

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

October 22nd, 2017 – 29th Sunday Ordinary Time

Spirituality Ponderings

Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Let us continue to develop our relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. John Vianney Quote:

"The Blessed Virgin's life was full of sorrow...Every time her tender glance fell upon her Divine Son, she suffered..."

Let us look at the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Eucharist. In many ways Mary what it means to be a living Tabernacle for Christ. She was the first to receive the Body and Blood, Soul & Divinity.

Fr. Rolheiser in his book: *Pour One Great of fidelity: Waiting for Christ in the Eucharist*; has this to say about the Eucharist: "The Eucharist fulfills what Mary prophesied when she was pregnant with Jesus –namely that, in Jesus, the mighty would be brought down and lowly would be raised up. It was this very thing that first drew Dorothy Day to Christianity."

Scott Hahn in his book *Hail Holy Queen* has the following to say about the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mary is the test of how well a Christian has accepted the gospel. It's not that she's central figure of salvation history. She's not: Jesus is. But

our understanding of Mary reveals everything about how we understand Jesus and His saving work.

We live our sonship best by listening to Mary and loving as she loves. Listening means responding when she says, "Do whatever He tells you." Loving means standing by Christ, even to the cross. Loving means choosing, Him in every instance, over sin."

I think the above quote from Scott Hahn, acts as a reminder that faith is about doing what Jesus tell us to and the one thing that Jesus told us to do was to go to Mass (Do this in remembrance of me). The more that I fall deeper and deeper in love with Christ (choose Christ over sin out of love and not out of fear) the easier it is to choose the good.

Mary and the Eucharist Prayer I

Hail Mary, sweet Mother of the Eucharist. With sorrow and much love, You have given us your son Jesus while hanging from the Cross. We, weak creatures, anchor ourselves to You to be worthy sons of this great LOVE and SORROW. Help us to be humble and simple, help us to love all men, help us to live in grace always to be ready to welcome Jesus into our heart. O Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, we, by ourselves, will never be



able to understand this great mystery of love. Gain for us the light of the Holy Spirit, because only in that moment we will be able to perceive even for just one instant, all the infinite love of your Jesus in giving Himself to us. AMEN

Mary and the Eucharist Prayer II

Written by John Paul II

O virgin mother, guide and sustain us so that we might always live as true sons and daughters of the church of your son. Enable us to do our part in helping to establish on earth the civilization of truth and love, as god wills it, for this glory. Amen

Breaking Open the Word

October 22, 2017 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 145 Gospel MT 22:15-21

Spiritual Reflection: A few years ago someone created a fake e-mail account in my name and they used that account to try to get information (sometime personal) information from them. Not knowing that this was happening, I ended up with a lot of people mad at me. With the help of some lawyers, I was able to shut down the fake account because I was able to show that person was not who he claimed to be. He was an imposter. As Catholics we claim to be made in the image of God. Do we act in this way or do we act in a way that makes others think we are imposters?

Spiritual Questions

1. How can you be a more authentic Christian?
2. Why was it so important for Pharisees and Herodians to discredit Jesus?
3. Do you believe that you were made in the image of God?
4. Do you believe others are made in the image of God?
5. How exactly were the Pharisees and Herodians being "hypocrites?"



Prayers for the Week

A couple of prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary

PRAYER OF REFUGE

(By St. Alphonsus Liguori.)

Behold, O Mother of my God, my only hope, Mary, behold at thy feet a miserable sinner, who asks thee for mercy. Thou art proclaimed and called by the whole Church, and by all the faithful, the refuge of sinners. Thou art consequently my refuge; thou hast to save me. I will say with William of Paris: Thou knowest, most sweet Mother of God, how much thy blessed Son desires our salvation. Thou knowest all that Jesus Christ endured for this end.

I present thee, O my Mother, the sufferings of Jesus: the cold that He endured in the stable, His journey into Egypt, His toils, His sweat, the Blood that He shed; the anguish which caused His death on the Cross, and of which thou wast thyself a witness. Oh, show that thou lovest thy beloved Son, and by this love I implore thee to assist me. Extend thy hand to a poor creature who has fallen and asks thy help.

Were I a Saint I would not need seek thy mercy; but because I am a sinner I fly to thee, who art the Mother of mercies. I know that thy compassionate heart finds it a consolation in

assisting the miserable, when thou canst do so, and dost not find them obstinate. Console, then, thy compassionate heart, and console me this day; for now thou hast the opportunity of saving a poor creature condemned to

Hell; and thou canst do so, for I will not be obstinate. I abandon myself into thy hands, only tell me what thou wouldst have me do, and obtain for me strength to execute it, for I am resolved to do all that depends on me to recover the Divine grace.

I take refuge under thy mantle.

Jesus wills that I should have recourse to thee, in order not only that His Blood may save me,



but also that thy prayers may assist me in this great work; for thy glory. and for His Own, since thou art His Mother. He sends me to thee, that thou mayest help me. O Mary, see, I have recourse to thee; in thee do I confide. Thou prayest for so many others, pray also for me; say only a word. Tell Our Lord that thou willest my salvation, and God will certainly save me. Say that I am thine, and then I have obtained all that I ask, all that I desire.

PRAYER OF POPE PIUS XII

Bend Tenderly Over Our Wounds

Enraptured by the splendor of your heavenly beauty, and impelled by the anxieties of the world, we cast ourselves into your arms, O Immaculate Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Mary, confident of finding in your most loving heart appeasement of our ardent desires, and a safe harbour from the tempests which beset us on every side.

Though degraded by our faults and overwhelmed by infinite misery, we admire and praise the peerless richness of the sublime gifts with which God has filled you, above every other mere creature, from the first moment of your conception until the day on which, after your assumption into heaven, he crowned you Queen of the Universe.

O crystal Fountain of Faith, bathe our minds with the eternal truths! O fragrant Lily of All Holiness, captivate our hearts with your heavenly perfume! O Conqueress of Evil and Death, inspire in us a deep horror of sin, which makes the soul detestable to God

and a slave of hell! O well-beloved of God, hear the ardent cry which rises up from every heart. Bend tenderly over our aching wounds. Convert the wicked, dry the tears of the afflicted and oppressed, comfort the poor and humble, quench hatreds, sweeten hardness, safeguard the flower of purity in youth, protect the holy church, make all men feel the attractions of Christian goodness. In your name, resounding harmoniously in heaven, may they recognize that they are brothers, and that the nations are members of one family, upon which may there shine forth the sun of a universal and sincere peace.

Receive, O most sweet Mother, our humble supplications, and above all obtain for us that, one day, happy with you, we may repeat before your throne that hymn which today is sung on earth around your altars: You are all-beautiful, O Mary! You are the glory, you are the joy, you are the honor of our people! Amen.

Quotes of the Week – Quotes About The Mass

- 1) "When Mass is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the Divine Victim immolated on the altar." – St. John Chrysostom
- 2) "If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy." – St. Jean Vianney
- 3) "The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass." – St. Augustine
- 4) "It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass." – St. Padre Pio
- 5) "The Holy Mass would be of greater profit if people had it offered in their lifetime, rather than having it celebrated for the relief of their souls after death." – Pope Benedict XV



Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

Identify these Biblical Characters

1. What did St. Joseph in the Old Testament and St. Joseph in the New Testament have in common? Answer = They both had a man named Jacob for their father.

2. Who led the Israelites in rebuilding the Temple after the Jewish Exile? Answer = Nehemiah and Ezra

3. Who was the Roman Emperor at the time of the Annunciation? Answer = Caesar Augustus

4. What was the name of John and James' father? Answer = Zebedee



This Week's Questions

Match Holy Day with its Clue

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. All Saint's Day | 2. Immaculate Conception |
| 3. Annunciation | 4. Presentation of the Lord |

A. The day Simeon and Anna prophesized about Jesus.

B. The day Joachim and Ann became grandparents.

C. Celebrates the fact that Mary was sinless because of God's grace.

D. The day we celebrate the citizens of heaven.

Catholic Humor

1) What is a dentist's favorite hymn?
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Extra points: Holy, Holy, Holy

2) Who's the arch-enemy of the Gsus chord?
The Dmin chord.

3) What's a salesman's favorite
Scripture passage?

The Great Commission

4) Where was Solomon's temple located?
On the side of his head.

5) How does Moses make his coffee?
Hebrews it.

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

I certainly supported a woman's right to choose, but to my mind the time to choose was before, not after the fact.

—Ann B. Ross

Prayer in Honor of Blessed Margaret of Castello:

Father, Your care extends to every human person, No matter what afflictions they suffer, And you uphold the dignity of every human life, Regardless of the false ways that the world may calculate its value. You gave us Blessed Margaret of Castello as a sign and a challenge. You permitted your glory to shine through her human weakness, And called those around her

to love her Despite her physical limitations. Forgive us when we fail to defend the least among us. Through the intercession of Blessed Margaret, Give us grace to speak up for the outcast and to welcome those who are rejected. When this brief life is over, Grant that we who have welcomed all our brothers and sisters, May be welcomed by you into the life that never ends. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.