



Rev. Rick Frachette

Solemn Novena 07-19-26

I was looking at the beautifully redone images of Saints Ann and Joachim and you'll notice Joachim with his humble pigeons and the Saint Ann so tender, but you'll notice the eyes of Mary are very glossed over and they're looking up as if he's looking beyond everything and trying to understand that. Trying to understand it is the exact phrase the scriptures tell us. He grew in wisdom and grace.

She grew in it. As Father Jack was saying yesterday, we cannot park our understanding of the divine mysteries in the fifth grade classroom. We also grow in wisdom and grace.

We have to keep growing and learning. It's an important part of what we hope to be a reminder of the traditions of our faith as to how to live in this world full of weeds, full of wheat. We hope that what we say to you these days is a reminder of how to do it.

Yesterday when I spoke the other day, it was about the power of mercy and good works. How essential they are to our way. Today we're going to continue more to discuss the art of living and move, like I said, into the art of fighting and the art of uniting and the art of dying.

We're talking about how to walk along a way through this life which produces fruit that will last. Let's talk about the very beginning of the journey, because for some people, it's very difficult. Not long ago, a woman came to us in her tranche, as we say in Creole, she was in her contractions of labor, and she was screaming and screaming, and I thought they were

labor pains that were making her scream, but as I listened more to her, she was scared to death for her baby to be born into this world.

She was crying out to the baby, stay in there, stay in there, don't come out into this hell. She was pressing her legs together to close the birth canal so that the child wouldn't come out. It was pitiful when Father Jack was talking about the voices, the negative voices that are always there, what a collection of voices she has inside of herself that would make her think stay inside, I'll take good care of you, it's what she was saying.

I'll take good care of you, stay inside, don't come out into this hell. Oh my god, I had never seen anything like that. I still get choked up thinking about it.

And so we started talking to her, please, please, calm down, please, please, repent. You're a sinner, get on the right track, repent, think about something else, think differently, think differently, we're here with you. Your child can't stay inside.

Once the time is up for delivery, if the child stays inside, the child dies and starts to get reabsorbed. Please, please, you can't think, we're here with you, we're here with you, we will help you. Relax, please, and the midwives massaging her belly and trying to calm her down.

And what was remarkable, and this is spiritual power, suddenly I was a father and this was my daughter, I don't even know her. And suddenly I am really her father. Or her big brother. Or certainly bound to her. Everything changed. And everybody around was suddenly her family, we were really her family.

And in the same way the dark clouds in the sky that are menacing can suddenly become beautiful and calming skies, in the same way this is spiritual power. Something else started happening to her inside. She could trust, we helped her to understand, it's a we.

It's not just you, it's not your baby, it's a we. We understand why you want your baby to stay, we fully understand why you want your baby to stay inside. We get it.

But your baby can't stay inside, we have to go forward and if we go forward together, it works. People of good spirit, people of good heart, people who stay bound together, it works. And so she repented, she rethought and the whole scene became something else.

Not just about a terrorized mother who wanted to keep her baby inside but she started to trust and the baby was born. In her mind, like Father Jack said, in her mind the baby was born to die. In our mind the baby was born to live and in her mind it became that.

The baby was born to live. Produce fruit that will last. This is a dramatic story from my life, you have your stories, you know how true they are, you know what a difference you can make in the life of somebody just by your words, just by your solidarity, just by offering hope, just by being with them.

It's powerful, this is spiritual power. The internet can't do that for you, artificial intelligence can't do that for you, there is no technology, there's no app for that. There's no app for being a person rooted in God who understands God is a trinity, we are a community, we are all in this together.

We repent and it works out by God's blessing. The English word is how many minutes do I have left? The English word is repent, the Greek word is metanoia, a change of your whole mind but the Aramaic word, Jesus' word, the word Jesus used when he said it is toun, t-o-u-n and it means turn back, turn to God and the full word soon live, turn to God with all your heart, that's the first secret, you want to know how to live, the art of living in this world, turn to God with all your heart, that's the start, even when the beginning is rough, that is the start. I'm afraid of giving bad images about Haiti by my stories, let me tell you what Haiti is.

Haiti is 13 million wonderful people who don't have a chance to live because of 7,000 brigands, bandits and terrorists, that's what Haiti is and I want to show you something. Daniel and Samuel, would you please come up here with me. Thanks to Father Hugo Esparza of our western province and Father Enzo Del Broco of this province, we have our first two Haitian Passionists.

These are people whose beginning was difficult and who turned to God and who turned to the Passionists and are finally professed and a few years shy of ordination and ready to dive in. This is the real Haiti and we want to join our voices in a simple song, a simple song in Creole which is of praise to the Blessed Virgin Mary as we continue our Novena. Novena.

Novena. Novena. Novena.

Novena. Novena. Once more today, let us turn with all of our hearts to God.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Amen.

Thank you. Thank you. Nice job.

Amen.