

for each! Canon Law 687 states: "... Religious life, as a consecration of the **whole** person, manifests in the Church the **marvelous marriage** established by God as a sign of the world to come. Religious thus consummate **a full gift of themselves**, as a **sacrifice** offered to God so that their **whole** existence becomes **a continuous worship of God in charity...**"

The second holy card enclosed is a picture of **the Mystery of the Transfiguration** of a stained glass window in St. Teresa's Church in Beresford SD. My Grand-Uncle – Fr. John Joseph Henchey [called 'Fr. Joe' by the family] – was ordained in June of 1901, said his First Mass at St. Charles' in Woburn a week later – and died very suddenly in early December of that same year, 1901, while serving at St. Teresa's.

Furthermore, the Stigmatine Founder – **St. Gaspar Berti** [1777-1853] - was an invalid for nearly 25 years – he would often pray in a little Chapel of the Transfiguration, next to his room – and also gave directed Retreats there. Like **Laetare Sunday**, a day of rejoicing in the midst of Lent – the **Transfiguration** was a day of joy to encourage the early Church in difficult times; and the **Sacred Stigmata** were inflicted on Good Friday in great sorrow – and retained in the glorious Resurrection of Easter, as the source of the Apostolic Mission [cf. Jn 20:21, ff.].

Please come to my **Golden Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving, Sunday, at St. Anthony's Church, Woburn MA, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m.** – to rejoice in family, Stigmatine and Parish memories and hopes. God love you all – let us continue to pray for each other.

Sincerely in the Lord's Most Sacred Wounds,

**Fr. Joe**

Joseph C. Henchey, CSS



*Euntes Docete*  
*Euntes Docete*

[Mt 28:19, f.]

**Go Forth and Teach**

**Golden Jubilee of  
Priestly Ordination**

**Rev. Joseph Charles Henchey, CSS**

1956

July 1

2006

**Celebration on:  
March 26, 2006**

January 23, 2006  
Feast of Holy Spouses

My dear friends,

This year [the actual date is July 1<sup>st</sup>] I am celebrating 50 years as a Stigmatine Priest. With my family, and the Stigmatine Community, and the parish Community of St. Anthony's, Woburn MA Rte 38, going from Rte 128 toward Lowell, less than one mile], please come to share with me in a Mass of Thanksgiving, on ***Laetare Sunday [March 26] 2006, at 1:00 p.m.***

The Stigmatine Seal [first page, upper left-hand corner] was authorized in 1923 by our late Fr. General, Very Rev. Fr. John B. Zupa, CSS. From 1949-1950, he was my much revered Novice Master. The seal may be 'read':

- The **stars** are a reminder of the heavens which bespeak, chant the glory of God [Ps 19] - like the apostles, for whose feasts this Psalm is so often used, '... their voice goes out through all the earth, and their message to the ends of the earth...!' [cf. v. 4]. This is the ideal of the Apostolic Missionary, ***going anywhere in the diocese and the world, for any ministry of the Word of God whatsoever.*** These are the Sacred Stigmata of Our Lord Jesus Christ, "by whose wounds ours are healed...!" [cf. Is 53:5; 1 P. 2: 21, ff.] - 'I bear the marks of the Lord!' [cf. Ga 2:20], says St. Paul, 'it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives within me.' These are presented to us in the form of a **Cross**, our only hope! Luke speaks of the **Wounds** in the hands and the feet [cf. Lk 24:39] - John also mentions the Wound in the side, as it is stated twice that he had reclined there next to Jesus [cf. Jn 13:23, f.; 21:20]. The old Latin saying might indeed apply here: ***through life's challenges to the stars.***

- The bright **blue** is the color of the sky and the life beyond - the color of the sea, crossed by the Apostolic Missionaries to the far reaches of the globe - for about 190 years of our history as a Congregation. Blue is 'celestial' in several

senses of the word: the appearance of 'the wide blue yonder' has long been an inspiration to pilots, cosmonauts, and also an invitation: if Christ has risen, let your thoughts be above! - this is the footstool of the most Holy God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the ICON of the OT meeting with the three Angels [cf. Gn 18:1, ff.], the Russian artist, Rublev, has used blue as the color in common with these three heavenly visitors - the OT Trinity is depicted in blue is the common color of their Trinitarian divinity.

- The bright **red** is the challenge of the Precious Blood, the Price of our Redemption, of faith, martyrdom, perseverance - a reminder of the presence of the Holy Spirit, in an ever renewed Pentecost for the New Millennium. This is the color of **total self-giving**, even to the shedding of one's own blood. OT Redemption was achieved through the divine intervention, allowing the chosen people to cross on a high-way through the waters on dry land - this Sea of Reeds would be represented in Jesus' trial, as they placed a reed in His hand [cf. Mk 15:36] - or again, on the Cross, when they offered Him a sponge on a reed [cf. Jn 19:29]. Like John the Baptist, we are not meant to be 'reeds swayed by the wind' [cf. Lk 7:24] - but, with Mary, Spouse of Joseph, to stand by the Cross of Christ [cf. Jn 19:25]. This is the appeal of perseverance.

- The **silver** band is also the sign of some maturity - and a sad reminder that Jesus was betrayed for a mere 30 pieces. It is the sign of humble value, and with gold is purified in the fires of trial and tribulation - as St. Gaspar Bertoni, presented in the words of Pope Paul VI, as one who suffered 'atrociously' in his service of God. While suffering can be Punishment for sin - it is also Pedagogical [the 'School of God']; it is mysteriously Redemptive; Eschatological, indicating that we do not have here a lasting home; as well as being Purifying, and Uniting one to Jesus Christ .

- The **white lilies** indicate our Heavenly Patrons, Mary and Joseph - who were committed to the development of the corporal life of Jesus - these are the Models of service, total commitment, self-giving to Christ. For the Stigmatine, these heavenly intercessors are an inspiration for our ***service of the Church through the Bishops.*** White is the liturgical color for the Resurrection, the Eucharist, Pastors, Doctors and Doctoresses of the Church, as well as for Holy Men and Women - rich symbols all, challenges