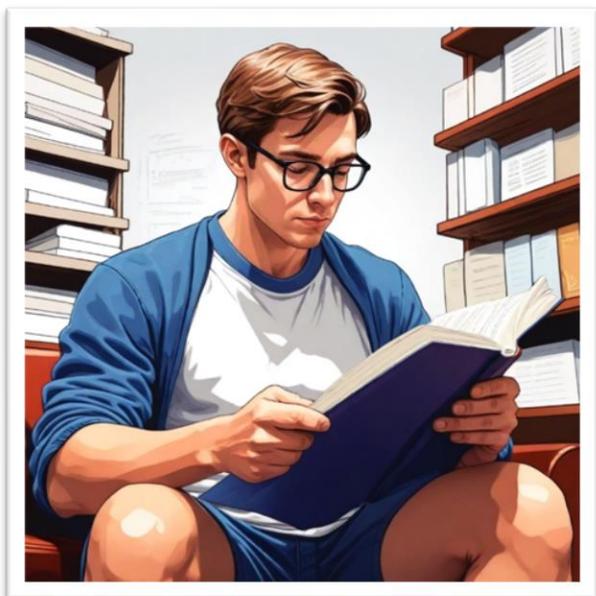
*After breakfast, we headed home where I rested before heading back out to pick up Leda (Diedrich). Together with Gary, the three of us*

*went to Christ the King in Tulsa to preview the **Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit**. Leda was blessed to go to confession as well.*

*Following our visit to the exhibit, we returned home where I rested some more. For some reason, I was not feeling well. I can't explain it other than to describe it as pressure in the region where my kidneys are located, and in the abdominal area. I mentioned it to Mark but did not think too much of it.*

*If it continues, I will contact my physician or go to. What a beautiful Sunday spent with God and neighbor. Praise God. Amen. **CM***





Wednesday 042424 | 7:36 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*Still waiting on word from John or Kristy about leasing office #142 at Tech Ridge Office Park (corner of 31<sup>st</sup> and Mingo).*

*John and I signed and presented the lease amendment on Monday 042224. God's will be done.*

*Unfortunately, Mark is still experiencing back pain. I feel bad for him. I continue to pray for and assist him where I can, seeing to his needs, making him comfortable, etc. I pray the Lord will favor him with mercy.*

*My Joshua (youngest son) has been on my heart much. Once I get established at the office, I want to see what I can do to help Josh launch his business. I believe he has what it takes to be successful but like me. he just*

*needs a kind benefactor to seed him with the money needed to get started. I am going to pray the Lord's favor of Josh and see what happens. I absolutely believe in the power of prayer if what is being prayed for is in accordance with God's will.*

*I purchased a program called **Designerr.io** Tuesday morning. Designerr is an application that allows a user to create stunning and professional eBooks. I signed up for the basic (one time fee of \$67), and am also trying the Pro version, free, for seven days. If I decide to keep the Pro Version, the fee is \$97 annually.*

*I was going to weigh in this morning; however, I have decided to wait until Friday morning.*

*I told Brother G that if he is still talking when he steps over the garage door threshold when he moves, he will be speaking to the garage door closing, (LOL). To quote the brother, "SOME PEOPLE'S CHILDREN!!" Have a blessed today. **CM***

## Orangewood Elementary School

*I am going to let you in on a secret. Are you ready for it? I was a school junkie, nerd, whatever verb or adjective you use to describe it—I loved going to school.*

*I hate to admit this, however, I believe the main reason I enjoyed school is because it took me away from home where I believed was “ground zero” with respect to all my problems. Of course, that was not true, just a dumb kid’s perception of a skewed reality.*

*School was not just a place to escape my domestic challenges, it was also a place of learning, creativity, books (I have always enjoyed books), and friends!*

*Bullies, challenging subjects, non-favorite classes, strict teachers aside, the friendships I shared with my classmates was the best part of being in school.*

*I recall early on in elementary school having two best friends, John and Dale. I don’t recall their last names, but I can still picture their faces in my mind.*

*John was Italian with a thick head of jet-black hair. Dale, on the other hand had blond hair that was always cut in a crew cut style. I would guess that he was either Polish, Swedish, or of Norwegian ancestry.*

*There was also Jeffrey T., Steven G., and Ken C. All whom I came to know during elementary school. My friendship with Ken was the only friendship that lasted from elementary school to the mid-2000s.*

*The one subject I struggled most with in school was math. No matter how hard I tried, I just could not seem to master that subject. English was my second least favorite subject for the same reason. I don’t know why, but I had trouble understanding the differences between what a verb is, adverb, adjective, preposition, etcetera. Don’t get me wrong, I truly tried with all my ability to understand and learn but always seemed to struggle with those two subjects.*

*The subjects I did well in were history, biology, creative writing, the fine arts (band, chorus, drama, and art), although I never would be considered a Picasso or Pavarotti.*

*I did not enjoy Physical Education in junior high, but I came to appreciate, probably for the wrong reasons, in high school.*

*I used to say that I “hated” sports growing up, however, that was not true. I would use that word for anything that I did not understand or that did not make sense to me.*

*Had I taken more of an interest in understanding sports, I would have*

enjoyed playing football, tennis, or rugby. Truly! I know football and rugby do not sound like something this panty waist pansy would be interested in, but I would have had I been encouraged to pursue said sports. I was always the type of kid who would have tried anything so long as I was challenged or nudged.

The one sport I did show an interest in and wanted to pursue as a freshman was tennis. I signed up to join the team but was later informed by the school that there was no room for me on the team.

*Story of my life. Ugh!*

Other than the female bullies during my time at Orangewood Elementary, I have many fond memories of my time there. The elementary school was located across the street from the high school.

I still can see myself walking the hallways to my prospective classrooms, Mrs. Knox who was my second-grade teacher sitting always sitting on her stool, let's crossed, glasses pushed slightly down over her nose, looking every bit like a seasoned school mom. Her best features were here smile and kind disposition.

I recall her once complimenting me about something but what that was, I do not remember. I think it had to do with my personality or charism as

my mother used to often point out to me.

I had nothing but love and respect for my elementary school teachers, staff members, and yes, even Principal Bremmer who later married and became Phillips.

I recall the three lunch aides who would keep us in line during lunch in the cafeteria and on the playground: Ms. Ellen, Ms. Dolores, and Mrs. Cook.

Mrs. Cook was as tall as a giraffe (at least to me she was), with a soft but commanding voice. Ms. Ellen was the **Lou Costello** of the three—rotund and loud! Ms. Dolores was my favorite. She was quiet but did not lack in dishing out the discipline if required. She was the one I would often talk with during recess. O, how I enjoyed my conversations with Ms. Dolores.

The school address is:

**1440 S. Orange Avenue, West Covina, CA. 91790.**

The website URL is:

<https://orangewood.wcusd.org/>

The highlight of my time at Orangewood Elementary is when I responded to an announcement in class that auditions were going to be held for a role in the PTA sponsored play, "The Wizard of Oz."

*By the time I arrived for the audition, all the roles had been taken except for the Scarecrow and one or two other roles. I decided to audition for the role of the Scarecrow because we both had something in common—we both lacked courage.*

*Of course, knowing how I viewed myself in those days (and to an extent today), I just knew that I did not have a chance in Hades of getting the part. But I was going to try just the same.*

*This was not about getting the role since it was about stepping out of my comfort zone (a phrase I was not aware of then) and overcoming my fear.*

*Auditioning for this role meant doing just that—even more so if, by the grace of God, I got the part!*

*While there were four or five of us auditioning for this role, the only real challenge I believed I faced was my friend Donald A., who was also auditioning for the part.*

*In terms of height, Donald was the right fit for the role. So, I thought. I must have looked like a lawn Gnome standing next to him. There just was no comparison. He was tall, handsome, Caucasian—what was not to like? Me on the other hand: short, overweight, and Hispanic.*

*And yet, there we were battling it out for the role of the Scarecrow*

*which eventually (and to my surprise) came down to Donald and me. ME!*

*When the audition finally came down to Donald and me, we had to perform the audition twice at the request of the judges, complete with dancing and singing, because it was too close to call.*

*Although I had made it that far, I just knew in my heart that in the end, Donald would get the part. Of course, I would have been happy for him, but I would have to lick the wound because I was that close but still so far away.*

*Then the unthinkable occurred. The votes were cast, and it was announced that I had beat Donald out for the role, not the reverse. I was stunned. I could not believe that I had auditioned for and won the role of the Scarecrow in a play based on one of my favorite childhood movies.*

*The play had a successful run, and, in the process, I found my calling. This, for me is one of my best school memories.*



## Real Life Catholic (Christ Stefanick)

***“The Devil only attacks his enemies, be worried when he stops!”***

*Great quote. Spot one. I heard Chris mention this in his interview with Benedictine Monk, Fr. Augustine Wetta as they discussed his book, **Weird Saints, Monk Life, and Discernment.***

<https://youtu.be/qPIBYccZQK0?si=q7K7lflgAqg3qaAx>

*I used to believe that any type of suffering experienced throughout one’s life journey, at least where I am concerned, was a negative blotch on my soul. I thought that suffering was necessary to my salvation.*

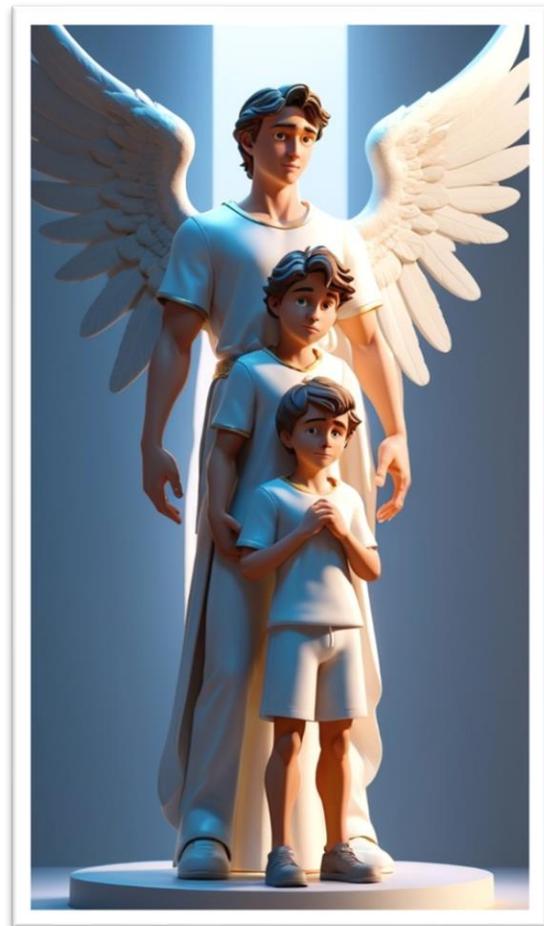
*While I still believe that suffering, although not pleasant, does play a role in salvation providing we embrace it and offer it back to God in reparation for the sins of the world, including my own, it never occurred to me my suffering could potentially be an attack from Satan precisely because I am following God’s will and due to my obedience to His will, it stands to reason that one would be attack and because of said suffering, abandon what God has called them to.*

*This “aha” moment certainly puts the story of “Job” into perspective.*

*Don’t let your suffering get you down. Sure, it can be rough, brutal in fact. However, stand strong and unite that suffering at the foot of the cross of Christ. You have no idea how many souls are benefitting from your suffering.*

*It is gratifying to know that my struggle to scale that mountain of life—all the sacrifice, pain, hardship, slip ups, etc., was helping not just me, but countless neighbors whom I do not know. God is good indeed!*

CM



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# CarlosMichael360

by Carlos Michael Padilla

“Life is a great big canvas; throw all the paint you can at it.”

--Danny Kaye

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*I have enjoyed watching many of Hollywood’s finest over the years: John Wayne, Helen Hunt, Burt Convey, Lucille Ball, Brad Davis, Cissy Tison, James Earl Jones, Dean and Martin, Abbott and Costello... the list is endless.*

*However, one actor I always enjoyed watching, among several, was Danny Kaye (1911-1987).*

*According to Wikipedia, **Danny Kaye** (born **David Daniel Kaminsky**; Yiddish: דוד־דניאל קאַמינסקי; January 18, 1911 – March 3, 1987) was an American actor, comedian, singer, and dancer. His performances featured physical comedy, idiosyncratic pantomimes, and rapid-fire novelty songs.*

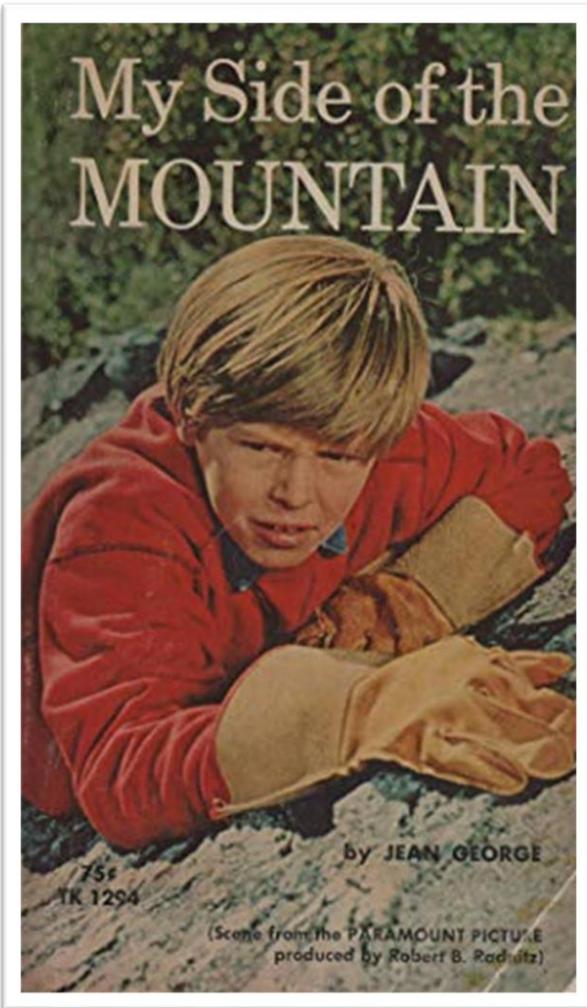
*Kaye starred in 17 films, notably **Wonder Man** (1945), **The Kid from Brooklyn** (1946), **The Secret Life of Walter Mitty** (1947), **The Inspector General** (1949), **Hans Christian***

*Andersen* (1952), **White Christmas** (1954), and **The Court Jester** (1955). His films were popular, especially for his performances of patter songs and favorites such as "Inchworm" and "The Ugly Duckling".

*In addition to his humor, singing, and dancing, I especially enjoyed watching him in **Hans Christian Anderson** and opposite **Bing Crosby** in **White Christmas**. Although I would never have guessed that Kaye was Yiddish. For some reason, I always believed he was Irish. Go figure!*

*If I had to pick one actor that is even remotely close to the caliber of actor that Kaye was, I would have to say actor **Martin Short**, primarily for his smile, sense of humor, and ability to sing. For some reason they seem to be cut from the same cloth.*

*We have lost some incredibly talented entertainers over the years, and I miss them. However, I am deeply grateful to God for the privilege and blessing to have known these prolific entertainers—especially the ones who were more about the craft than the money. **CM***



*Have you ever attempted to do something based on a book you read? Me and my best friend Steve, did. Talk about adolescent elementary school knuckleheads. We were going to live like the main character in the book, **My Side of the Mountain**.*

*According to Wikipedia: My Side of the Mountain is a middle-grade adventure novel written and illustrated by American writer Jean George published by E. P. Dutton in 1959. It*

features a boy who learns courage, independence, and the need for companionship while attempting to live in the Catskill Mountains of New York State.

*For reasons way past my ability to recall, Steve and I, after reading this book, decided to run away from home. Our destination: The San Gabriel Mountains via Azusa Canyon. How would we get there? On our bicycles. What grade were we in? I don't recall.*

*Here is what happened ... After reading this book, Steve and I decided to run away to the mountains just as the boy did in the story. I don't know who came up with idea. Most likely me being that I was so miserable at home.*

*We began to put a plan together. We scheduled the date this would occur and determined the best route from Steve's house (which is where I met him on the day we ran away), to Azusa Canyon.*

*The day came when it was time to put our plan into action. I packed my backpack with several pairs of socks, underwear, t-shirts, two pairs of pants, and a jacket.*

*The food that I could gather was a loaf of bread and several cups of chocolate Snack-Pack puddings.*

*I wrote a note to my parents and placed it in the mailbox. Mom was the one who discovered the note.*

*I left the house on my bicycle and headed to Steve's house. He was waiting outside on his front lawn.*

*After chatting for a bit, we made our way from Yarnell to Foster to Orange Avenue. We turned right off Orange to Durness, left onto Trojan Way, and right onto Merced.*

*Instead of heading west on Merced to Azusa Avenue, we turned left onto Sunset Avenue. Just as we crossed under the San Bernardino (10) freeway overpass, as we neared the corner of Rowland and Sunset Avenue, Steve suddenly remembered that he had forgotten his glasses.*

***"I cannot go without my glasses," he said. I will go blind in the snow without them. I must go back home and get them!"***

*While I understood how important the glasses were to Steve. I was concerned that if we went back, our parents would most likely be looking for us.*

*We turned around and began making our way back up Sunset Avenue when I had an accident at the corner of Workman and Sunset Avenue. I believe*

*my bike hit a rock in just the right way that I flipped over, along with the bike, and landed on my back side.*

*The couple that was living in the house on the corner saw what happened and immediately came to my assistance. They were a Caucasian elderly couple who were very sweet and kind.*

*After swallowing my pride and making my way up off the street and shaking the dust from my clothes, I sat down on the curb and confessed to the Mrs. of the house why we were where we were. She was so kind, gracious, and understanding.*

*She offered to call our parents because my bicycle had sustained some damage but was still operational. I smiled and thanked the couple for their kindness and promised them that we would head straight home and perish the thought of running away.*

*I can still visualize in my mind when I took that tumble, met the couple and how I got caught up in their kindness; their charity toward me and Steve.*

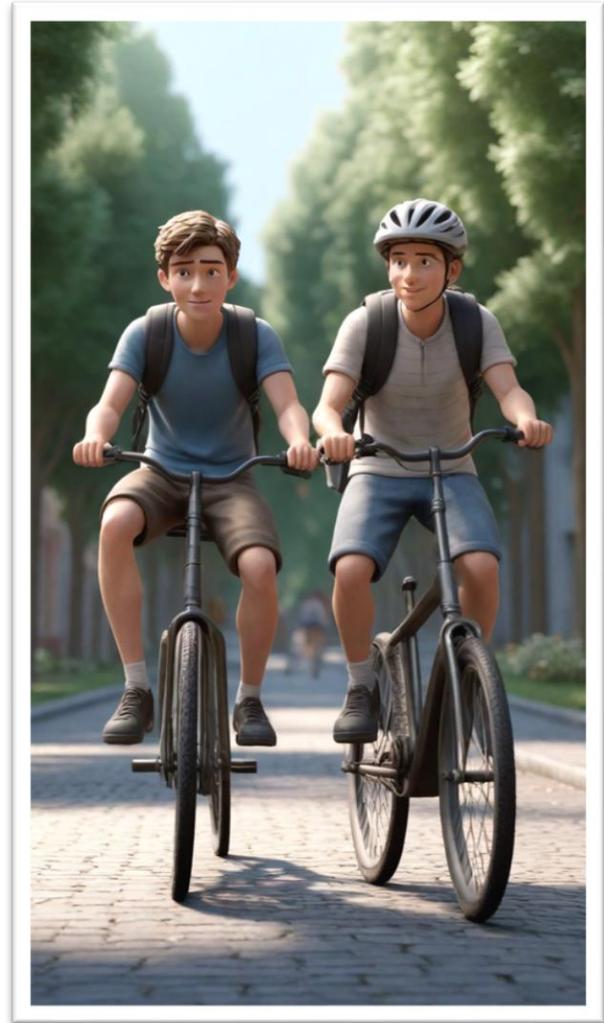
*That woman made everything okay. She showed me without saying anything that I was wrong to run away, frighten my parents, etcetera.*

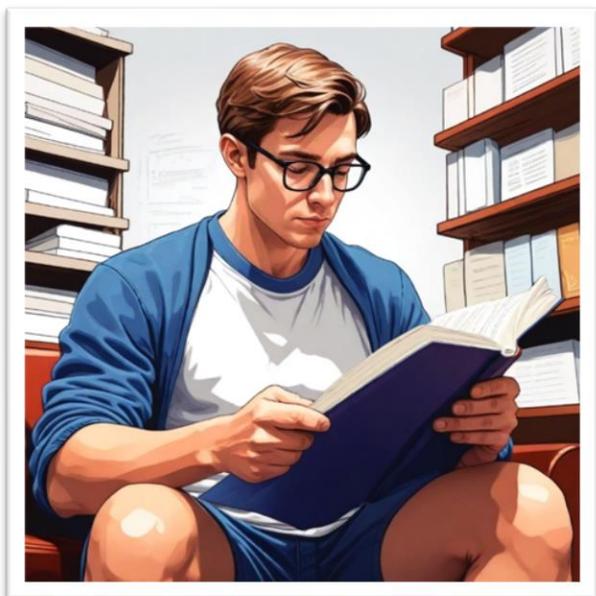
*Steve and I thanked them for the hospitality and kindness, boarded our bicycles and made our way back to Steve's house. After chatting for a bit, I began to make my way home when I ran into mom who was looking for me.*

*As soon as I say mom I began to cry uncontrollably. It was not just because I felt bad about what I had done, but because seeing mom comforted me and brought joy and peace to my soul.*

*In this instance, mom did not scold or punish me. She was very understanding but did firmly admonish me by saying, "Don't you ever do that again!" I did not.*

*The humor in this is when mom told me, "Every time I see those snack-pack chocolate puddings, I think of the day that you ran away and how you were going to survive on a loaf of bread and four to six cups of pudding." Then she laughed and hugged me. CM*





Friday 042624 | 9:12 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*Cloudy and raining this morning. Grateful to God for today. Morning prayers completed, although I try to make the entire day a day of prayer.*

*I am thinking about and keeping close to my heart, recent disclosures and comments that were made to me. I won't list those here except to say that my prayers go out to all involved and that my only desire moving forward is to please God, not man (or woman). **God first. Neighbor second. Self, third.***

*I received a forwarded text from Fr. Leo this morning from the wife of a dear to my heart deceased friend who wrote in her text: **"...I have a painting that I thought Carlos would like. It is one that N's brother N. painted of a***

*burning bush. I am certain that N. would love for Carlos to have it."*

*I was both humbled and profoundly touched by this gift, this blessing. I feel unworthy of such a gift, however, if N. has guided his wife to bless and bestow upon me this special painting, I will receive it with complete and total humility, with gratitude and joy and place it among the other Sacred Art I have been blessed to possess since returning to the practice of my faith in 2017—the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima and one year before the passing of my beloved mother.*

*God continues to favor me with His blessing, which I believe is due to the direct intercession of Mother Mary despite my unworthiness. To Him be all the glory.*

*No word about (yet) about the proposed office space. No matter, God's will be received with joy regardless of the outcome.*

*First Friday and Saturday are around the corner. It is now the 107<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady's apparition to the three children at Fatima (May-Oct. 1917).*

*I now understand as much as I can understand the connection between **Fatima and The Divine Mercy.***

*Just as Jesus and Mary are inseparable, so are these two powerful gifts of love—prayer and mercy.*

*I plan to avail myself to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday (or Sunday morning). I will then structure my life in such a way that will be pleasing to God. This is important to me. I will then focus on the work I believe He is calling me to (at least begin). Remember, **who I am is not as important as what I do.** What I do must be in accordance and obedience to God's will.*

*This is not going to be easy, given our inclination to sin (concupiscence). However, through the grace of God, the Sacraments, and the prayers of those here on earth and in heaven, the Lord's will shall triumph. His will always does in the end. It should, when you consider that He is the Father Creator, the author of this entire unfolding story.*

*We are nearing the end of the month. This edition of **CarlosMichael360** will be completed, and God willing, May's edition will begin.*

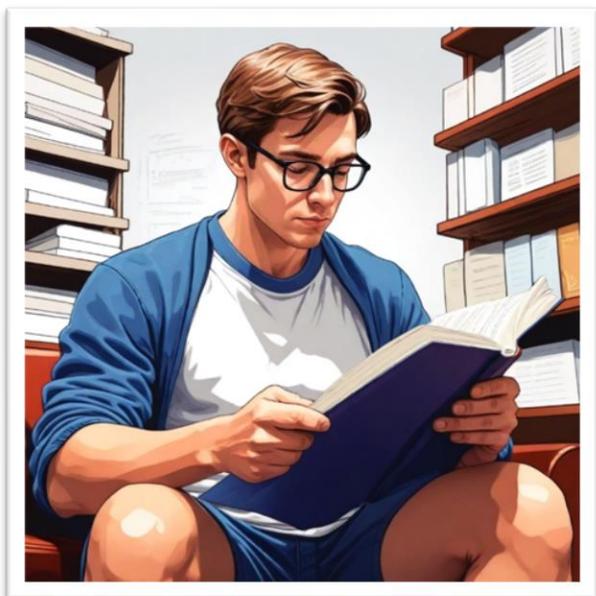
*Mark did not appear well yesterday. I am keeping an eye on him and am seeing to his well-being. I will check on him at 10 AM and again at*

*Noon. I have a **board meeting** at 2:00 PM this afternoon but imagine that will only be for an hour.*

*Gary's right eye (detached retina) continues to make improvements. The black around his eye is subsiding and he is beginning to make out more and more with each passing day. His follow up appointment with the eye doctor is May 17<sup>th</sup>.*

*According to Matthew (who met with his Urologist Thursday afternoon), the doctor would like to schedule Matt to go to St. John's for the purpose of going in and breaking up the stone. I imagine this will be an out-patient procedure. The doctor's office will contact Matthew the details and he will let me know. **CM***





Sunday 042824 | 6:22 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*I have been watching Mark over the last few days. He continues to mention the pain in his back and lower right abdominal area. His appetite seems to have diminished—at least at dinner time. He still seems to enjoy his yogurt, orange juice, coffee, and toaster strudels. That gives me hope. Prayer gives me trust in God. His will be done.*

*I received a message from a friend Saturday afternoon. She, as has Mark, are concerned for all that I do. They advise to me to rest—which I would like to do. I wish all I had to do is to rest in God. To pray, write, and learn to craft.*

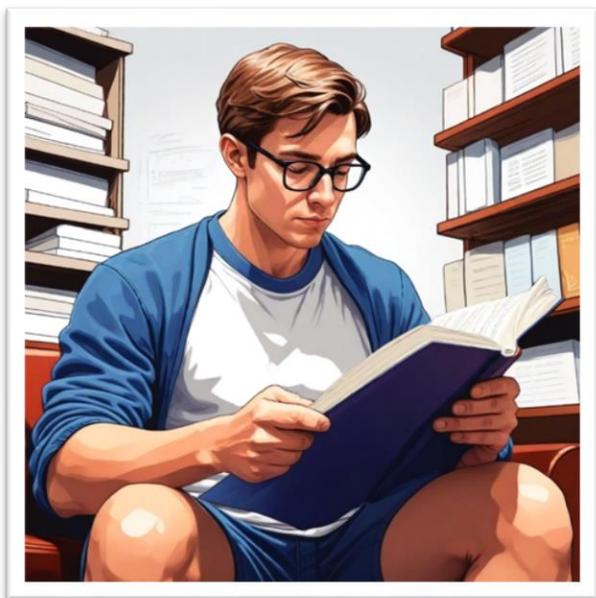
*I really want more than anything to pray and spend time with God in adoration. But who will tend to His work? I know that I am but a speck of sand in contrast to the desert; that there will be another God will choose to rise and take my place—and that is as it should be. If not now—when?*

*If only all I had to do was rise each morning, thank and praise God for His creation and the blessing of my life, brew my coffee, pray, read, and write. And when I am able, go outside and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.*

*That is my prayer, but not my hope for my hope is in Christ through His Blessed Mother that I will, when my evening comes, spend my eternity with Him in Heaven. I pray this will be true for my children and grandchildren as well. For my siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends. For those who I know and do not know for God wishes this for all of us. We have been created for love, out of love. Our one purpose above all others is to love God.*

*I just returned home from Mass. Praise God, I went to confession and received Holy Communion this morning. So joyful! **CM***





Monday 042924 | 7:51 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*Tuesday is the final day of April. Wednesday is the first day of May. May is the month of Mary. It is also the month that our **revolving door house guest** moves (again). He has moved back and forth so much since 2017, that I have lost count of all his moves. He migrates more than the animals do. Bless his heart!! May God watch over and bless him moving forward.*

*I for one am looking forward to the move only from the perspective of what I will be able to do in the house. I cannot say that I will miss my friend only because he has moved back and forth so many times, but I thank God every day for our friendship and all the*

*good that has flowed from his kindness.*

*This coming Saturday is First Saturday. I need to work on the May First Saturday Devotion meditation. First Friday is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. I will attempt to offer a fast with my prayers and stop by the religious store to purchase a Brown Scapular. I will ask Fr Leo if he can bless it on Saturday. I should purchase an extra Scapular for Matthew. Maybe he will wear it.*

*I desire to write my adult children (Michael, Kristina, Matthew, and Joshua) and share my heart with them monthly. I will send them an individual message to see how they feel about that.*

*It has been a spell since I last posted on blogger.com and WordPress. I will try to improve in that area.*

*I am hoping that Monsieur Man and I will be able to take another trip to Colorado. I would love to visit my cousin Lucia (YaYa) and my niece Bobbi. Also, if life works out and it is God's will, I would love to move to **Manitou Springs, Colorado**.*

*Have a great today! Remember to love God with all your everything and be a great neighbor. **CM***



Water tower

GORDON'S

HOLE 57  
ITA'S WORKS

ROF  
BREAKS  
ANNON

RIFLES - PISTOLS  
ES - TOMAHAWKS  
HOKS & FURS  
TRADE GOODS

EUROPEAN CAFE

Mariner

CAR WASH  
BERNARDY  
SHOP

ROAD WORK

TAVERN

FRESH FLOORS



31 Questions To Ask Yourself To Know Who You Really Are.

<https://thisvillagegirl.com/31-self-discovery-journal-prompts/>

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## CarlosMichael360

by Carlos Michael Padilla

“The quality of your life depends on the quality of your questions.”

--Tony Robbins

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*I received the following graphic in an email from Pinterest.com regarding 31 questions to ask yourself*

*to know who you really are. I thought to myself, “Okay, why not?” Here are the questions and my response to those questions that I felt I could answer. Some, I may have to give more thought to. The problem I have with this series of question is that some are too self-centered. I will answer the first 16 questions, and if I remember, I will answer the remaining 15 questions in the May edition of CarlosMichael360.*

**1 How does my perfect day look?**

*I have learned over the years that there can be no “perfect” day. However, a day that begins and ends with God first, neighbor second, and self, third, is a good day for me.*

**2 Where do I like to work and what kind of work will I be doing?**

*Now that I am retired, this question is kind of a moot point. I would have enjoyed working at Anaheim, Disneyland (back in the day) or with the Williams Company or WPX Energy (had they remained in Tulsa). Still, I am happiest working from home. What am I doing? Whatever God asks of me.*

**3 Do I have a spiritual side that is just waiting to be unleashed?**

*I do not like using the word “spiritual” in the context of this question because it infers that I am not “religious” or that I do not follow a certain faith tradition, because I do. I guess I am “spiritual” insofar as that can be integrated to my faith as a Roman Catholic.*

**4 What special gift do I have that I can give to the world?**

*Great question. I have been told that I have the gift of charism and to gab. I am not certain how to react to the latter (smile). I suppose we can go with that.*

**5 How do you define fun?**

*This is too broad a question. Fun can be walking about freely at home in my underwear, to a visit to the local coffee shop with a friend to converse over coffee. Sometimes just getting in the car and driving wherever is fun. I suppose “fun” is whatever brings joy to my soul.*

**6 What will you do this weekend for fun?**

*I don’t know how to have fun on the weekend. I don’t know, maybe throw on a pair of white rugby shorts and go for a walk along the riverwalk.*

**7 What does my heart tell me that it wants me to do with this life?**

*My heart tells me nothing. I like to defer to the Holy Spirit. I believe the Holy Spirit is telling me to put God first, neighbor second, and self, third in that order. Be as Christ which is to “serve” rather than to be served.*

**8 Among the historical figures, who do you want to become and why?**

*While I admire many historical figures (e.g., Abraham Lincoln, Sam Walton, Walt Disney, Pope St. John Paul II, St. Mother Teresa, etc.), I am content with being who God created me to be—ME!*

**9 When you think about the future what do you fear the most?**

*I do not give the future any thought any more. I only think about the present for this is where I am today. Today has enough challenges of its own.*

**10 Name a song that best describes you or your life?**

*OMGoodness! I do not know. I will have to let those who know me well answer this question.*

**11 Write about an opportunity you missed. What would you do differently next time?**

*I missed the opportunity to be a good husband and father. There will be*

*no "next time." All I can do now is hope that I learned enough from then to be a better friend to my former-wife and a better father to my adult children.*

**12 Write about the time that you felt truly loved and valued.**

*My whole life beginning with conception. I just did not really accept it until recently.*

**13 What characteristics do you look for in a friend?**

*Charity, humility, mercy, humor, and personality.*

**14 After a day of spending time alone, do you feel bored?**

*No! That is why I spent time alone.*

**15 Are you the type of person who tells the person important to you how much they mean to you or are you the one who shows it?**

*Both.*

**16 After receiving good news, do you tell your parents, best friend, or social media first?**

*I might tell a close friend, otherwise, I prefer to keep it to myself.*

## Sidebar

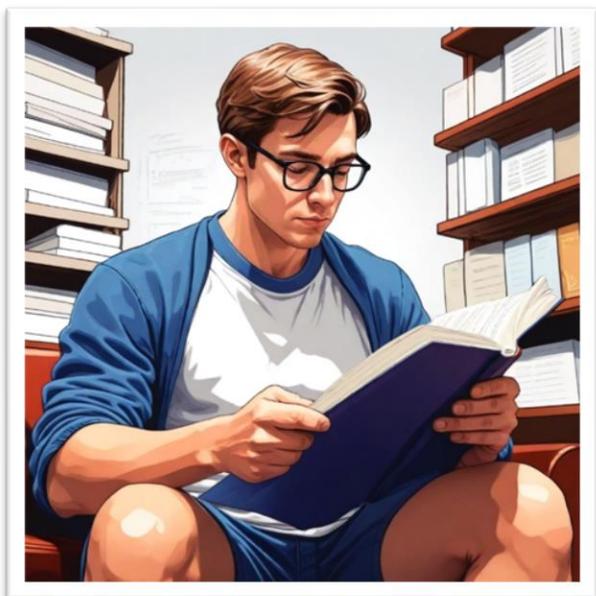
After answering the following 16 questions, I am amazed at how much my heart and mind have changed over the years, most especially since my reversion back to the Catholic Church in 2017.

I can only imagine what my answers would have been had I answered these same questions in 1980: the year I dropped out of school; 1984: the year I left the seminary following my best friend's suicide; 1996: the year I separated from my second wife; 2001: the year I filed bankruptcy, lost my house, and became divorced; 2002: the year I moved to Oklahoma; 2013: the year my brother passed away and I was laid off from my dream job.

I certainly do look at life from a different set of peepers. I mean that in a good way. I truly appreciate each day that is blessed to me by the Almighty and try my best to conduct myself in accordance with His will.

Goodness, I mess up all the time, but that does not stop me from picking myself up and trying again and again and again. Life (and eternity) are that important. I want to amend where I can, enjoy what is blessed to me, and prepare for the life that is come.

"Now" is not forever. But I want to love as much as I can wanting only the good for all whose lives cross my own. **CM**



Tuesday 043024 | 8:05 AM

*Peace be with you!*

*I have had 24 hours to consider Leslie Kirkpatrick Cornell's (CBRE) proposed terms to lease office #142, TechRidge Office Park. I responded to Leslie's email this morning requesting the remainder of this week to consider CBRE's proposal. I informed Ms. Cornell that I would get back to her next week. She responded back confirming my request.*

*Further, I responded to John S.'s email from Monday afternoon regarding said office space. I also copied him in my email to Leslie Kirkpatrick.*

*The reason for my request is because I would like to think this through non-emotionally and through*

*prayer. God's will, either way, will prevail. That much I do believe! If I am going to learn from the mistakes of my past, those lessons learned need to apply to the "here" and "now."*

*According to Ken Yasinski, <https://www.catholicspeaker.com/>, 33-Day Fatima Consecration to Mary, Day #21 ... each of us is called to **holiness**. This is God's will—to become Saints.*

*According to Kasinski, three steps are three principals to sainthood: 1) Sainthood is now. 2) Stay in God's will by (doing the next loving thing,) and 3) Sainthood is for all.*

*Yasinski recommends that we embrace the "here" and "now." The present moment is what really matters. God's grace is in the present moment. "Here" is where I will find God—in the moment. I believe this is what **Matthew Kelly**, founder of **Dynamic Catholic** refers to as a **Holy Moment**. It all makes sense.*

*Ken says the biggest enemy to GREAT is GOOD. As I have said on my own show, "Don't be a good neighbor. Be a GREAT neighbor, because great is better than good!" Amen. Let's do it.*  
**CM**





April 2024 / Issue 4

Everything you did not want to know. Not sorry.

# CarlosMichael360

“Tacos y Frijoles!”

Published monthly by Carlos Michael Padilla.

[www.carlosmichael.com](http://www.carlosmichael.com)