

Christopher HOPE Highlights

THE CHRISTOPHERS

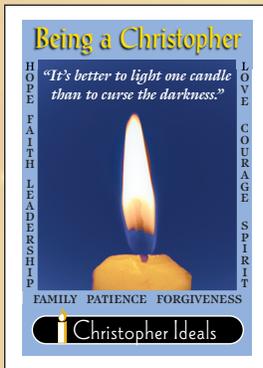
1945



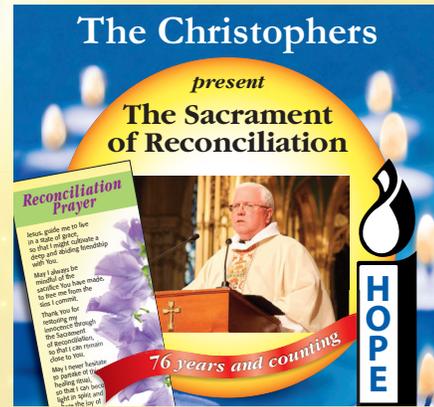
2021

76 YEARS AND COUNTING

The pamphlet **Being a Christopher** delves into the timeless values that have animated The Christophers for the past 76 years. With quotes from our founder, Father James Keller, M.M., articulating the simple yet profound wisdom of the Gospels, this publication provides a beautiful reminder of the ideals that have inspired countless people to become Christophers, which means, in essence, Christ-bearers. **Being a Christopher** is dedicated to



the many people who have been touched by our message over the years and most especially to those living in religious life, who have always provided us with such amazing feedback to inspire our mission and keep us rooted in the gentle and winning faith of Christ.



In The Christophers' latest video series, **Father Edward Dougherty, M.M.**, illuminates the spiritual gifts that await us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Featuring four short talks, this series helps us to see beyond the typical barriers that stand in the way of people's participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that we all might avail ourselves of this tremendous gift of Christ to the Church.

33rd Annual Video Contest for College Students



31st Annual Poster Contest for High School Students

The 1st Prize Winner of our **33rd Annual Video contest** is **Jillian Kay**, a broadcast journalism major at Emerson College in Boston, MA. Kay's film, "The Hug," showcases former celebrity chef Bill Bracken, who now helms a nonprofit called "Bracken's Kitchen." The motto of Bracken's organization is "delivering hope, one tasty meal at a time." It was on one such delivery that Bill Bracken was asked the question that would change his life forever. A homeless woman named Ruby asked Bill if he could give her a hug—and she wasn't the only one.



"Of the things these people needed at that moment right there," Bill observed in awe, "food, water, air, basic necessities...all they wanted was a hug...to know...that somebody cared."

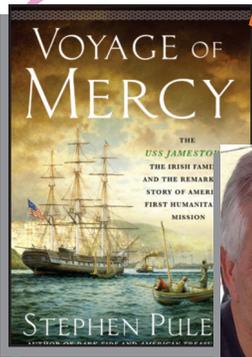
Here is the video link for Jillian Kay's first-prize winning video: <https://youtu.be/MroHmBJtQMI>

First prize in our **31st Annual Poster Contest** was awarded to homeschooled senior from Rockford, Illinois, **Alexi Ann Farrell**. Farrell's digital entry features photographs from various volunteer programs she participated in over the years, highlighting her work with youngsters who have special needs. In the center of her poster is the encouraging statement, "You can make a difference by embracing ability rather than disability."



"Although I am still uncertain of what my major will be in college, my goal once I graduate is to be able to make a difference...and...advocate for them," Farrell noted in a personal email to The Christophers. "Embracing their abilities instead of their disabilities not only gives them confidence, but also helps change society's view of people with special needs."

"Affirming the Highest Values of the Human Spirit"

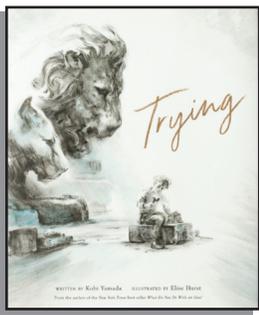


One of our six Christopher Award-winning Books for Adults is Stephen Puleo's **Voyage of Mercy**, which shares the story of the U.S. government and private citizens from all economic backgrounds leading America's first humanitarian mission in response to Ireland's 1846-47 potato famine.

One of our four Film winners is **Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton**, which profiles the priest whose gratitude for a miraculous healing led him to create a media ministry that popularized the life-changing idea, "The family that prays together stays together."



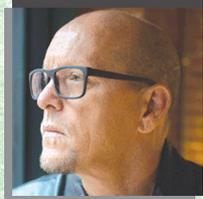
The Christopher Award-winning book in the Preschool and up category is **Trying**, written by Kobi Yamada, and illustrated by Elise Hurst. Through the simple but powerful dialogue between a seasoned older sculptor and an aspiring younger sculptor, accompanied by Hurst's stunning black and white murals, Yamada conveys the importance of not only learning from, but embracing our past failures, because it is only in failing that we learn what it truly means to succeed.



Christopher Closeup



This past year saw many notable guests on our **Christopher Closeup** radio show and podcast, guests who are living out their call to love God and neighbor. For instance, country music legend **Dolly Parton** revealed why she sees God as her "co-pilot" in life; singer **Harry Connick Jr.** discussed his reliance on the Holy Spirit's guidance; and author **Jim Wahlberg** explained how his Catholic faith—and an encounter with Mother Teresa—led him to recover from his addictions and help other families struggling with addiction issues.



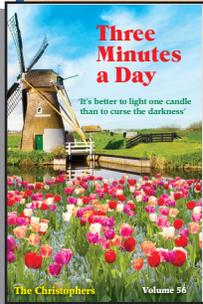
Light One Candle

Check your diocesan newspaper for the wisdom of Fr. Edward Dougherty, M.M., and Tony Rossi in The Christophers' *Light One Candle* columns, a free syndication, featuring insightful commentary on how to face everyday challenges with hope and fortitude.



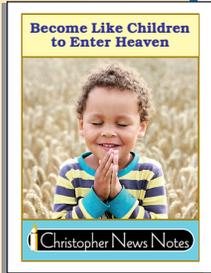
NEW Inspiration for You!

To Order: www.christophers.org or 212.759.4050 ext. 241



Three Minutes a Day (2022)
Volume 56 of our **Three Minutes a Day** will soon be available for purchase. Featuring positive news stories and reflections for every day, this annual book is an uplifting Christmas gift that keeps on giving all year round. May the light of Christ illuminate your hearts and minds, this blessed holiday season and always.

One of our upcoming News Notes, **Become Like Children to Enter Heaven**, shows, through real-life examples, that adopting a "childlike faith" does not mean acting childishly, but rather retaining the purest and most unspoiled traits of being a child—resiliency, unbridled joy, gratitude, and above all, a deep and unquestioning faith in God and in the inherent goodness of the world at large.



Our print materials bring hope on a daily basis to people in prison. This continues to be a vital aspect of our outreach and one we are called to by the Gospel, as Christ so poignantly notes of those who serve the poor, the downtrodden, the outcast, and those in prison: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

The Christopher Leadership Workshop

Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois

The Christophers are looking ahead to hosting our Leadership Course once again at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/ Mundelein Seminary during the first weekend of March 2022. Seminarians and laypeople alike come together in a tranquil setting to expand their horizons through activities that build up the next generation of leaders in our faith communities.



"I Can't Lose. (Why?) I'll tell you why... because I have Faith, Courage & Enthusiasm!"
—Leadership Course Motto