

avored the weight of the paper. He thought that obviously, there was something wrong with the scale, but when he removed the piece of paper, the weight of the meat rushed downward. Then replacing the piece of paper on the scale, the meat bounced upward, and the piece of paper swiftly down.

"Removing both items, he again checked the mechanism of the scale, and then weighed several other items, and the scale proved to be exactly accurate.

"Finally, the butcher reversed the items, putting the paper on the left, and the large piece of meat on the right, and again, the paper proved to weigh *more* than the meat.

Exasperated, the butcher said kindly to the woman, 'What do you want my good woman... must I give you a whole leg of mutton?'

The butcher and the captain suddenly realized that the **Mass was invaluable**. In that instant, they both *received the grace* to understand that *the value of one Mass cannot be calculated*.

"All of this so impressed the butcher that he was converted, and promised to freely give the woman her daily ration of meat. He kept his promise, and soon other poor folks also came for free portions... but also the people of near-by towns heard of his generosity and fine quality of products, and his business flourished more than it ever had before.

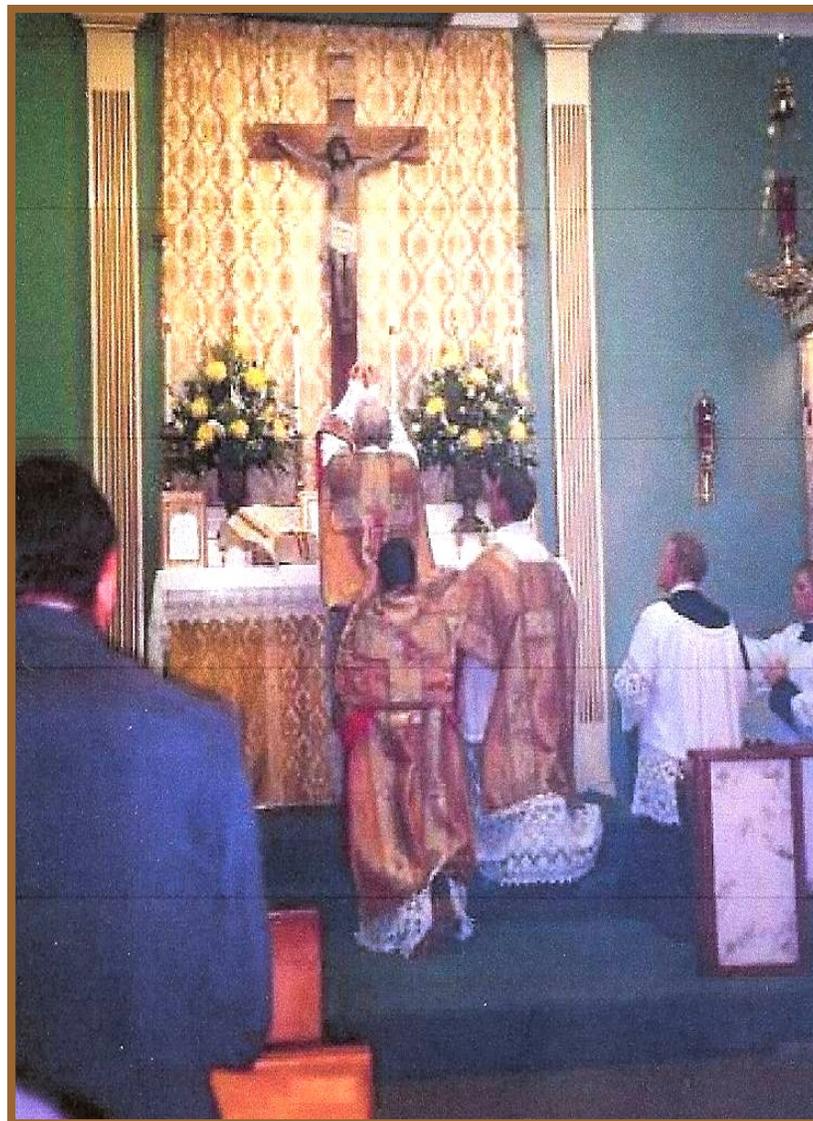
"My father, the captain, went to Mass the very next day, and *another* grace was given to him. He was able to *distinctly perceive Jesus in the Eucharist*, and from the next day on, **all of our family went to daily Mass**.

"It was never the same in our home again. The *happiness that we all felt was tremendous*, and we began to love God and each other more. Our home became like *a little Heaven*, and I am most certain, that both my parents now wait for me there."

\*(excerpted from The Medjugorje Herald by Sr. Mary Veronica Murphy)

## Mass

(the value of one Mass cannot be calculated)



*"The happiness that we all felt was tremendous."*

## The Captain and the Mass

\***F**ather Stanislaus, a Father of the Sacred Heart (SS. CC.), had a brother who was a Jesuit priest. Their father was the Captain of the Forest Guards in a little town in Luxembourg, and he was a daily communicant.

**I**n speaking with Fr. Stanislaus about his childhood, I said to him, "How fortunate you were to be brought up in such a religious Roman Catholic family, that afforded to give the world two sons as priests."

"**Y**es", he said, "but it was not always that way. When we were very young, my father was a fallen away Catholic, and although my mother was still prayerful, because of my Father's wishes, none of us ever attended Mass, even on Sundays."

**I** said, "Oh my! How rare for this to have happened. You have me fascinated as to how your religious vocations came about."

"**I**t was not until one day, when my father spent an afternoon with the butcher in his shop, that changed him... and what happened that day was the means of his conversion."

"**T**he butcher shop!" I responded. "A conversion in the butcher shop! What happened?"

"**W**ell, you see," Fr. Stanislaus said, "the two men were the best of friends from childhood, and while, as usual, they were engrossed in deep conversation, a poor elderly woman entered the shop."

"**T**he butcher broke off the conversation with my father to ask the old woman what she wanted. She had come to beg for a



"**M**y father was amused at the conversation which ensued between the poor woman and the butcher, and he listened attentively.

"**W**ell," said the butcher, 'only a little meat... but I need to know how much you can pay me,' She responded, 'I am sorry, but I have no money at all... but, I am just going to Mass, and if you want, I will offer the Mass for your intentions.'

"**S**ince both the butcher and my father were good men (but they were both very indifferent towards religious matters, especially those pertaining to the Holy Mass and the Roman Catholic Church), they at once began to scoff at the old woman's answer.

### The Worth Of One Mass

"**A**ll right then,' said the butcher, 'here is a piece of paper,' on which he wrote, "*I heard and offered my Mass for you.*" The butcher told her, 'You go and hear Mass for me, and when you come back, give this paper back to me and I will give you as much meat as the Mass is worth.'

"**O**ff she went to Mass, smiling and happy. She *knew* the Good God would help her. An hour or so later when she returned, she approached the counter. The butcher seeing her, said, 'All right then, hand me the paper, and we will see how much your Mass for me was worth.'

"**S**he handed him the paper, and he placed it on the right side of the scale. On the left side, he placed a little piece of bone, but the paper proved to be heavier. Then he removed the bone, and placed a small piece of meat on the left side. Still the right side was lower and heavier. Then he placed a larger piece of meat on the left balance, but still the paper held its own.

"**A**t this point, both men were beginning to feel ashamed of their mockery, but the butcher continued on with the game. Now placing an extremely large piece of meat on the scale, it still