



March 2015 NEWSLETTER

SAINT OF THE MONTH: BLESSED CECILIA EUSEPI

DEAR CHALLENGE CLUB LEADERS,

I hope you are all doing well. Nationally, we are working hard getting the material for the new school year. I am excited about sharing all the new things we are adding to the team leader books and to the kits for this upcoming year. You have been sending very helpful feedback over the past few months and I wanted to thank you for all the great best practices and projects you have been sending in. We have been working on finishing our new Challenge website which should go live in about a month. All of the news and stories you have sent me are posted there and will hopefully inspire other clubs. Keep sending them my way! Thanks for all you do!

Nadine McMillan
Challenge National Director

Cecilia Eusepi was born in 1910 in Italy. She was the youngest of 11 children. She had a life story very similar to St Therese of the Little Flower Jesus. As a teenager, she received special permission from the bishop to live and study with the nuns. She hoped to become a missionary abroad but her poor health prevented her from pursuing that dream. When she was 16 she found out that she had tuberculosis. While she was sick and dying, she loved reading the writings of St Therese of Lisieux and a local priest asked Cecilia to keep a spiritual diary of her own life. This diary showed the amazing friendship that she had with Jesus. She once wrote, "One day, I happened to read the story of Theresa of Lisieux. I read it all in one go and it moved me to tears ... I really did not understand much of it ... but I did grasp one thing immediately: that holiness is not in the greatness and extraordinary nature of works and deeds ... not everyone can aspire to that kind of holiness ... and I felt in my heart that this was the road I ought to travel." Cecilia did just that. She lived a very simple kind of holiness in the 18 years she lived on the earth, being a good daughter, friend, student and most importantly a faithful follower of Christ. While she was dying, she was frequently visited by members of Catholic Action and seminarians and priests who sometimes asked her for her opinion on their homilies. She died singing hymns to the Virgin Mary, on the date that she had predicted she would die. People said her funeral was like the feast day of a saint. Eusepi was declared blessed by Pope Benedict in 2012.

YOU CAT # OF THE MONTH:

#40: CAN GOD DO ANYTHING?

IS HE ALMIGHTY?

"For God nothing is impossible" (Lk 1:37). He is almighty. Anyone who calls on God in need believes that he is all-powerful. God created the world out of nothing. He is the Lord of history. He guides all things and can do everything.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH:

Confidence

The definition of hope is described as the desire of something together with the expectation of obtaining it. For a Christian, our hope is heaven and being with God. Hope is the foundation for our confidence in God and in ourselves. We can be confident that God keeps his promises.

"DO NOT BE AFRAID TO GO AND TO BRING CHRIST INTO EVERY AREA OF LIFE, TO THE FRINGES OF SOCIETY, EVEN TO THOSE WHO SEEM FARTHEST AWAY, MOST INDIFFERENT."

- Pope Francis

"PRAYER IS, FOR ME, AN OUTBURST FROM THE HEART; IT IS A SIMPLE GLANCE DARTED UPWARDS TO HEAVEN." -ST THERESE OF LISIEUX



MARCH FAQs

ANSWERS TO A FEW QUESTIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM CLUB LEADERS THIS MONTH

1- ANY IDEAS OR BEST PRACTICES OF THINGS TO DO FOR LENT OR EASTER WITH MY CHALLENGE GROUP? There are some simple but effective activities you can do with your Challenge group in the remaining weeks of lent like having a lenten half day retreat, praying the stations of the cross as a group or participating in the parish stations. Going to the sacrament of confession as a team on the same day is also a great idea to foster the love for the sacrament during this time of lent.. In terms of service, Lent is a time to go out of our comfort zone and give to others, so hopefully the girls have the opportunity to do a service project, or even something as simple as organizing a Stations of the Cross for children at the parish, using the books we sent out last month. For Easter, you can look around the parish and see what needs exist – like decorating the Church, or helping with meal for the RCIA candidates who come into the Church. Holy Week is a time to make people aware of God’s love for them so see what you can do to support the activities are your parish – like the stations on Good Friday . See what is already being offered around you to see if you can help out. Check with local Catholic Charities or diocesan organizations to see what needs they have. Even something as simple as making Easter Baskets for children’s hospitals would work. The sky is really the limit!

2 WHEN WILL THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION BEGIN FOR NEXT YEAR? Early Bird registration will start in April as we do every year. We will be offering the same discount - \$100 off for those who register and renew their clubs early. All of the material ordered in the Early bird season does not ship until July. Our full explanation of how to renew, coupons needed and what is new in the material will be sent out at the beginning of April so keep an eye out for that!

3- WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU PLANNING ON MAKING TO THE CHALLENGE MATERIALS FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR? We have started working on the new materials for the 2015-16 school year. Our curriculum will be updated and improved as we do each year. The team leader guidebooks will have new content and new service projects. As always our member kits will have a new look and feel with new content in the calendar and prayer book. Our club leader kits will also have some major changes with a new book series as well as new promo items. Another big change will be our new Challenge website to launch in April as well as our new online store. We will be sending out instructions how to renew and register on the new store, but it will be much simpler to use. The new Challenge website will have a much needed and improved news section and resource center.

OF CATHOLIC INTEREST: MARCH

POPE FRANCIS’ MESSAGE OF SERVICE

Pope Francis gives an Audience every Wed usually and speaks about a certain theme. Over the past few weeks he has been speaking about the family and on March 4th spoke about caring for the elderly. [It can be found here.](#) In Challenge we have so many projects geared at serving the elderly and this message from the Pope just emphasized what a wonderful experience it can be for the girls to reach out to those who are older or alone.

STATION OF THE CROSS WITH MARY

There are many versions of the stations of the cross to pray during Lent and it is a wonderful way to delve deeper into the passion and death of Jesus. The USCCB has recently published a new stations focused on justice and service on their website. The Vatican will soon release the text of the Stations that the Pope will pray in the Coliseum on Good Friday. Meanwhile, this special version of the stations from Mary’s perspective are also a great meditation from a mother’s perspective. [Read them here.](#)



CLUB LEADER *Monthly* Poll

Each month we will ask one question to all the club leaders and present the results of the poll the following month. It is anonymous and only one question!

FEBRUARY POLL RESULTS: WHAT KIND OF BEST PRACTICES ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN SEEING ON THE NEW CHALLENGE WEBSITE?

100% SAID SERVICE PROJECTS

MARCH POLL: WHICH SOCIAL MEDIA SITES WOULD YOU PREFER TO USE TO HEAR ABOUT CHALLENGE NEWS AND IDEAS?

- 1) PINTEREST
- 2) CHALLENGE & CONQUEST FACEBOOK PAGE
- 3) TWITTER
- 4) LINKED IN CHALLENGE GROUP

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WXTVKY6>



BEST PRACTICES: TEAM LEADER PEARLS IN DC

The Challenge clubs in DC had a great idea for team leader training last month. It's a great example of how to help your team leaders learn how to lead a meeting without distractions – but it is presented in a very positive and creative way. Caroline Lucas shared the idea and explanation. "One of our club moms made this cute story/ acronym for our team leaders this past week. She gave me a simple plastic pearl worn on clear wire for each of them, symbolizing keeping their 'pearl' of love for Christ, free from and prized above all else." The following text was given to the team leaders with the pearls.

The Ocean Pearl story: When a simple grain of sand enters into the living membrane of an oyster, it causes the oyster irritation. The oyster's reaction is to coat that grain of sand with a substance called nacre. Over time, the layers of nacre build up and become a pearl. Our Pearl story for being a Challenge leader: We are like the grain of sand when we come to God. He takes us as we are, and through the challenges we encounter on our journey, He coats us with His grace. You are working on your own little Pearl. You are living and spreading God's message and our Blessed Mother has chosen you to carry His message. Your finished pearl will be a unique gift -one that no one else has. We are Pearls when we realize our great value is Christ in us, shining through our lives- spreading a positive Godly message to the younger girls. Becoming a Pearl is not always easy- The longer we stay on the right path and stay committed, the more beautiful our Pearl will become.

A Pearl of Challenge Commitment: Come to Challenge meetings with the Holy Spirit in your Hearts. Before you walk in the door, pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you. Everything outside of Challenge should be left at the door! This includes: Talking about boys & personal issues, Cell Phones should be turned off and put away, "Click chats" not allowed- move around the room and focus on the girls. Challenge Girls Club is a club for Christ's word. Your focus is Leading through Christ. He is your Challenge Leader. Get to know all the Challenge girls each week. They need your attention, and they need to see your love for God! That is why they are in Challenge.

P.E.A.R.L Guide:

"P" is for Prayer, particularly for your girls, fellow leaders and yourself.

"E" is for Eucharist. Jesus waits for you in the tabernacle night and day. Go see Jesus!!

"A" is for Acts of Love. In the Bible, Saint Paul tells us exactly what love is. He says, "Love is patient, love is kind, love is not jealous, it's not pompous, it's not rude. Love does not seek its own interest, love is not quick tempered. Love bears all things, love believes all things, love hopes in all things, and love endures all things." (1 Cor13: 4-7)

"R" is for the Rosary. The rosary should be important in your prayer life. Learn about the Rosary and its promise. Lead your girls to pray the rosary. Get to know the Blessed Mother; read about her, think about her virtue. She is God's chosen vessel. Mary has all the virtues, the beauties, and the graces of the church.

"L" is to promote Love of Christ. Read the Gospels. Get to know Jesus Christ so that He is your best friend. You need to know Him and His love for you so that you can share that love with the girls.

Your Pearl necklace: Is simple, It's not attached to any materialism-- your special unique Pearl on the wings of God. This is your Challenge name-tag. These girls know your name, now show them that you are God's Pearl!



BLESSING BAG PROJECT FOR CHALLENGE BATON ROUGE

The girls in the Challenge Baton Rouge group served the needy in their community by making "Blessing Bags" for the homeless. Emily Froeba, a theology teacher at a nearby school, spoke with the girls about her experiences working with the homeless in Baton Rouge. Her stories were very real and close to home. She helped the girls to realize that people who are homeless are people, who have a name and a story. Most importantly, she showed them how we can meet Jesus in homeless people and they can meet Jesus in us. The girls filled 100 backpacks with much needed items like fleece blankets, warm socks, etc. They also included a list of area shelters and soup kitchens and a hand decorated card letting them know that we were praying for them and that they were loved. We challenged the girls to pray for the person who would receive each bag while they were filling them. The card included the following message:

You may be down on your luck right now, but let this little bag remind you that you are WORTH SO MUCH. There are people who CARE ABOUT YOU. There is always HOPE. You are BEAUTIFUL. JESUS can always sustain you. I will be praying for you! I hope that you have a lovely day! "I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back home. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. The girls delivered the bags to the Sisters of Charity at St. Agnes who took the bags with them that very afternoon when they went out to minister to the people living under the interstate and in the streets.



CHALLENGE SUMMER CAMP INSPIRE



INSPIRE
Challenge
 summer camp 2015

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE
 18 Challenge Camps
 THIS SUMMER ACROSS THE
 US & CANADA!**

The 2015 Challenge Summer Camp theme is INSPIRE. Every day we will try to help the campers find their inspiration and be an inspiration! At camp they will have the opportunity to participate in activities to strengthen their bonds of friendship! They will enjoy prayer and spiritual growth through participation in Mass and Confession. Sports, games, workshops, team dynamics, exciting night activities, swimming and fun in the sun, are typical Challenge camp activities. To find out what activities are offered at specific camps, visit the local camp websites or download the local camp flyer.

visit our Camp Headquarters

To download camp flyers, registration forms and visit specific camp websites.

www.challengeclubs.com/girls/events

18 Camps Across the US & Canada

Michigan
 Michigan Challenge Inspire Camp
 Queen of Family – Oxford, MI
 June 24th - 30th, 2015
 Contact: Yvonne Fontaine
 yfontaine@regnumchristi.net
 www.queenofthefamily.org

North Carolina
 He Knows My Name Camp
 Hobbs Farm – Milton, NC
 Session 1: June 22nd - 28th, 2015
 Session 2: July 6th - 12th, 2015
 Contact: Dominique Shaban
 dshaban@allison.ca

Ontario
 Camp Camino
 Laxar & Ontario, Canada
 August 1st - 7th, 2015
 Contact: Heidi Krol
 michaelkrol@explorac.com

Wisconsin
 Chicagoland Challenge Camp
 Sky Lodge – Montello, WI
 July 5th - 10th, 2015
 Contact: Saira Herboth
 ecyls.chicagoland@gmail.com
 www.rccchicago.org

Texas
 Challenge Dallas Camp
 Briarwood Center, Argyle, TX
 June 14th - 20th, 2015
 Contact: Veronique Chevrier
 vchevrier@missionnetwork.com
 www.allchallenge.org

Challenge Houston Inspire Camp
 Camp Cho Yeh
 Livingston, TX
 June 28th - July 4th, 2015
 Contact: Carrie Fran
 CarrieFran@gmail.com

Washington DC
 Pure Fashion Camp DC
 Dates TBD
 Contact: Elsa Hoffman
 ehoffman@purefashion.us

*Affiliated camp with specific theme.

ORDERING MATERIALS & SHIPPING TIMES

Our online store will be closed on April 1st for restocking of material and setting up things for the upcoming school year. It will reopen mid April. If you need to place an order, please contact customer service. When you place an order, please expect 48 hour processing time and 3-5 days shipping depending on how far you live from PA. We are now shipping with FedEx and USPS.

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

National Director: Nadine McMillan nmcmillan@missionnetwork.com

Customer Support: Anna Kulway customerservice@missionnetwork.com

1 855 556 6872



NEWSLETTER 2015