



## ***Some Thoughts for June***

**By Marge Loenser**

The month of June gets its name from the Romans, "Juno," queen of the Roman gods. The Romans considered it good luck to be married in June. Now we know where the tradition of June brides comes from. We also celebrate graduates this month, and of course we have lovely roses blooming everywhere! Thank you, Jesus. Each flower may well just be Your thought of love for us.

June is the month we especially venerate the Sacred Heart of Jesus. On Friday June 11, we celebrate with Mass, the solemnity of the Sacred Heart. Remember this hymn? "Sweet Heart of Jesus, fount of love and mercy, today we come, thy blessings to implore, oh touch our hearts, so cold and so ungrateful and make them Lord, thine own forever more! Sweet Heart of Jesus, we implore, Oh, make us love Thee more and more...."

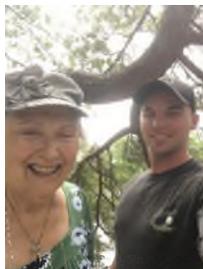
The next day it is so fitting that we celebrate the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose heart was so entwined with the Heart of her Son. Mother Mary keep us close to Jesus.

St. Anthony of Padua is usually celebrated on the 13th, but this June the feast falls on a Sunday. Anyway, "St. Anthony, St. Anthony please stay around as something is usually lost and must be found!" A constant prayer for us seniors.

I'd like to talk about St. Charles L. Wanga and his companion martyrs, which we celebrate on the third. At the end of the 1800's the Society of Missionaries of Africa had converted many natives, including Charles and his companions who served on the court of the tribal lord. This lord was in the habit of forcing himself on his young male pages. Under penalty of death, he demanded that Charles and 17 companions renounce their Christian faith. These young men along with some Anglican converts refused and were burned to death. One of them predicted: "A well which has many sources never runs dry. When we are gone, others will come after us." By 1890 there were some 12,000 converts in southern Uganda.

The feast of St. Peter and St. Paul falls on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Both of these great early leaders of the church were just normal human beings with shortcomings just like us before their encounter with Jesus and later His Holy Spirit. Peter was presumptuous, fearful and a betrayer. Paul was self-righteous and thought himself justified for killing those following the resurrected Christ. It took humility and repentance to ready these men for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And baptized in the Holy Spirit they were!! St. Peter and St. Paul, continue to pray for our church. Even though we experience fractures and diverse factions, we must never forget the church was founded by Jesus and it will last forever. "The gates of hell will not prevail against it!"

Happy June, God bless us each one. Love Marge



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Marks Church in Sea Girt where she is Lector and Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at St. Marks. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for St. Marks Bulletin.