

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

September 10, 2017 – 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

Spiritual Ponderings

Seven Steps to Bring Your Child Home to the Faith Part II

I have dedicated this month's Spiritual Ponderings to reflect on ideas of how best to bring fallen away Catholics back to the Catholic Church. Brandon Vogt's article: "Seven Steps to Bring Your Child Home To the Faith" is providing us with the structure we need for this important topic that always has the possibility of derailing into many different tracks of thought if we are not capable. Quotes from Brandon's article will be in bold and my commentary will be in the normal font.

2. Equip yourself

You can't give what you don't have. You may be excited about sharing the Faith, but enthusiasm and goodwill won't get you far. You need to know your faith. The two go-to sources are the Bible and the catechism. Become familiar with them and read them each day, in small doses. Then find good Catholic books that will help you explain and defend the Faith so you're ready when your child reveals his main hang-ups with the Church.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said "There are not one hundred people in the United States who hate The Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be." I want to say three things on this topic.

The first thing is that you do not have to know everything about every topic to be a good Catholic but if you do not know anything about the Catholic faith how can you convince people that you truly love the Catholic Church. For example, I like baseball a lot, but I would have a hard time convincing anyone of that fact if I did not know who Jackie Robison was, the name of the local baseball team, or how many strikes it takes to make an out. The more you take something seriously the more you show how much you care about the subject material. Do you know the name of your bishop (archbishop)? Do you know why Catholics should not live together before marriage? Do you know why Catholic go to Mass each week?

The second thing is that you do not need to know everything. I used to think that I had to know everything and this would become very discouraging because there is just so much information about there. Now when I don't know something, I at least know where to look. For example the other day someone asked me a question about Scripture and I did not have the answer to therefore I encouraged the person to contact the Scripture teacher at the seminary.

Finally, each Catholic should find something that he or she does not naturally agree with

the Church with and then struggle to figure out why the Church's teaching is what is and why do we oppose it. If we do those two things, we will witness to others how a person can take the Catholic faith seriously.

3. Plant the seeds

Even before you start discussing God or the Church with your child, you need to plant small seeds of faith and trust in his life. One seed is unconditional love. Your child needs to know that you'll love him no matter what — no matter his moral choices or whether he stays away from the Church. He must know that you totally will his good. Only then will he listen to you. You should also begin planting "seed gifts" in his life. These are DVDs, books or CDs that can lead him to reconsider the Church. Many people who come back to the Church point to a resource like this that sparked their return. Leave a booklet on his desk, mail him a DVD or drop a CD in his car.

Planting seeds is always good when done in the right context. I would not present faith gifts in a public context (for example a Christmas gift exchange). Allow the person a chance to save face. Allow them to explore the faith inspiring gift in an environment where he or she does not have to reject the gift in front of others in order to still appease their current crowd of friends.

Breaking Open the Word

September 10, 2017 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 127 Gospel MT 18:15-20

Spiritual Reflection: It is important to pay attention to the fine print in Jesus' teaching. He tells us today that if our brother or sister does not listen to our fraternal correction then we can treat them like a Gentile or tax collector, which at first sounds like a license to disown them and treat them harshly, but Jesus teaches us that we are to love (want what is best for another even if it requires a sacrifice on our part) our enemies (which includes Gentiles and tax collectors).

Spiritual Questions

1. How would you want to handle someone who has wronged you?
2. Why should you handle the situation the way Jesus wants you to instead of the way that you desire?
3. How can you show love to someone who has hurt you?
4. What steps can you take to move closer to forgiving someone who has hurt you deeply?
5. How does forgiveness, holding a grudge, and enabling interact in your life?



Prayers for the Week

September 14th is the Feast
Day of the Triumph of the
Cross

THE LITANY OF THE HOLY CROSS.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have
mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have
mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have
mercy.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously
hear us.
God the Father of Heaven, Have
mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the
world, Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, our
Advocate, Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, Have
mercy on us.
Holy Cross where the Lamb of
God was offered, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Hope of Christians, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Pledge of the resurrection of the

dead, Save us, O Holy Cross.
Shelter of persecuted
innocence, Save us, O Holy
Cross.
Guide of the blind, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Way of those who have gone
astray, Save us, O Holy Cross.
Staff of the lame, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Consolation of the poor, Save
us, O Holy Cross.
Restraint of the powerful, Save
us, O Holy Cross.
Destruction of the proud, Save
us, O Holy Cross.
Refuge of sinners, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Trophy of victory over Hell, Save
us, O Holy Cross.
Terror of demons, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Mistress of youth, Save us, O Holy
Cross.
Succor of the distressed, Save us,
O Holy Cross.
Hope of the hopeless, Save us, O
Holy Cross.

Star of the mariner, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Harbor of the wrecked, Save us,
O Holy Cross.
Rampart of the besieged, Save
us, O Holy Cross.
Father of orphans, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Defense of widows, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Counsel of the just, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Judge of the wicked, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Rest of the afflicted, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Safeguard of childhood, Save
us, O Holy Cross.
Strength of manhood, Save us,
O Holy Cross.
Last hope of the aged, Save us,
O Holy Cross.
Light of those who sit in darkness,
Save us, O Holy Cross.
Splendor of kings, Save us, O
Holy Cross.
Civilizer of the world, Save us, O
Holy Cross.

Shield impenetrable, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Wisdom of the foolish, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Liberty of slaves, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Knowledge of the ignorant, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Sure rule of life, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Heralded by prophets, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Preached by apostles, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Glory of martyrs, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Study of hermits, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Chastity of virgins, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Joy of priests, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Foundation of the Church, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Salvation of the world, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Destruction of idolatry, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Stumbling block to the Jews, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Condemnation of the ungodly, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Support of the weak, Save us, O

Holy Cross.
 Medicine of the sick, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Health of the leprous, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Strength of the paralytic, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Bread of the hungry, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Fountain of those who thirst, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 Clothing of the naked, Save us, O Holy Cross.
 4 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Hear us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.
 Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
 Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.
 V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,
 R. Because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Behold the Cross of the Lord! Be gone ye evil powers! The Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, has conquered! Alleluia!

LET US PRAY:

O God, Who for the redemption of the world, was pleased to be born in a stable and to die upon a cross; O Lord Jesus Christ, by Thy holy sufferings, which we, Thy unworthy servants, call to mind: by Thy Holy Cross, and by Thy death, deliver us from the pains of Hell, and vouchsafe to conduct us whither Thou didst conduct the good thief who was crucified with Thee, Who livest and reignest eternally in Heaven. R. Amen.
 Sweet the wood, sweet the nails, sweet the Burden which thou bearest, for thou alone, O Holy Cross, was worthy to bear the King and Lord of Heaven. R. Amen.

ALL TOGETHER:

“Even when alone,
 be cheerful,
 remembering always
 that you are in the
 sight of angels.”

-St. Therese of Lisieux

Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

Which of the following does not belong

1. Ambo Pulpit Lectern **Boom**

Ambo, Pulpit, and Lectern are all words used to describe the place where Sacred Scripture are proclaimed. A Boom is a type of microphone.

2. Priest Religious Married **Lawyer**

Pries, Religious, and Married are three of the four primary vocations. Lawyer is a secondary vocation or a career

3. **Chalice** Monstrance Paten Ciborium

The Chalice is used for the Precious Blood. The other three items are used for the Consecrated Host

4. Censer Boat Thurible **Aspergillum**

Aspergillum is the Holy Water Sprinkler. The other three have to deal with incense.



This Week's Questions

Answer the Following Questions:

1. Who was Jacob's older brother?

2. What city did Abraham and Sarah move from?

3. Who is Moses's brother?

4. Who is Moses's sister?



Quotes of the Week – Random Catholic Quotes

The cross is the school of love. – St. Maximilian Kolbe

Mount Calvary is the academy of love. – St. Francis de Sales

No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross. No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ. His prayer brought benefit to the multitude that raged against him. How much more does it bring to those who turn to him in repentance. – St. Leo the Great

As they were looking on, so we too gaze on his wounds as he hangs. We see his blood as he dies. We see the price offered by the redeemer, touch the scars of his resurrection. He bows his head, as if to kiss you. His heart is made bare open, as it were, in love to you. His arms are extended that he may embrace you. His whole body is displayed for your redemption. Ponder how great these things are. Let all this be rightly weighed in your mind: as he was once fixed to the cross in every part of his body for you, so he may now be

fixed in every part of your soul. – St. Augustine

The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves. – St. Augustine

God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering. – St. Augustine

Catholic Humor

A priest and a parishioner volunteered to help the carpenters fix roofs for parishioners in need.

One of the volunteers was up on a ladder nailing. Every time he reached in his nail pouch and pulled out a nail, he would look at it and then toss it over his shoulder or nail it to the roof.

The priest watched him do this for a while and was puzzled. Finally he couldn't take it any longer and yelled up to the volunteer on the ladder, "Why are you throwing away all those nails?"

The volunteer replied, "When I pull it out of my nail pouch and it is pointed toward me I throw it away. If it's pointed toward the house, then it's safe to use."

The priest became very frustrated then and shouted up at him, "That's stupid! Don't throw away the nails that are pointed toward you! They are for the *other* side of the roof!"

The newly ordained associate pastor was really nervous about hearing confessions at his new parish.

So, he asked the older priest to listen in. After several parishioners finished with their confessions, the older priest offered him a little advice: "Just cross your arms over your chest, rub your chin and try saying things like, 'I see,

yes, go on. I understand. How did you feel about that?"

The new priest tried out the gestures and words. The older priest said, "Good, now don't you think that sounds a lot better than slapping your knee and saying, 'No way! You did *what?*'"



A bishop, a priest and a deacon were lined up and about to be executed for preaching the Gospel in a foreign country. The executioners brought out the bishop first, and when the guard shouted, "Ready ... aim ..." the bishop suddenly yelled, "EARTHQUAKE", and when everyone looked around, he made a run for it.

They brought the priest out next. The guard shouted, "Ready ... aim ..." and suddenly the priest yelled, "TORNADO" and when everyone ducked, he too, ran off.

The deacon of course had it all figured out by then. When they brought him out and the guard shouted, "Ready ... aim ..." he deacon suddenly yelled, "FIRE."

Saint Monica Society Prayer For September

The feast of St. Monica is August 27th. St. Monica is probably best well known for praying for the conversion of her family especially her son Augustine when he was living a very sinful life. Eventually one by one all her family became believers and Augustine excelled in faith to the point that he became a bishop and was later recognized as a saint.

I know many of us know people, especially family

members who have fallen away from the faith. I would therefore like to invite you to pray with me for these people that they may once again find God. Each month therefore I will present to you a new prayer to pray.

Dear Saint Monica, you were once the mournful mother of a prodigal son. Your faithfulness to prayer brought you and your son so close to God that you are now with him in eternity. By your

intercession and God's grace, your son St. Augustine became a great and venerable Saint of the Church. Please take my request to God with the same fervor and persistence with which you prayed for your own son.

Please guide back to the Holy Church the following people (names) and all who have wandered away from your truth. With your needs, worries and anxieties, you threw yourself on the mercy

and providence of God.
Through sorrow and pain,
you constantly devoted
yourself to God. Pray for me

that I might join you in such a
deep faith in God's
goodness and mercy. Above
all, dear Saint Monica, pray

for me that I may, like your
son, turn from my sin and
become a great saint for the
glory of God.

Spiritual Adoption

Spiritual Adoption Prayer



"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby's name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted

who is in danger of abortion." - Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

MONTH 8 – Developing Baby -- "I like to listen to my Mommy's voice!" Spiritual Adoption Program

Now your spiritually adopted baby is finished developing and is concentrating on gaining weight; she might be making her mother uncomfortable with her size. She will need a layer of fat to help her stay warm after she leaves the perfect temperature inside her mother's womb. For some weeks now she has recognized her mother's voice. In a short time, her baby will be born. Your baby's mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.