

May Jesus Christ Be Praised Newsletter

January 22, 2017



Breaking Open the Word

JANUARY 22, 2017 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 67 Gospel MT 4:12-23

Spiritual Reflection: Are you a light to people or do you cast them into darkness? Do you lift people's spirits up or do you cast them into shadows and doubt? Jesus was a light that when people allowed it would help them do great things.

Spiritual Questions

1. Do you spend most of your time building others up or tearing them down?
2. Do you spend a lot of your time putting other people down?
3. What motivates you to use your time to lifting people up?
4. What motivates you to use your time to putting people down?
5. How can you support Vocations to the priesthood or religious life?



PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Today is the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

PLEDGE OF RE-COMMITMENT

I thank God today for the gift of my life, and for the lives of my brothers and sisters. I know I am responsible for the unborn who cannot speak for themselves. I know that the most serious tragedy of our day is the tragedy of abortion. today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of the unborn. I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement, and never to stop defending life until all my brothers and sisters are protected, and our nation once again becomes a nation with liberty and justice not just for some, but for all. amen!



Spiritual Adoption

I am asking you to spiritual adopt a child who is in danger of being aborted by praying the following prayer every day for the child.

"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.

You can also keep track of your spiritual baby's progress by checking out the informational articles below each month.

DAY 1 – Developing Baby -- "I'm here!"

At the moment, the father's sperm and mother's egg unite a new and unrepeatable human being comes into existence, complete with his own unique set of DNA. Although she is only one cell, everything about this little person is already present: color of eyes, blood type, the height she will grow to be, color of hair – everything! She will play a role in her family and her community – a role only she can play! Nothing is added after conception to make her a complete human being. She already exists; all she needs is nourishment, a safe, warm environment, and most of all – love. Her parents don't even know she exists yet. Pray for them to safely bring their baby to birth so she can fulfill the mission God has for her.



Spiritual Ponderings:

Spiritual Ponderings

As I continue to reflect on ways that we can improve our faith life, I leave you with number 7 and St. Ignatius's rules for thinking with the Church.

7. Intellectual Arrogance

Another reason, people leave the Church is that they have come to the conclusion that they know better than the Church and thus better than God. They see religion as something that only foolish and superstitious would dive into. These people like to dissect religions and focus on the negative instead of the positive.

I use the word "arrogance" because I think it takes a certain amount of arrogance to say that an ordinary person knows better than God the creator of the Universe. I can still remembering getting my first Blue Ray Player and thinking how stupid it was to have so many buttons on the remote. Only after reading the instruction manual and using the remote did I discover the purpose behind each button and how it made my life easier. In the same way there are certain things about the way life is or I have to practice my faith that makes me wonder why God designed the world this way but normally after some studying, prayer, and discussion with others, I come to discover God's great wisdom. So I can think of no other word than "arrogance" when it comes to thinking we

human beings think we know better than God and his Church.

The following are St. Ignatius's Rules for Thinking with the Church.

1. Always to be ready to obey with mind and heart, setting aside all judgment of one's own, the true spouse of Jesus Christ, our holy mother, our infallible and orthodox mistress, the Catholic Church, whose authority is exercised over us by the hierarchy. **2.** To commend the confession of sins to a priest as it is practiced in the Church; the reception of the Holy Eucharist once a year, or better still every week, or at least every month, with the necessary preparation. **3.** To commend to the faithful frequent and devout assistance at the holy sacrifice of the Mass, the ecclesiastical hymns, the divine office, and in general the prayers and devotions practiced at stated times, whether in public in the churches or in private. **4.** To have a great esteem for the religious orders, and to give the preference to celibacy or virginity over the married state. **5.** To approve of the religious vows of chastity, poverty, perpetual obedience, as well as to the other works of perfection and supererogation. Let us remark in passing, that we must never engage by vow to take a state (such e.g. as marriage) that would be an impediment to one more perfect... **6.** To praise relics, the veneration and invocation of Saints: also the stations, and pious pilgrimages, indulgences, jubilees, the custom of lighting candles in the churches, and other such aids to piety and devotion. **7.** To praise the use of abstinence and fasts as those of Lent, of Ember Days, of Vigils, of Friday, Saturday, and of others undertaken out of pure devotion: also voluntary mortifications, which we call penances, not merely interior, but exterior also. **8.** To commend moreover the construction of churches, and ornaments; also images, to be venerated with the fullest right, for the sake of what they represent. **9.** To uphold especially all the precepts of the Church, and not censure them in any manner; but, on the contrary, to defend them promptly, with reasons drawn from all sources, against those who criticize them. **10.** To be eager to commend the decrees, mandates, traditions, rites and customs of the Fathers in the Faith or our superiors. As to their conduct; although there may not always be the uprightness of conduct that there ought to be, yet to attack or revile them in private or in public tends to scandal and disorder. Such attacks set the people against their princes and pastors; we must avoid such reproaches and never attack superiors before inferiors. The best course is to make private approach to those who have power to remedy the evil. **11.** To value most highly the sacred teaching, both the Positive and the Scholastic, as they are commonly called... **12.** It is a thing to be blamed and avoided to compare men who are living on

the earth (however worthy of praise) with the Saints and Blessed, saying: This man is more learned than St. Augustine, etc... **13.** That we may be altogether of the same mind and in conformity with the Church herself, if she shall have defined anything to be black which to our eyes appears to be white, we ought in like manner to pronounce it to be black. For we must undoubtedly believe, that the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of the Orthodox Church His Spouse, by which Spirit we are governed and directed to Salvation, is the same;... **14.** It must also be borne in mind, that although it be most true, that no one is saved but he that is predestinated, yet we must speak with circumspection concerning this matter, lest perchance, stressing too much the grace or predestination of God, we should seem to wish to shut out the force of free will and the merits of good works; or on the other hand, attributing to these latter more than belongs to them, we derogate meanwhile from the power of grace. **15.** For the like reason we should not speak on the subject of predestination frequently; if by chance we do so speak, we ought so to temper what we say as to give the people who hear no occasion of erring and saying, 'If my salvation or damnation is already decreed, my good or evil actions are predetermined'; whence many are wont to neglect good works, and the means of salvation. **16.** It also happens not infrequently, that from immoderate, preaching and praise of faith, without distinction or explanation added, the people seize a pretext for being lazy with regard to any good works, which precede faith, or follow it when it has been formed by the bond of charity. **17.** Not any more must we push to such a point when the preaching and inculcating of the grace of God, as that there may creep thence into the minds of the hearers the deadly error of denying our faculty of free will. We must speak of it as the glory of God requires... that we may not raise doubts as to liberty and the efficacy of good works. **18.** Although it is very praiseworthy and useful to serve God through the motive of pure charity, yet we must also recommend the fear of God; and not only filial fear, but servile fear, which is very useful and often even necessary to raise man from sin... Once risen from the state, and free from the affection of mortal sin, we may then speak of that filial fear which is truly worthy of God, and which gives and preserves the union of pure love.

 **Catholic Trivia**

Last Week's Trivia Question & Answer

Identify the following symbols:

1.  Alpha and Omega
2.  Anchor (Hope)
3.  (Chi-Ro)

This week's trivia: True or False

1. When people die they become angels.
2. St. Ignatius of Loyola founded the Jesuits.
3. There was a pope named Linus.



Catholic Humor

Jesus, Moses, and an old man go golfing. The first one to tee off is Moses. He smashes the ball and it is heading right for the water hazard before the green. Moses raises his club, the water parts, and the ball makes it to the green. Jesus gets up to swing, cranks it out, and it is headed for the water hazard. Jesus closes his eyes and prays. The ball skips across the water and lands on the green two feet from the hole. The old man's turn comes and he drives the ball. The ball looks like it is going to drop directly into the water. A fish jumps from the water hazard swallowing the ball, as an eagle drops from the sky, grabbing the fish. As the eagle flies over the green, a bolt of lightning strikes the eagle, making it drop the fish. As the fish hits the green, it spits out the ball and the ball falls into the hole, making a hole in one. Jesus looks at Moses and says, "I really think I'm leaving Dad at home next time!"



Quote(s) of the Week

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." -St. Jerome

"Since Christ Himself has said, "This is My Body" who shall dare to doubt that It is His Body?" -St. Cyril of Jerusalem

"Teach us to give and not count the cost." -St. Ignatius de Loyola