

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

October 29th, 2017 – 30th Sunday Ordinary Time

Spirituality Ponderings Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Let us once again learn more about God through learning about the person He chose to be the Mother of His Son.

St. John Vianney:

"It is impossible to meditate with devotion upon the Mysteries of the Rosary and live in a state of sin."

Our Lady Undoer of Knots

The title of Mary as "Virgin Who Unties Knots" traces its roots to Argentina and back to Germany and has recently become very popular in the United States. Maybe one of the most surprising things about this devotion is that it began to flourish because of Pope Francis.

Ann Ball in her book: *The Other Faces of Mary: Stories, Devotions, and Pictures, of the Holy Virgin around the world* writes the following: "The Virgin Maria Desatordar de Nudos (The Virgin Mary Undoer of Knots) was brought to Argentina in the early 1980's by Jesuit Father Jorge Bergoglio (the future Pope Francis), who when rector at the Jesuit University of El Salvador ut who went onto become the cardinal archbishop of Buenos Aires. He had found the image at the Church of St. Peter am Perlach during a visit to

Augsburg, Germany. He was intrigued by the old name and image of Mary called Knotenluserin, the "One who unties Knots."

Fr. Bergoglio brought a few post cards back with him and commissioned a painting to be made from the postcards. The devotion remained mostly unknown though for the next twenty years. Eventually word began to spread from his students to others and devotion finally took off.

Learning that this devotion grew from only a small group of people praying it to a worldwide phenomenon is quite inspiring. It reminds me of one of the most important lessons that the Blessed Virgin Mary teaches us and that is with God all things are possible.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

Virgin Mary, Mother of fair love, Mother who never refuses to come to the aid of a child in need, Mother whose hands never cease to serve your beloved children because they are moved by the divine love and immense mercy that exist in your heart, cast your compassionate eyes upon me and see the snarl of knots that exists in my life. You know very well how desperate I am, my pain, and how I am bound by

these knots. Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the undoing of the knots in the lives of his children, I entrust into your hands the ribbon of my life. No one, not even the evil one himself, can take it away from your precious care. In your hands there is no knot that cannot be undone. Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with Your Son and My Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot. *[Mention your request here]* I beg you to undo it for the glory of God, once for all. You are my hope. O my Lady, you are the only consolation God gives me, the fortification of my feeble strength, the enrichment of my destitution, and, with Christ, the freedom from my chains. Hear my plea. Keep me, guide me, protect me, o safe refuge!



Breaking Open the Word

Breaking Open the Word

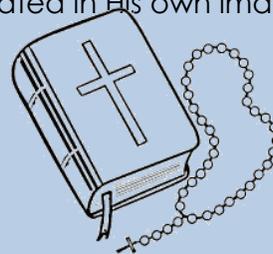
October 29, 2017 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 148 Gospel MT 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Spiritual Reflection: When I was a freshman in high school, I sculpted an angel (a cherubim to be more precise) in art class. I thought I did a good job for my skill level and so I kept on a shelf in my bedroom. One Christmas break, I returned home from college to discover it was gone. I never said anything about it but a few days later I discovered the angel statue in my mother's room on her dresser where she kept all the things she most valued. She later told me that the reason she had taken the statue (despite others calling it ugly) was because it was something that I made and since she loved me she therefore loved my angel sculpture. In the same way if we love God, then we should love the things that He created especially the things He created in His own image.

Spiritual Questions

1. Do you believe God loves you?
2. How does God show His love?
3. Do you love God?
4. How do you show God you love Him?
5. How does loving your neighbor and yourself help you love God?



Prayers for the Week

A couple of prayers for All Saints and All Souls

1 Glory Be...

CHAPLET FOR THE HOLY SOULS

How to pray the Chaplet for the Holy Souls

The devotion of the Chaplet for the Holy Souls is prayed on the most popular 59 beads Marian Rosary which is one of the Catholic Church Sacramentals.

Make the "Sign Of The Cross" on the Cross.

Then say the I Believe In God..

On the 5 beads between the Cross and the medal, say,

1 Our Father...

3 Hail Mary...

For each decade, proceed as follows:

On the large bead prior to 10 small beads, say:

"O Holy Souls draw the fire of God's love into my soul, to reveal Jesus Crucified in me here on earth, rather than hereafter in Purgatory."

On each of the small beads, say:

"Crucified Lord Jesus, have mercy on the souls in Purgatory."

When you have completed all 5 decades, say 3 times the Glory Be...



THE CHAPLET FOR THE DEAD

How to pray the Chaplet for the Dead

The Chaplet for the Dead contains 45 beads. It begins with the Crucifix, 5 introductory beads and 4 sets of 10 beads (40 beads). This Chaplet has no medal. The 40 beads are in memory of the 40 hours which Our Lord is thought to have spent in Limbo.

One begins and ends this devotion with the

De Profundis or the Our Father and the

Hail Mary.

On the large beads is made acts of

Faith, Hope, and Charity.

On each small bead, you say:

"Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation."

Each set of 10 beads is concluded with:

"Eternal Rest Grant unto (him/her) and let the perpetual light shine upon (him/her). May (he/she) rest in peace."

Conclude with:

V. Eternal rest grant unto (him/her), O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon (him/her).

V. May (he/she) rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. May (his/her) soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen. +

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless us and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.



Quotes of the Week – Quotes About Heaven

St. Augustine: "There, good will shall be so ordered in us that we shall have no other desire than to remain there eternally."

St. Philip Neri: "If we only got to heaven, what a sweet and easy thing it will be there to be always saying with the angels and the saints, 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus.'"

St. Anselm of Canterbury: "No one will have any other desire in heaven than what God wills; and the desire of one will be the desire of all; and the desire of all and of each one will also be the desire of God."

St. Jean Vianney: "O my dear parishioners, let us endeavor to get to heaven! There we shall see God. How happy we shall feel! If the parish is converted we shall go there in procession with the parish priest at the head. ... We must get to heaven!"

St. Bernadette Soubirous: "My crown in heaven should shine with innocence and its flowers should be radiant as the sun. Sacrifices are the flowers Jesus and Mary chose."

St. Thomas More: "Earth hath no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

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. **Answer: Presentation of Our Lord.**

B. The day Joachim and Ann became grandparents. **Answer: Annunciation**

C. Celebrates the fact that Mary was sinless because of God's grace. **Answer: Immaculate Conception**

D. The day we celebrate the citizens of heaven. **Answer: All Saints**



This Week's Questions

True or False

1. ____ Pope John Paul II traveled to more than 129 different countries, logging more than 750,000 frequent flyer miles, which is about three times the distance to the moon.
2. ____ The "Devil's Advocate" or *Advocate Diaboli*, is a real position within the Catholic Church.
3. ____ The pope lives in Italy.
4. ____ The Big-Bang theory was proposed by a Catholic priest, Monsignor Georges Lemaitre.

Pro-Life Corner

Too many people use abortion as a form of birth control. And that's very wrong. I could never, ever have an abortion.

—Brooke Shields

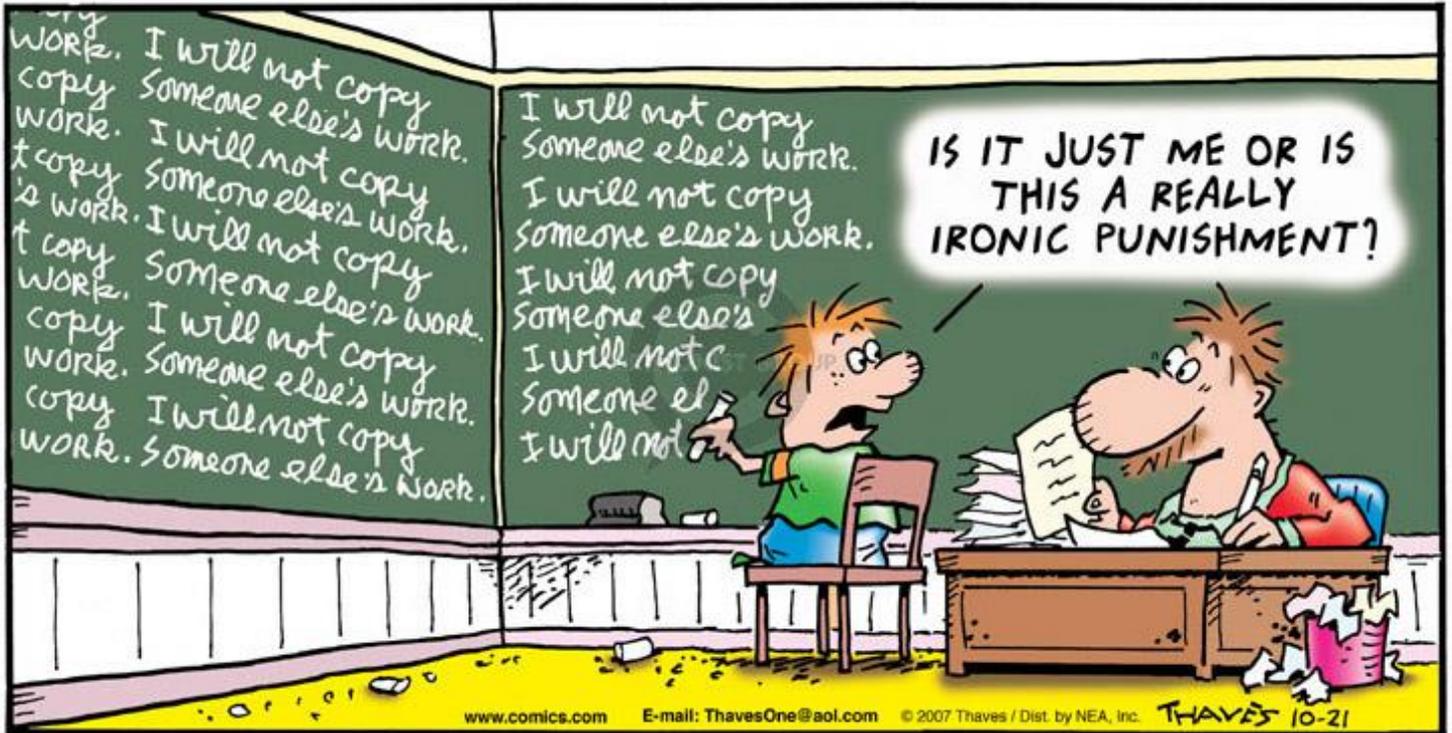
John Paul II's closing prayer of *Evangelium vitae*

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. God Our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen!

Catholic Humor



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.