

God's Hiddden Face

La cara de Dios que no vemos

When Saint Alphonsus went to give a mission, he was told that the archbishop of the diocese would like to meet him. When he arrived, the archbishop and his host were still at their midday meal, so Alphonsus went into the castle chapel to finish his Office. The priest-son of the castle owner, meanwhile, went into the chapel to close it up and saw a shaggy looking priest, dressed in rags and with a straggly beard, sitting in the chapel. He asked the man to leave. "May I finish my Office?" asked Alphonsus, but young priest snapped at him. A table cloth had been stolen just the day before, and he suspected this vagabond priest to come to steal another. Alphonsus went out to the square in front of the castle, where he finished his prayers. When the archbishop and host family finished their meal, it was announced that he famous missionary Father Alphonsus Liguori had arrived for a visit. All went down to meet him. To the utter terror of the young priest, he discovered that Alphonsus was the beggar he had thrown out moments before. Alphonsus, however, acted as if he ha never met the young priest before, greeted him warmly, and said nothing to anyone about the incident in the chapel. Only because the young priest spoke about it did it become known. (Rey-Mermet, Saint Alphonsus Liguori, pg. 405)

Saint Alphonsus Liguouri's story makes the point clear—we should never dismiss anyone as being unimportant and always be alert to God's presence to us through others.

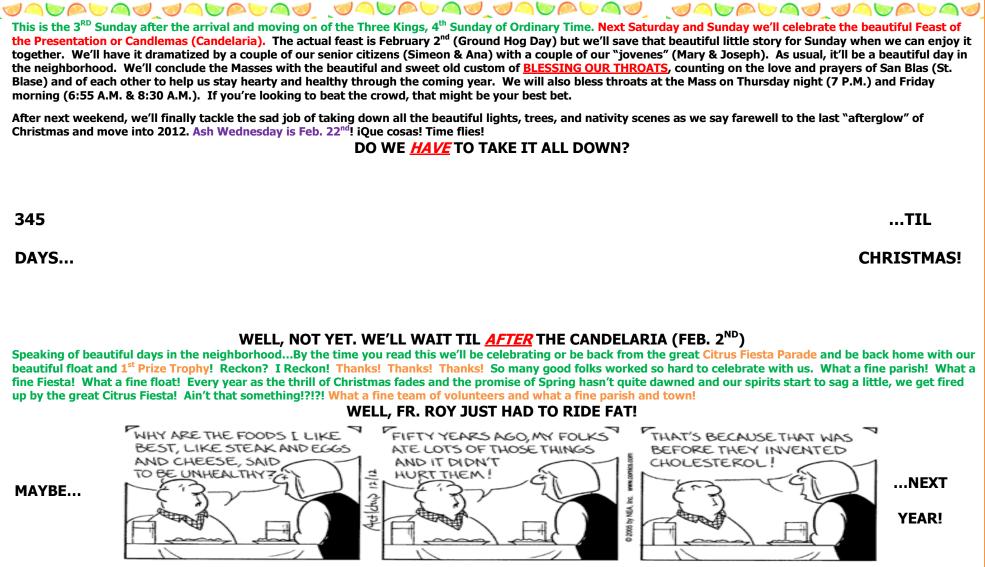




Una vez que San Alfonso fue San Alfonso fue a predicar una misión, le dijeron que el arzobispo de la diócesis quería verlo. Cuando llego, el arzobispo y sus anfitriones todavía estaban almorzando, así que Alfonso fue a la capilla del castillo para terminar el Oficio. Cuando un sacerdote que también era hijo del dueño del castillo llego para cerrar la capilla, vio a un sacerdote harapiento y con una barba descuidada sentado en la capilla. Le pidió al hombre que se fuera. "¿Puedo terminar mi Oficio?" Alfonso le pregunto, pero el joven sacerdote le contesto de mala manera. Se habían robado un mantel el día anterior y sospechaba que este sacerdote vagabundo había venido a robar otro. San Alfonso camino a la plaza frente al castillo, donde termino sus oraciones.

Cuando el arzobispo y sus anfitriones terminaron de comer, se anuncio que Alfonso Maria de Liguori, misionero famoso, había llegado de visita. Todos fueron a verlo. Y el joven sacerdote se aterrorizo cuando vio que alfonso era el vagabundo que el habia botado pocos minutos antes. Sin embargo, Alfonso atuo como si nunca hubiera conocido al joven sacerdote: lo saludo muy carinosamente y no dijo nada acerca del incidente en la capilla. Solo se supo lo que paso porque el joven sacerdote lo conto. (Rey-Mermet, *Saint Alphonsus Liguori*, pag. 405)

Este relato acerca de San Alfonso Maria de Liguori hace hincapié en el hecho de que debemos siempre estar alertas a la presencia de Dios en los demas.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School will have an Open House THIS Sunday, January 29, after the 12:30 Mass. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School offers a quality education for grades Pre-K through 6th. We really hope we will we have the interest, response, and income to go to 7th Grade. We really need and appreciate your \$upport!

Maybe you remember, but you could put it on the icebox or calendar if you're interested: Saturday, January 7, 2012, we started with a 5:30 P.M. mass. If it is well attended, as it always is, we'll keep it through March 31st, the eve of Palm Sunday.

You can pick up your Sunday envelopes at the back of the church. Please write your correct address and phone number on your envelopes so we can check and update our computer list. If you haven't used envelopes and would like to, that would tickle us plumb to death! You can get a box and register at the parish office, open seven days a week: Monday-Friday, 9:30 A.M.-6 P.M., Saturday, 9:00 A.M.-7 P.M. & Sun 8:30 A.M.-2 P.M. The coffee is always on!

O.L.G Boy Scout Troop 80 FIRST ANNUAL PANCAKE & DONUTS SALE, Sunday, February 5 7 A.M.- Noon! Y'all come!

We're on the pull tab drive again. Bring 'em in anytime! Thanks!

LIFE IS...

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it. Life is a promise, fulfill it. Life is sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is a life, fight for it. --Mother Teresa

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: \$16,709.98

Our great Citrus Fiesta Parade is a great celebration of life here in our little (?) town. We rediscover, savor, share, and celebrate life here on the Rio Grande. It's alright... it's GREAT to be little bitty!



We will tenderly and lovingly remember all our sick friends and parishioners at all our masses this weekend. Also please remember in your prayers, <u>+Josefina Garcia</u>, <u>+Estela Vela</u>, <u>& +Roy Clarence Henry</u> who died last week, and their families in their great sorrow. Que brille para ellos la luz perpetua.

Alan Jackson sings a sweet, happy song that expresses beautifully and playfully the great theme about our little bitty lives in Christ. He didn't write it for the parade, but it's sure a good reflection for that! Maybe I should just play the song and sit down and listen! That <u>WOULD</u> be a "little bitty" sermon! "It's alright to be little bitty!"

Have a little love on a little honeymoon You got a little dish and you got a little spoon

A little bitty baby in a little bitty gown It'll grow up in a little bitty town Big yellow bus and little bitty books You know you got a job and a little bitty check Six pack of beer and television set A little bitty plan and a little bitty dream It's all part of a little bitty scheme

A little bitty house and a little bitty yard Little bitty dog and a little bitty car

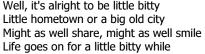
Well, it's alright to be little bitty Little hometown or a big old city Might as well share, might as well smile Life goes on for a little bitty while

LOOK AT THAT **OLD, GRAY** HAIRED, FAT GUY **ON THE BIG HORSE! IS THAT** JOHN WAYNE, **ROY ROGERS**, **GENE AUTRY, OR** MAYBE BARNEY **FIFE! GREAT DAY** IN THE **NEIGHBORHOOD!** WAY TO GO **BARNEY! TAKE CARE OF THEM KNEES!**

It all started with a little bitty look

Well, it's alright to be little bitty Little hometown or a big old city Might as well share, might as well smile Life goes on for a little bitty while Little bitty world goes around and around Little bit of silence and a little bit of sound

A good ole boy and a pretty little girl Start all over in a little bitty world



Every year in the dark, doldrums of the dull, down time in the dead of Winter after the Three Kings have gone and we're maybe a little bit run down, de-energized, and dejected, even though (or maybe especially because!) we might wonder if the "little bit" of strength, energy , or enthusiasm we have is really enough... We say "Let's all go out and have a big parade!" And maybe dragging our feet little bit and wondering if it's such a good idea, we go out and CELEBRATE LIFE here in our old hometown down on the Rio Grande. We see the Life Force, Love Force, of God in the juicy citrus & in the juicy and dry times of our lives! When it's over, we're all fired up and reenergized, full of zeal and looking forward to the future. Even old grouches like Fr. Roy say, "Man that was fun!" We might also say, "I'm glad we don't have to do it again till next year!" But we sure say, "What a great parade! What a great parish! What a great town! What a great life! Que Cosas!