

God works in mysterious ways

We often hear it said (by people of Faith!): "God works in mysterious ways;" in ways that we do not understand if we become aware of them (that is the nature of mystery); sometimes in ways of which we are not aware. The following story illustrates the latter, un-awareness of God working, but also the former - mysteriousness of God's working in or through us. I found it in a monthly publication titled *Father Pokorny's Catholic Quote*. Therein it is attributed to *Ave Maria*.

"One day many years ago an old Negro slave was making his daily trip to Mass near Bardstown, Kentucky. He didn't know it, but a famous architect used to ride by that way every morning and had developed a growing curiosity about the old Negro's regular journeys.

"One day a page fell out of the book which the Negro was carrying and, after he had passed, the famous architect got off his horse and picked it up.

"That page happened to be from a Catholic prayer book, and its finding sent a fallen-away Catholic back to daily Mass and a renewal of his religion.

"Today in Bardstown, Kentucky, stands the First Catholic Cathedral erected beyond the Alleghenies, designed and built entirely at his own expense, back in 1819 by John Rogers, one of the famous architects of the day - and as a result of the page which accidentally fell from the prayer book of an old Negro slave on his way to daily Mass." What appears accidental, or worse, is always encompassed by God into his Divine Providence; so we can truly say it is providential.

Fr. Patrick J O'Connor
Corpus Christi Church
Tahoe City, CA