

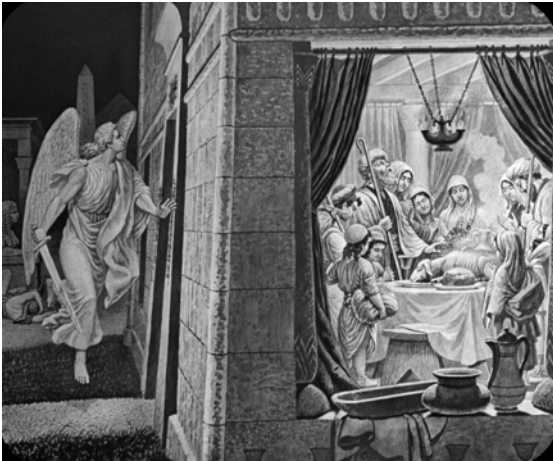
**Tom Edwards Evangelistic  
Assoc., Inc.**

—a ministry of lay Catholic evangelization & mission—

Forty-eight years  
of  
Full time outreach

**The**

**Proclaimer**



**The Passover, the Lamb, the  
Blood, the Death Angel, the  
Cross**

**NOTE:** This article is a reprint from the Proclaimer of early 2020 when the pandemic was just beginning. I felt then that this was a message for the moment. I believe it still is. Read carefully. Study the images. Make it personal.

Tom

**M**oses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and procure lambs for your families, and slaughter the Passover victims. (22) Then take a bunch of hyssop, and dipping it in the blood that is in the basin, apply some of this blood to the lintel and the two doorposts. And none of you shall go outdoors until morning. (23) For when the LORD goes by to strike down the Egyptians, seeing the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and not let the destroyer come into your houses to strike you down. (24) “You will keep this practice forever as a statute for yourselves and your descendants (Exodus 12: 21-24).

It is a common practice for many to make the “sign of the cross” upon themselves when beginning or ending a prayer. Often times we do the same when entering or exiting the threshold of the church. In recent years, I have come to take the significance of this action far more seriously than I once did. In the

Exodus passage, we read about how God instructed his people to take an action which would protect them from an invisible force, a destroying angel, which would wreak death on any household that did not comply. This action seems illogical to human thinking. It was a step in obedience according to sheer faith. Follow the imagery and view it through the eye of faith.



Applying the Blood

**How can one see this truth  
and ever again make the sign  
of the cross nonchalantly?**

A sacrificial victim is chosen. It is an innocent lamb without blemish, no defect at all, (compare to a man without any sin if that were possible). The blood of the victim was placed in a basin at the threshold of the door.

The blood was to be sprinkled with hyssop, a small bushy plant used in purification rites. Hyssop was used in ritual cleansing of leprosy and the purification of the unclean. King David, when wallowing in the guilt of his sin, cried out to the Lord: “Purge me with



hyssop, and I shall be clean” (Psalm 51:7). Now, trace the actions with your hand as it is lifted up to the lintel, then the left doorpost, then the right doorpost. You have effected the “sign of the cross”.

It is amazing how God paints pictures with words and actions in the Old Testament so as to reveal the fullness of truth in the New Testament. It takes little imagination to look at the illustration of the Passover sprinkling of blood and see the ultimate revelation of Christ. The blood above on the lintel (the crosspiece), where the thorns penetrated his brow, blood at the sides from his nail-torn hands, the the basin of blood at the threshold below where the spike pierced his feet.

How can one see this truth and ever again make the sign of the cross nonchalantly? Or, never even think of the “sign of the cross”? The scripture seems

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to indicate that the sacrificial victim was slain at the door to the house. Doorposts were seen as uniquely holy. The practice was instituted by Moses to “write the commandments of the Lord on the doorpost of your house” (Deut. 6:9). The Word of the Lord was always kept before the people of God. The blood of the sacrificial victim is not only associated with cleansing, but also protection. Remember, it is the Lord who is giving these instructions. He says in Ex 12:23 that “*For when the LORD goes by to strike down the Egyptians, seeing the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and not let the destroyer come into your houses to strike you down.*” The verse indicates that the Lord will pass over the threshold, enter the house, and prevent the destroyer from coming in to destroy the residents there who have been faithful to put the seal of the blood on their doors.

As I write, we have entered into the season of Lent, Passover and Easter. The lessons of our Old Testament passage lay groundwork for all that we are about in this current time. The words of the Apostle Peter hearken us to remember exactly what our faith is all about: “(17) *Now if you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one’s works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, (18) realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold! (19) but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. (20) He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, (21) who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope*

*are in God ( 1 Peter 1:17-21)”. In the Exodus event, the Israelites ate the Lamb that was sacrificed with unleavened bread. The Apostle Paul makes direct application to this when he exhorts the new believers of Corinth: “(7) Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal (Passover) lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. (8) Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth ( 1 Cor. 5:7-8)”.*



The image of the cross is portrayed throughout the Old Testament. By virtue of divine paradox, it is always found in the context of both life and death. When the high priest sprinkled the Mercy Seat with blood, it was from top to bottom and side to side (as in a cross). Ezekiel Chapter 9 tells of a people so sinful that they were marked out for execution by a death angel. Those who lived righteously were given a mark on the forehead. The Hebrew word for “the mark” is the name of a certain Hebrew letter (the Tau) in the ancient Hebrew alphabet. The (Tau) is much like our current “T”—two intersecting lines that form the image of a cross. Those under the mark of the cross were spared.

In the current day, many are near panic and living in fear because of the trials that have been unleashed across the globe. What an opportune time to “live under the sign of the cross” and pray that the agent of destruction will not penetrate the seal of our Lord’s protection, For this we ask: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



## Jots from Jean Marie



As I was reading Tom’s teaching on the sign of the cross, I wondered if I had made the sign of the cross today. When I pray alone, I don’t usually start that way except for a rosary, chaplet or other formal prayer and then I’m thinking about whatever it is that is drawing me to that particular prayer at that time. And at meals, we hold hands and pray. So, when do I make the sign of the cross? My first thought was of the many times I splashed holy water while making the sign of the cross over my kids, my car, my students’ desks...especially certain desks... or when passing an accident and praying for all those involved. Whenever I feel the need for the Lord’s protection and help, I turn to that sign. It brings me comfort. I know that Jesus can do what I can’t. I know the evil one has been crushed by that cross. It brings me peace. I know Jesus can bring His Peace into that situation. It brings me love. I know He loves whomever I’m splashing and praying for and knows exactly what they need and how to provide for them. It brings me security. I know who I belong to, who is the Lord of my life, and who I am entrusting those I am praying for. I thank God for this powerful gift He has given us. And so, **In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**, I pray for all of you and all those you love. Amen





In December, Tom and Jean Marie traveled to the small central Florida community of Interlachen. We were invited to conduct a retreat at St. John the Evangelist Parish for the Confirmandi, the parents, and the sponsors. Some were also new converts and preparing for their First Holy Communion. The participants covered a wide span of ages from teens to older adults.

It was a joy and a privilege to share with these faith filled brothers and sisters. Their response to the teaching and the prayer sessions was marked by a zealous excitement as they anticipated the graces to be conveyed in the sacraments.



They were so open in heart and mind as they learned about the personal love of God for them, the awesome power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit that equip one for overcoming the ways of the world, the flesh and the devil. It is really refreshing to see young people who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

## YOUTUBE VIDEO



**The Spiritual Battlefield** by  
Tom Edwards (a three part message)

On January 29, 2022, Tom presented a message at the **Diocese of St. Augustine Holy Spirit Healing Conference** in Gainesville, FL. We have segmented this talk into three 17 minutes sessions for your viewing convenience. These are now published to our Tom Edwards Evangelistic Assoc., Inc YouTube Channel.

Find these talks and many others by Tom as well as our other conference speakers: Ralph Martin, Dr. Mary Shaw, Jean Roach.

Copy this link into your Browser:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxxyVoj-mYVu3\\_PrXzZ7R1Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxxyVoj-mYVu3_PrXzZ7R1Q)

Or simply search YOUTUBE for Tom Edwards Evangelistic Assoc., Inc.

## ***Upcoming Lenten Parish Mission***

Tom and Jean Marie will be presenting the Lenten Parish Mission for St. Pius V in Jacksonville, FL on the evenings of March 8, 9, 10, & 11.—6:30 pm. The pastor, Fr. Bernadine Ekehuemelo also pastors Crucifixion Parish and Holy Rosary parish. The three will be coming together.

Monday—**The Measure of Mercy**

Tuesday—**The Gospel of Life**—Jean Marie

Wednesday—**Heart Transplant**

Thursday—**Yielding to the Spirit. Yield more Fruit**

**Bring a friend—All are welcome.**

# **INVITE**



***Weekly Prayer  
Group***

***ZOOM on in***

You are welcome to join in on our Monday night Joyful Family Prayer Group. Ninety minutes of praise, prayer, Bible Teaching & fellowship. Join us live at The House of Prayer. 30 Ocean Ave., St. Augustine, FL—7:00 PM.

OR: Join us via a ZOOM link on your own device. You are just a click away. **All we need is your Email address. Send it to [goyetomedwards@gmail.com](mailto:goyetomedwards@gmail.com).** You will then receive the weekly invitation with the link to click on.

You do not need a Zoom account to join meetings as a participant.



Dear Friends,

Would you please prayerfully consider a regular commitment of spiritual and financial support by becoming a Co-Missionary with us. We will keep you updated in our special quarterly letter to all Co-Missionaries. We also send a supply of addressed return envelope as per your need. We can also receive your support via most credit cards using the Paypal link. Go to:

<https://goyetomedwards.wixsite.com/parishmission>. There you can make a tax deductible gift on a one time basis or as a reoccurring amount according to your desire. Donations of stock can be made through our brokerage account. Contact us for specifics.

Tom Edwards Evangelistic Assoc., Inc.  
P. O. Box 2113, St. Augustine, FL 32085  
Tel: (904) 471-8672 Email: [goyetomedwards@att.net](mailto:goyetomedwards@att.net)  
Donate online at website: [www.catholic evangelization.homestead.com](http://www.catholic evangelization.homestead.com)