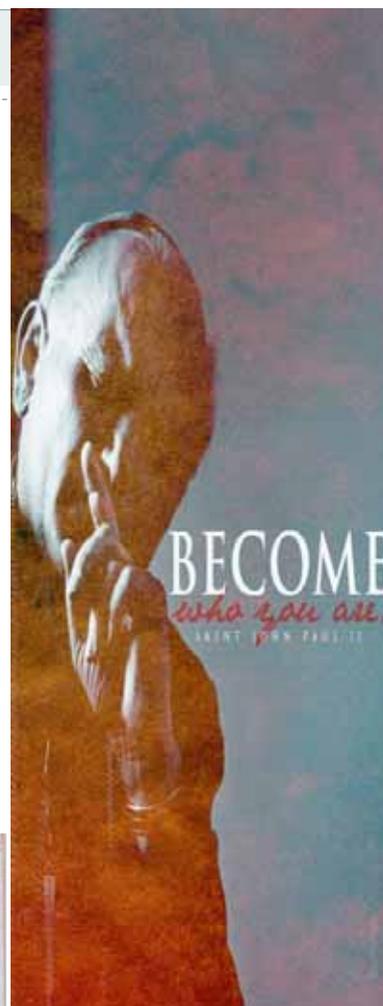
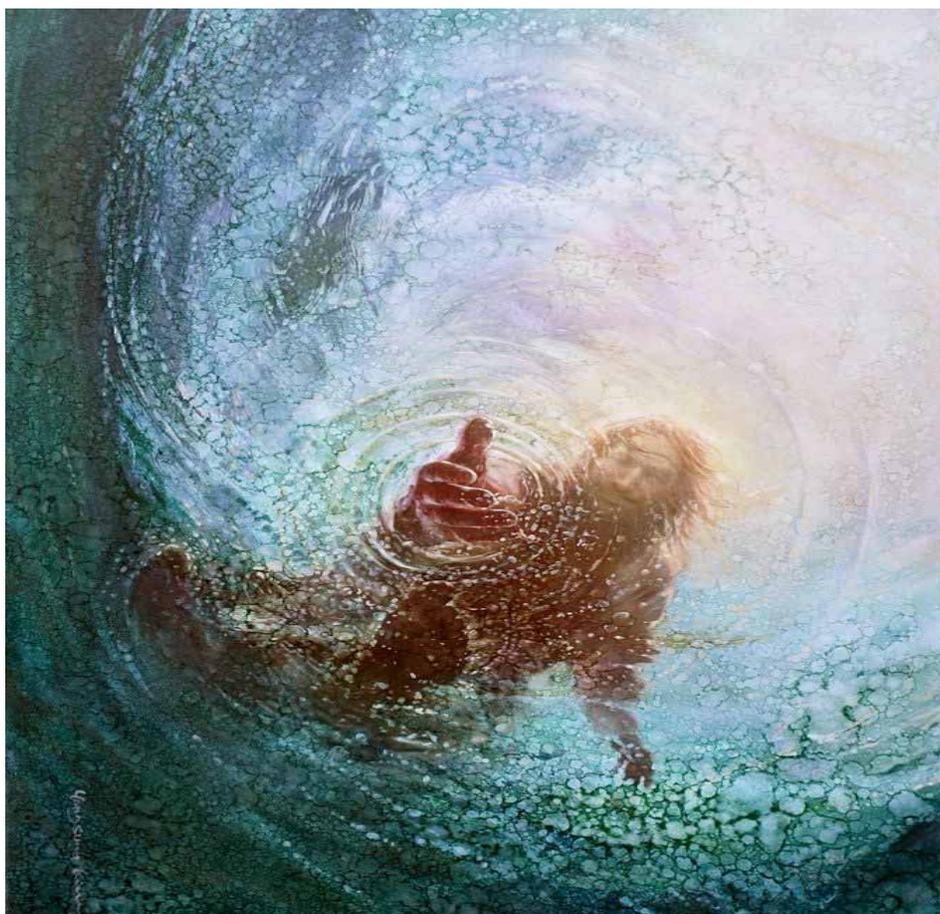


The Word

“For I know well the plans I have for you— declares the Lord— plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you hope for the future.”

Jeremiah 29:11



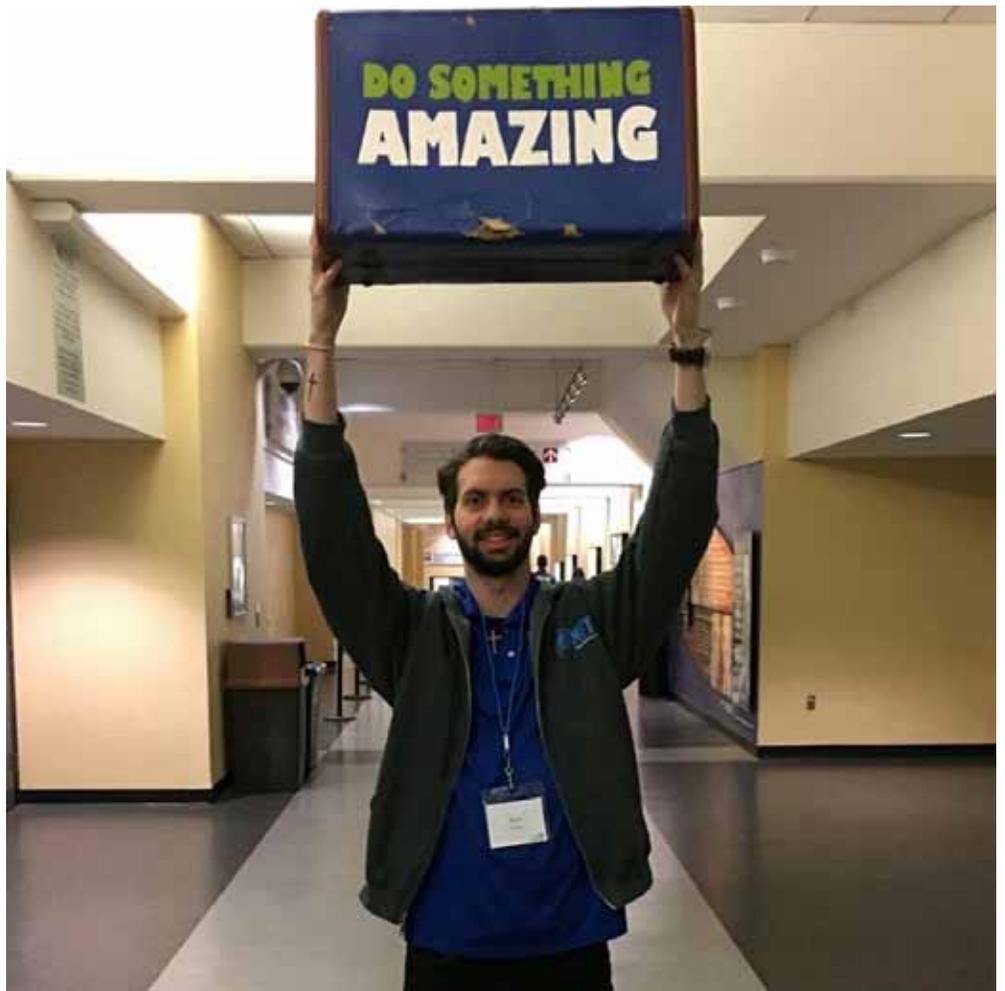
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Ryan's Reflections
- Taking the hand of Jesus

Ryan's Reflections

Hello St. Jerome!! I am so excited to get started and to get to meet each one of you! As this is a new beginning for many of us, we can each take comfort in the words from Jeremiah 29:11 (on the front page). Our Lord is not a God who sits back and allows us to our own devices but a God who desires so much to lead us to His most Sacred Heart! My experiences serving with NET Ministries opened my eyes and my heart more so than I ever thought possible to the power of God's love for us and how active He is in our lives. My challenge to each one of you is to look in the mirror at yourself and to ask God to reveal who you truly are. I pray that you will find the answer that He wishes to give you... that no matter where you've been or what you've done, YOU are a Son or Daughter of God and His LOVE for you does not have an expiration date.



Taking the Hand of Jesus

On the front page, there is a picture of Jesus, reaching through the water to grab us and save us from drowning. All too often we as people tend to focus too much on the struggles we are dealing with and we fail to see His hand reaching out for us. What really struck me however was that in this picture Jesus is smiling. Sometimes we feel so ashamed and guilty and we are afraid to turn to Christ... but why? Our God is so loving and merciful. The thought of Christ reaching out to save me from my sins with a smile on His face reminds me of just how much love He has for each one of us. I am reminded in Matthew 14: 22-33 that even St. Peter took His eyes off of Jesus and began drowning. So like the example of St. Peter, when we find ourselves “drowning”, do not be afraid to cry out “Lord, save me!” Once we do that and take the loving hand of Jesus, we will know the true power of His love and mercy.

Suggested Bible Verses:

Matthew 14:22-33

Ephesians 2:4-5

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