

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

October 1st, 2017 – 26th Sunday Ordinary Time

Spirituality Ponderings Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Catholic Church invites us to grow in our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, during the month of October. I recently discovered some beautiful quotes from St. John Vianney about the Blessed Virgin Mary and so I thought I would share a different one at the beginning of each Spiritual Ponderings. In addition, I would like to continue to look at the role the Blessed Virgin Mary plays in the life of the universal Church by continuing to explore Ann Ball's book: *The Other Faces of Mary: Stories, Devotions, and Pictures, of the Holy Virgin around the world*. Finally I thought I would conclude each Spiritual Ponderings with a different and unique prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. John Vianney:

"Avarice is an inordinate love of riches and the good things of this life. Jesus Christ, to cure us of it, was born in extreme poverty, deprived of all comforts. He chose a Mother who was poor. He willed to pass as the Son of a humble workman."

Our Lady of La Vang or Our Lady Tra Kieu

Our Lady of La Vang comes to the Church from the country of Vietnam and probably as an effort of Our Lady to inspire and protect the people of Vietnam while they were under severe persecution. Ann Ball points out

that one thing that separates t



he apparition of Our Lady of La Vang from other Marian apparitions is that Mary does not convey a message of repentance but only one of comfort. Ann Ball writes: "She appears as a powerful harbinger of mercy, a protective mother full of love for her suffering children."

When I think of Ann Ball's description of this image of Mary, it reminds me that sometimes the most important thing we can give others is our presence. The Blessed Virgin Mary could have given the people a lot of advice at how to better follow her Son but it seems that she has discerned that the people of Vietnam needed a loving mother filled with mercy more than a teacher. Sometime people come into our lives who simply need someone to listen to them and pay attention to them so that they can know that they are still important to someone.

Years after the apparition there was a small Catholic community

of Tra Kieu found itself surrounded by military group called the "Can Vuong." The Can Vuong planned to wipe out the small Catholic village. The Catholics gathered around Jean Bruyere. He and his Vietnamese congregation placed the image of Our Lady of La Vang on the altar at Church and began to pray for her for protection. The small little Catholic compound survived despite the fact that the Can Vuong had them outnumbered and had better weapons. The Can Vuong for example were unable to hit the Church with their cannons. (Later a Can Vuong soldier declared that he had seen an image of "a lady in white" above the Church protecting it). The Can Vuong also tried to use elephants in their attack against the village but the people were able to keep them with the use of torches. In honor of the victory the people build a new church and dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians.

When you find yourself in trouble do not forget to trust in the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is a powerful protector and advocate.

PRAYER TO MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin, Help of the Christians, we place ourselves under your motherly protection. Throughout the Church's history you have helped Christians in times of trial, temptation and danger. Time and time again, you have

proven to be the Refuge of sinners, the Hope of the hopeless, the Consoler of the afflicted, and the Comforter of the Dying. We promise to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, to proclaim His Good News of God's love for all people, and to work for peace

and justice in our world. With faith in your intercession, we pray for the Church, for our family and friends, for the poor and abandoned, and all the dying. Grant, O Mary, Help of Christians, the graces of which we stand in need. *(State your intention(s)*

here.) May we serve Jesus with fidelity and love until death. Help us and our loved ones to attain the boundless joy of being forever with our Father in heaven. Amen. Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us!

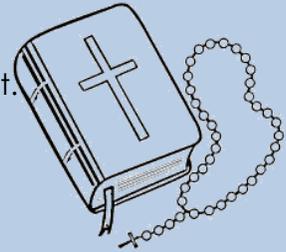
Breaking Open the Word

October 1, 2017 Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 136 Gospel MT 21:28-32

Spiritual Reflection: Pope Francis - "It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions." Many people find Pope Francis inspiring and challenging because he encourages us to translate our faith into action. It is not enough to simply say "yes" to God. We must show that "yes" to God in the daily actions of our lives.

Spiritual Questions

1. Name a time in which you said "yes" to something and failed to do it.
2. Name a time in which you said "no" to something and ended up doing it.
3. How important is it for you to do what you say you are going to do?
4. Is it ever too late to follow God?
5. Is there ever a good time to turn away from God?



Prayers for the Week

Prayer this week is a prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

INTERCESSARY LITANY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS



Lord, have mercy on us. **R.** Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us, Christ, hear us. **R.** Christ,

graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, **R.** Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **R.** Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost (Spirit) **R.** Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, **R.** Have mercy on us.

R. = Pray for us sinners

Holy Mary, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Queen of Heaven, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, vanquisher of Satan, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, most dutiful Daughter, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, most pure Virgin, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, most devoted Spouse, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, most tender Mother, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, perfect model of virtue, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, sure anchor of hope, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, refuge in affliction, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, dispenser of God's gifts, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, tower of strength against our foes, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, our aid in danger, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, road leading to Jesus, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, our light in darkness, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, our consolation at the hour of death, **R.**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, advocate of the most abandoned sinners, **R.**

R.= With confidence we come to thee, O Lady of Mount Carmel.

For those hardened in vice, **R.**

For those who grieve thy Son, **R.**

For those who neglect to pray, **R.**

For those who are in their agony, **R.**

For those who delay their conversion, **R.**

For those suffering in Purgatory, **R.**

For those who know thee not, **R.**

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.** Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.** Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.** Have mercy on us.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Hope of the Despairing, **R.** Intercede for us with thy Divine Son.

Let Us Pray Our Lady of Mount Carmel, glorious Queen of Angels, channel of God's tenderest mercy to man, refuge and advocate of sinners, with confidence I prostrate myself before thee, beseeching thee to obtain for me (State your intention here in silence). In return I solemnly promise to have recourse to thee in all my trials, sufferings and temptations, and I shall do all in my power to induce others to love and reverence thee and to invoke thee in all their needs. I thank thee for the numberless blessings which I have received from thy mercy and powerful intercession. Continue to be my shield in danger, my guide in life, and my consolation at the hour of death. - Amen.

Quotes of the Week – Quotes from Blessed Virgin Mary

Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother. - Pio of Pietrelcina

When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now. This is why you should ask your parish priest to have perpetual adoration in your parish. I beg the Blessed Mother to touch the hearts of all parish priests that they may have perpetual Eucharistic adoration in their parishes, and that it may spread throughout the entire world - Mother Teresa

The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary. -Pope Pius X

Christian wife! Follow in the footsteps of the ideal of all womanhood, the Blessed Mother of God; in joy and in sorrow, she will be your advocate at the throne of her Son. - John Vianney

Only after the Last Judgment will Mary get any rest; from now until then, she is much too busy with her children. - John Vianney



Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

Match the Saint with his or her quote

1. *"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."* C
2. *"No one should follow what he considers to be good for himself, but rather what seems good for another. Let them put Christ before all else; and may he lead us all to everlasting life."* B
3. *"Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary."* D
4. *"Everything comes from love, all is ordained for the salvation of man, God does nothing without this goal in mind."* D

- A. ___ St. Catherine of Siena B. ___ St. Benedict
 C. ___ St. Augustine D. ___ St. Bonaventure



This Week's Questions

Match the Occupation with the patron saint.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Accountants | A. St. Martha |
| 2. Astronomer | B. St. Matthew |
| 3. Boy Scouts | C. St. Benedict |
| 4. Cooks | D. St. George |



Catholic Humor

1, The last time we changed from daylight saving time, a preacher friend posted, "For those who habitually show up 15 minutes late to church, allow me to remind you that tonight is the night you set your clock back 45 minutes."

2. "What's wrong, Bubba?" asked the pastor. "I need you to pray for my hearing," said Bubba.

The pastor put his hands on Bubba's ears and prayed. When he was done, he asked, "So how's your hearing?"

"I don't know," said Bubba. "It isn't until next Tuesday."

3. We were making leaflets for a local church, and the client wanted a logo designed with Earth being shielded by the hand of God. I sent the client a proof. Shortly thereafter, I got a call.

Client: The hand looks too human. Please use a hand that looks more like God's.

4. I work out religiously—Only on Christmas and Easter.

5. Religion is generally a verboten topic for everyone at work, except for Larry. Recently, after he steered yet another conversation toward the subject, a coworker whispered to me, "That Larry—he always has to put his two saints in."

Saint Monica Society Prayer For October

O Jesus, Good Shepherd, You heal the sick and needy. I pray to You for all those people in my life who suffer from a lack of faith in You. You know what it is like to endure pain for them. Look kindly on them today and heal them. Restore them to your Church.

Give Your gift of wisdom to them so that they may come to know your divine truths. I pray that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all they do today even if they do not realize it. Bless them so that their hands will become Your hands even if they do not acknowledge You. Bless, in a special way those souls that are closest to death. O Jesus, grant us all Your healing grace of love and peace. Amen.

St. Monica Society

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

Pro-Life Corner

Pro-Life Quote: "I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born." – Ronald Reagan

Pro-Life Prayer: **A Prayer of Offering by the Sick for the Unborn by Fr. Frank Pavone**

God of love and consolation, You always draw us closer to yourself. You ask us to trust you And you make us always more like Jesus your Son.

Through his cross, You give our human suffering Divine meaning and purpose.

I pray today for all my brothers and sisters, And especially for those most in need, The children living in their mothers' womb.

Father, I offer my sufferings for them, In union with the sufferings of Jesus. Through my weakness, may they be protected, Through my pain, may they be safe, Through my loneliness, may they know the joy of life.

God of Life, Bring an end to abortion in our world, And bring peace and healing To me and to all who are sick.

I pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.