

Twice Blessed and More

“He rescued us from such great danger of death and he will continue to rescue us; in him we have put our hope that he will continue to rescue us again, as you help us with prayer so that thanks may be given by many on our behalf for the gift granted us through the prayers of many.”

(II Corinthians 1:10 and 11)

My daughter Sara’s wedding was a joyful celebration of family. Relatives from near and far were there. Anglo, African American, Burundian and Guatemalan parish members joined in the festivities. When she became pregnant all rejoiced. When it was discovered it was twins, they were ecstatic. When she encountered problems in her pregnancy, she asked for prayer and shared the boys’ names—Joshua and Zachary—and everyone prayed.

Through nine weeks of bed rest, six of them in the hospital, we all prayed and prayed. Whenever I talked to a family member or friend, they asked about the twins and continued praying. Whenever I came to church, I was assured of prayer support in English, Kirundi, and Spanish. Her husband Mike’s mother brought her a prayer shawl and sought the prayers of friends and prayer group members from out of state. My mother, who is confined to a wheel chair in a nursing home, prayed daily rosaries for them. A friend in New Zealand and another in Egypt offered prayer support as did her brother and sister-in-law in Baltimore and cousin in Switzerland. Father Dan kept her in prayer as did local communities of Jesuits who knew her and some in Detroit that she had worked with on retreats.

Sara and Mike and the boys were cradled in prayer—across distance and time zones, religious denominations and cultures. God must have been smiling at how well all were working together.



When Josh and Zack were born just three weeks early, rejoicing spanned the continents and I’m sure reached to the heavens. Only after they were born, did the doctor tell Sara that they were “miracle babies.” She said there were times when she didn’t expect them to make it. “You sure must know the right people,” she said pointing heavenward.

Though Josh and Zack are obviously gift to our family, I think they are gift to all of us who believe. There has been growth in our sense of union as both biological and parish family. I think we have

been changed by this process of interceding and working together for a common purpose.

Prayer and peaceful collaboration always bring about new life. Just think of all the “dangers of death: that could be different if we took this approach to the public arena, for example. What would happen if politicians prayed and followed their consciences in making decisions and chose

to work together on the common goal of justice and improving the lives of all strata of society? What, if instead of guns and war, we chose non-violence and prayer?

What if? Paul gives us the answer and it’s worth repeating,

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—Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate