

# God is Good!

by Eddy Simon, Lay Missionary



"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called the children of God." (1st letter of John). I read that line as I sat in my room and I was struck by it. It stopped me. I intended to write this article around it but it's so profound that I'm not sure I should even say anything else. The God of all creation who made all things seen or unseen, the Almighty and Eternal One, he has given us the gift of life! He has brought us into existence out of nothing with the capacity to actually know Him. This is the whole point of our lives. God made us for Himself. We were made to be his children. This is huge!

There is a guy I see on T.V. sometimes who says his car sales are huge. That's not huge. GOD is huge! Don't get me wrong, I'm not implying that this man on T.V. is comparing himself to God. But, the truth is we live in a world that's bombarding our senses non-stop with things that don't really matter or just plain aren't true at all. What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? If we go through our whole life and don't get to know God ourselves then we've missed the whole point. I don't mean get to know "about" God. Lots of people know at least something "about" God. But far too few get to know Him in a personal way.

The world is so full of distractions. I don't think there has been a time in history where the power and magnitude of distractions has ever been so great. Do this, buy that, look at our beautiful hotel, come stay here, go in style, fly with us. I wonder how many billions of dollars we spend each year just to color our hair. Distractions are something that cause your focus or attention to turn away from the point. The point of our lives is to know God. God made us for Himself, to be with Him forever in Paradise. He made us to share in His love which is unspeakable joy and peace into eternity!

The world is like a man who started out on a good path. But then as he traveled along he was met with many distractions to the right and to the left (no political pun intended). He began to wander off to satisfy his curiosity about these things. At first he didn't wander far. But, each time he followed one distraction he was soon drawn by another even greater. This continued until he found himself on such a frenzied pursuit that he began to go mad. At this point he stopped, but only to realize that he had gone so far that he no longer had any idea where the path was. He was lost. I recognize this dilemma because this man was me.

In the midst of this madness God called to my heart. Actually, God is always calling to my heart as He is calling to all of us. I should say (more accurately), in the midst of this madness I finally heard Him and listened. In His great compassion and mercy, He forgave me for my selfish wanderlust, for squandering the gift of perfect love He had offered me, for putting so many lesser things before the path to Him. Then He brought me back to the path I was meant to be on; the path to God. Is He calling to your heart today? Tomorrow is promised to no one. Don't miss your chance to "See what love the Father has given us that we should be called the children of God."

## What does a Missionary Look Like?



Dave Topor is a familiar face to many who come to St. Luke's! He is the Director of Religious Education for the Mission, including Generations of Faith, CCD, and RCIA. He is also director of the Good Shepherd Residence, our home for men in recovery from various addictions. Dave is responsible for volunteer groups during the holiday seasons and is in charge of the Junior Associate program. Quite frankly, Dave is always on the run, ready to tackle any task! His hands are in so many activities that he rarely gets a moment's rest, yet he always has a warm greeting for everyone he meets!



### "Priests for Life" founder Father Frank Pavone visits St. Luke's!

Thanks to the wonderful work of the Diocesan Director of Pro-Life Activities, Mrs. Dawn Iacono, Fr. Frank Pavone traveled to Buffalo for a whirlwind visit to several churches, speaking to the faithful champions for the cause of life in our Diocese, including a wonderful gathering of priests. Included on his tour was St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, where he led us in the Chaplet and an uplifting reflection during the Hour of Great Mercy. St. Luke's is truly blessed to have been visited by many modern day saints and prophets over the years, and Fr. Pavone certainly ranks highly among them! Lay Missionary David Marciniak interviewed Fr. Pavone in the studios of the Station of the Cross during the daily call-in show, "Calling All Catholics". The program was heard in Buffalo, Rochester and Scranton / Wilkes Barre. Fr. Pavone spoke warmly of his visit and prayed that our work would continue and be fruitful!

[www.stlukesmissionofmercy.org](http://www.stlukesmissionofmercy.org)

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