



*1Butterfly box painted on vacation*

## ***BLESSED and BROKEN VACATION***

Summer is at least half way passed now and we got a chance to get some R & R in Amish country recently. It was a great chance to spend some time with family in that area and to relax enjoying shops and fun things around Lancaster and Hershey, while enjoying the beauty and quiet of the country.

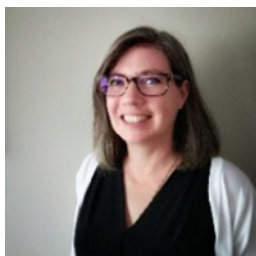
On the way to our hotel, we stopped for lunch to visit with some family. We had already had a great start to our first day, relaxing on the drive, saying some prayers along the way, and soaking in the beauty all around us. As we were almost arrived to our family's house, suddenly "Boom!" Our tire blew though neither of us remembers seeing anything on the road.

Well, within less than 5 minutes, a man pulled over in his truck, a lady pulled over and parked across the street and a local official of some sort pulled over behind us. The truck driver (named Paul) insisted on taking over changing our tire and the lady from across the street ran over asking if we were alright and offering water and ice on the 93+ degree day. Then the officer pulled his vehicle behind us to keep us safe while our tire was being changed and checked to see what we had hit on the road. He didn't find anything so it may have been a stone that flew off the road when we hit it.

Within about 20 minutes, with our spare donut tire in place, we had packed our luggage back in the car, and were back on the road. It felt like we had been surrounded by angels and showered with God's love in that whirlwind of events *and* we were only 15 min late for lunch! Then, we saw a rainbow as we drove our final leg of the journey to our hotel. Crazy enough, this day was one of my favorite parts of our vacation, if you can believe it!

I used to reflect on the concept of "blessed and broken" as our own brokenness reflecting Christ, Bread from heaven in the Holy Eucharist, blessed and broken on the altar and on the Cross, given for us. Today I realized that our tire experience was a new interpretation for me of the "blessed and broken" reflection: blessed by our "broken" tire and the angels sent to help us. This filled our hearts with joy and set them on fire to share God's blessings during our travels.

What a great lesson in trusting in God and His goodness and a great start to our vacation! It set the tone for our days away, helping to deepen our trust and hope in Jesus, seeing first hand He is with us always and in every detail. Jesus, we trust in You!



Kathleen Tobin, residing in Bucks County PA, is a graduate from the University of Scranton with a BS in Physical Therapy, has worked for the Church, both nationally and internationally, and with her husband Shawn has been a Marriage Prep instructor for both Agape Ministries and Ascension Press and founded Catholic Beads & More, which sells handcrafted Rosaries, chaplets and other religious products.

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