

# May Jesus Christ Be Praised Newsletter

January 15, 2017



## Breaking Open the Word

**JANUARY 15, 2017 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Lectionary: 64 Gospel JN 1:29-34**

**Spiritual Reflection:** John the Baptist's favorite title for Jesus is "the Lamb of God". Clearly it also became one of John the Evangelist's favorite titles, since he used it twenty-nine times in the Book of Revelation. It brings together three images that would have been familiar to the Jews of that time, and by being applied to Christ, it indicates that in him those images find their full meaning.

1. The Lamb that was slaughtered for their sins. 2. The Paschal lamb whose blood was used to mark the door posts of their house to save them from the angel of death. 3. The prophets talked about the messiah as being the lamb silently lead to slaughter.

### **Spiritual Questions**

1. What do you think of when you hear the "Lamb of God?"
2. What is your favorite title of Jesus and why?
3. What does it mean that Jesus takes away our sins?
4. What does it mean that God saves us through the Blood of the lamb?
5. What does it mean that God offered Himself up for you?



## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Came across this interesting prayer and thought it would be a good prayer for us to pray since there are so many in need of conversion.

### **CHAPLET OF CONVERSION**

How to pray the Chaplet of Conversion

1. The devotion to the Chaplet of Conversion is prayed on the most popular 59 beads Marian Rosary which is one of the Catholic Church Sacramentals.
2. On the crucifix, pray the Apostles Creed for the unbelievers of the world.
3. On the first bead pray, the "Our Father..." for the grace of conversion of the world.
4. On the second bead pray a "Hail Mary..." to honor the Father for the exaltation of Mary, a mere creature, and for choosing to honor her with the title, "Queen of heaven and Mediatrix of all graces."
5. On the third bead pray the "Hail, Holy Queen..."
6. On the medal, say the following prayer,

*"O Holy Mother, I join you at the foot of your Son's Cross to implore mercy and conversion for the souls of the world. With you, I offer the Wounds of your Son, Jesus, to the Father, in atonement for the sins of the world past, present and to come."*

7. On each of the small beads, say,

*"Through the Sorrowful, Bleeding, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in union with the suffering of her Son, Jesus, on the Cross, I implore of the Father, the grace of the conversion for the world."*

8. On each of the large beads, say a "Hail Mary..." in honor of Mary's Tears of Sorrow.

9. After the "Hail Mary" on each large bead, say,

*"Holy Mother Mary, Mediatrix of all graces, obtain for us from God, the conversion of the world."*

10. Then say 3 "Glory Be..." in honor of the Blessed Trinity.

11. When finishing the Chaplet, say the prayer "Hail, Holy Queen..."



## **Spiritual Ponderings:**

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As I continuing sharing my thoughts with you I pray and hope that they will help you develop a deeper faith life.

#### **5. Anti-Authority**

I have mentioned a few times already my love for baseball, and I know this love for baseball started off as a kid playing Wiffle ball with some of the other children in the neighborhood. If you would go to my mother's house today, you could probably find four patches of dirt in the front yard where the grass was not given a chance to grow because that was where we placed our bases. Sadly most of these games ended not after nine innings but rather after a fight where one player thought the runner was safe and another player thought the runner was out or where the pitcher thought he had thrown strike three and the batter thought the pitch was a ball.

Playing baseball in my parents' front yard and later playing baseball for a CYC team taught me the importance of having umpires and referees. Many people today leave the Church because they do not see the value of structure or rules. They think in some way these rules limit our freedom but the truth of the matter it is the rules and the people that enforce them fairly that allow us to interact with one another in a loving and freeway.

The Church has always taught individual that they have a duty to follow their conscience but more importantly the Church has taught that we have an obligation to inform our consciousness. While we can

determine whether an act is morally good or evil, we cannot make an act morally good or evil. In addition, evil acts or often at least momentarily pleasurable and thus at least slightly addictive and therefore we cannot say whether something is morally good or evil by how it feels. While a parent may enjoy physically abusing a child because it allows the parent to release his or bent up frustration, we know that it is not morally good for a parent to physically abuse their child because a child is a person who has certain rights. Morality therefore cannot be left up to what people feel otherwise there would be no way to hold rapists and murders accountable.

Many people today leave the Church because they choose to see the Church's teaching as being restrictive instead of loving. They are like children who become frustrated with the parents because their parents will let them touch the fire or put a fork in an electric socket.

#### 6. Karma

I am amazed at the number of Catholics that I encounter that believe in karma. Many of them would deny but at least subconsciously their actions and expectations seem to show that deep down they do believe in karma. The idea behind karma is simple. Good things are supposed to happen to good people and bad things are supposed to happen to bad people. In other words, the more good things you do the more good things God will give to you and the more bad things you do the more bad things that will happen to you.

While I think, life would be much easier if this was true we know deep down that it is not true and that sometimes-bad things happen to good people and good things seem to happen to bad people. This mostly manifests itself when we believe that God is punishing us for something despite having done everything right. For example, I might get a speeding ticket on the way home from helping the homeless and feel that God should have somehow prevented the officer from seeing the fact that I was speeding because I had been doing nothing but good today. On a more serious level we may assume that God is displeased with us because we have been diagnosed with Cancer and we ask ourselves what did I do to deserve this illness? The truth of the matter is that bad things do happen to good people and no one ever does anything to deserve an illness. Our world because of sin is in chaos. God does not leave the world in Chaos though but enters into it in Jesus Christ and suffers right alongside. God's ultimate answer to suffering in the world is not karma but rather the Resurrection



## Catholic Trivia

### Last Week's Trivia Question & Answer

Which of the four do not belong?

True or False

1. Seth was a child of Adam and Eve. - True
2. The thing placed on the chalice to keep flies out has the same name as the large blanket placed over a casket during a funeral. - True
3. Archbishop and Metropolitan are the same rank – True

### This week's trivia

Identify the following symbols:



### Catholic Humor

Some Clever and Amusing Thoughts on Being a Christian that could be made into bumper stickers.

- \*Under same management for over 2,000 years.
- \*Soul food served here.
- \*Tithe if you love Jesus! Anyone can honk.
- \*You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.
- \*Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!
- \*Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church.
- \*We should be more concerned with the Rock Of Ages, instead of the age of rock.
- \*Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case!
- \*Come early for a good seat in the back.
- \*Life has many choices, Eternity has two. What's yours?
- \*The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.
- \*Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.
- \*A man's character is like a fence. It cannot be strengthened by whitewash.



### Quote(s) of the Week

"You must ask God to give you power to fight against the sin of pride which is your greatest enemy - the root of all that is evil, and the failure of all that is good. For God resists the proud." - St. Vincent de Paul

"Prayer immediately turns us into something greater than ourselves." - Archbishop Timothy Dolan

"Love God, serve God; everything is in that." - St. Clare of Assisi