



DEACON DAVID LOCHBIHLER, J.D.

JOYFUL SOLITUDE

ORTHODOX LOGOS PUBLISHING

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by Deacon David Lochbihler, J.D.

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To Millie Ruth



A Poem for Mass

by

Millie Ruth Frazier

I raise my eyes and turn towards the Altar,

I bow my head and pray!

Glory be to the Father,

and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end! Amen.

I kneel to take Communion.

I am heavy.

I am weak.

I am dirty and scared.

But when I take Communion

I am clean,

I am light,

I am strong,

and I am full of hope.

I know God is with me!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A heartfelt thank you to His Grace Bishop John for ordaining me to the Holy Diaconate at Saint Patrick Orthodox Church while celebrating the Feast of Saint Patrick on Sunday 17 March 2019 and His Grace Bishop Thomas for being such a true and faithful friend to our church community for many years. God grant you both many years.

After receiving the Master of Arts degree in Applied Orthodox Theology from Balamand University and the Antiochian House of Studies on Thursday 31 August 2017, I reflected upon my five superb summers at the Antiochian Village in Bolivar, Pennsylvania. The words of both Bishops John and Thomas at the Village and other holy gatherings during the years continue to touch my heart.

Although “many distractions call us away from God, the call to holiness makes us authentic. The world is looking for authenticity.”¹ In our everyday lives, Bishop John offered superb advice by challenging us to “become invisible so that Christ in us can be seen.”² In this regard, we need to “listen more and talk less.”³ In discerning our vocation, “God knows what you need even better than you do. God sees you outside

¹ His Grace Bishop John, Western Rite Vicariate Conference, 9 August 2018, St. Peter Orthodox Church, Fort Worth, TX, Lecture.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

time. He sees the big picture and knows best where you can serve Him.”⁴

Bishop Thomas enjoys talking about our Orthodox churches and schools. The Orthodox Church is “a hospital of sinners to save souls.”⁵ A former educator, Bishop Thomas understands how important it is that “the children in our schools are trained to remain upright citizens in the kingdom of God.”⁶ We are blessed at Saint Patrick to be finishing the second year of our new Orthodox school. The children at this superb school are immersed in prayer. As one fourth-grade scholar describing a typical day wrote to me, “First we do Prime or Mass, then we do our Morning Litany, and then we read about our Saint.”⁷ In a subsequent letter, this Orthodox student wrote, “I love Prime & Mass. My prayer life with Jesus and Mary is magnificent.”⁸

I am eternally grateful to Metropolitan Kallistos Ware of blessed memory, Father Peter Gillquist of blessed memory, his beloved wife Khouria Marilyn Gillquist, and Father Alexander Atty of blessed memory for guiding and inspiring me during my wondrous Orthodoxy journey.

My family gathered last summer to celebrate Mom’s one hundredth birthday, and there is much joy whenever I visit

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ His Grace Bishop Thomas, Antiochian House of Studies, 3 September 2015, Antiochian Village Conference Center, Bolivar, PA, Graduation Banquet.

⁶ His Grace Bishop Thomas, Antiochian House of Studies, 2 September 2015, Antiochian Village Conference Center, Bolivar, PA, Lecture.

⁷ Millie Ruth Frazier, Letter to David Lochbihler, 13 September 2022.

⁸ Millie Ruth Frazier, Letter to David Lochbihler, 11 September 2022.

with my older siblings Fred, Lyn, and Vince and their families. A special welcome to our family's two latest additions. Frederick Fuechee Lochbihler V is the son of my nephew Frederick Karlman IV and Tania Xiong, the grandson of my brother Frederick Vincent III, Notre Dame Class Valedictorian of 1973, the great-grandson of my beloved father and best friend Frederick Louis II (1910-1983) of blessed memory, and the great-great-grandson of my grandfather Frederick Joseph (1879-1949) of blessed memory. Frederick Fuechee's baby sister Leilala Hli Nra joined the Lochbihler family on Friday 1 July 2022. You may catch Fuechee's smile on the back cover of this publication!

The wonder-filled people of Saint Patrick Orthodox Church are simply the best. Thank you to Father Patrick Cardine, Deacon Douglas King, and all the Sons of Saint Patrick, our superb Subdeacons, magnificent Masters of Ceremony, terrific Thurifers, amazing Acolytes, and brilliant Boat Bearers. The camaraderie within our Sacristy nurtures a holy bond of lifelong friendship. Our brilliant choir led by gifted music directors Khouria Kerrie Cardine and Jacob Lash and our prayerful parishioners in the pews continually bring immense joy to my heart.

Professional and collegial thanks to David and Jo Thoburn, Dean of Students Anthony Pangle, Dean of Operations Angela Etter, Dean of Academics Isabel Craun, fourth-grade colleague Kimberly Dow, Cardinal Chess colleague Benjamin Garber, and our exceptional scholars at The Fairfax Christian School in Dulles, Virginia, the finest school in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Let me share a most joyful fourth-grade classroom experience from earlier this year. Mom recently called me at school while I taught my fourth-grade students. We are not supposed to take personal calls at school, but even

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deacon David Lochbihler, J.D., celebrates ten years since his Chrismation at Saint Patrick Orthodox Church during the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday 8 September 2013. He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on Sunday 17 March 2019 during the Feast of Saint Patrick. Besides serving at Saint Patrick Orthodox Church, Deacon David teaches fourth grade at The Fairfax Christian School in Virginia. After graduating *summa cum laude* from the University of Notre Dame and *cum laude* from the University of Texas School of Law, Deacon David worked as a Chicago attorney for three years before becoming a teacher and coach for three decades. He earned Master's degrees in Elementary Education, Biblical Studies, and Orthodox Theology. His varsity high school basketball and soccer teams captured four N.V.I.A.C. conference championships. He authored *Prayers to Our Lady East and West* (2021), *The Joy of Orthodoxy* (2022), and *Our Orthodox Holy Family: A Joyful Journey with Jesus and Mary* (2023).





PRAYERS TO OUR LADY EAST AND WEST

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THE JOY OF ORTHODOXY

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DEACON DAVID LOCHBIHLER, J.D.

OUR ORTHODOX HOLY FAMILY:

A JOYFUL JOURNEY WITH JESUS AND MARY

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Joyful Solitude explores both the effects of the global pandemic upon people of faith and how best to respond to the challenges and crises in our lives. The Apostle Paul, a prisoner facing the threat of Roman execution, authored epistles calling the faithful to rejoice despite living amidst the direst circumstances. Combining theological research and sincere storytelling, Deacon David offers a way to experience this joy by immersing ourselves fully into the liturgical and sacramental life of the Orthodox Church.

