

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

MARCH 12, 2017

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Seven Lasts Words of Christ Part II

According to St. Augustine the Cross can be described as “The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.” Therefore, as we continue to dive deeper into the lessons that the Cross is trying to teach us let us ask God for the gift of wisdom.

3. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” John 19:26-27.

One of my favorite spiritual heroes is Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. He was a Vietnamese bishop during the Vietnam War. As part of the North’s victory, Cardinal Van Thuan was arrested and placed in a concentration camp where the communist

tortured him in some of the most inhumane ways possible. Eventually the communists grew frustrated with him and placed him under house arrest in North Vietnam. During this time the Vatican and the rest of the world assumed that he was dead. While under house arrest, he wrote a book called *The Road of Hope: a Gospel from Prison*. The book, which

was written on the back of old calendars, contained spiritual statements that were meant to strengthen the

people of Vietnam. Eventually the Vatican negotiated his release and he was exiled from Vietnam. Pope John Paul II made him the head of the Peace and Justice office in the Vatican and invited the Cardinal to preach the Lenten retreat in the year 2000.

Cardinal Thuan wrote this about the gift of Mary: “Here is your Mother’ (Jn 19:27). After the institution of the Blessed Eucharist, the Lord could not have left us anything greater than Mary. She has crushed the head of the serpent. She will help you to

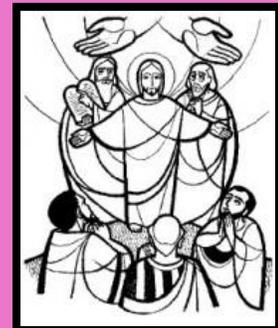
“After the institution of the Blessed Eucharist, the Lord could not have left us anything greater than Mary.” – Cardinal Thuan

2nd Sun. of Lent Lectionary: 25 Gospel MT 17:1-9

Spiritual Reflection: In today’s Gospel Jesus shows Peter, James, and John his glory. It is a reminder to us just how much Jesus had given up to save us. One of the reasons why the Paschal Mystery means so much is because it shows us just how much Jesus sacrificed for our sake. It is more of a miracle when a king steps down from his throne to have lunch with an ordinary person then when that person’s best friend would have lunch with him.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Why was it necessary for Peter, James, and John to witness the Transfiguration?
2. Why was it not necessary for all the Apostles to witness the Transfiguration?
3. Why did God think it was necessary for you to hear today’s Gospel?
4. How do you think Peter, James, and John were changed by what they saw and heard?
5. How are you going to change your life now?



conquer the devil, “the flesh” and “the world.” She will obtain for you the graces to hold firm to the noble ideal which the Lord has placed in your heart.”

Sometimes, the greatest part of suffering is not the pain one feels but seeing others suffer because of our suffering. I can only imagine how Jesus felt, hanging there on the cross seeing his mother suffer. In a way though it was her love and support that helped Him stay the path that the Father had laid out before Him. When we are sick or ill, we must be willing to allow people to help and support us. We should not hold onto stubborn pride. We should also

4. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My

God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Mathew 27:46

When we first hear this passage, we can think of it as a prayer of despair but

Jesus is actually reciting Psalm 22. The psalm can be summarized in three parts. It starts off listing all the miseries the

psalm writer is going through. The second part is where the author promises to remain faithful to God and finally the person declares his trust in God and knows that God will bring out good from the situation. Far from being a rejection of God this is a moment of recommitting himself to the Father. During our time of suffering, do we take the time to

Far from being a rejection of God this is a moment of recommitting himself to the Father. During our time of suffering, do we take the time to recommit ourselves to the Lord.

recommit ourselves to the Lord. One way in which the psalmist does it is by reminding himself of God’s faithfulness in the past. When you feel abandon do you

take the time to think about all the things God has done for us in the past.

Here is one last quote from Cardinal

Thuan: “You suffer most when you suffer at the hands of those who should understand and sympathize with you, indeed those who have the obligation to defend you. Unite yourself with Jesus who hung on the cross and cried: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” (Mt 27:46).”

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Transfiguration Prayer

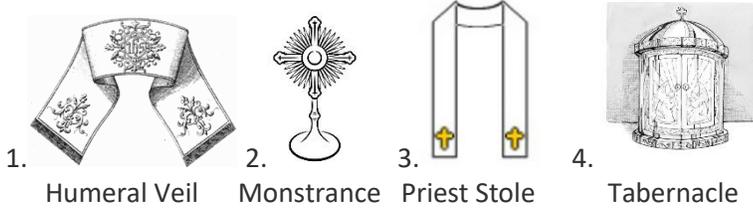
Today’s Gospel contains the story of the Transfiguration and so I thought this prayer that was given me a while ago would be most appropriate.

Transfiguration Prayer

At the Transfiguration, Father, You showed Jesus in glory, a glimpse of what His disciples would see in His risen life. Bless us in our humanity, with an awareness of Your presence, leading us to share in Your divine life even in our daily struggle. Help us to deepen our knowledge of the Law and the Prophets, channels of Your grace throughout history, and signposts for our journey. Amen.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Last Week Answers: I.D. The Following Items



This Week's Trivia True or False

1. The story of Veronica wiping the face of Jesus is found in the Bible.
2. The word "tabernacle" comes from a word meaning "tent".
3. Faith, Hope, & Love are considered the theological virtues.
4. Somewhere in the world there is always a Mass being celebrated.

CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

The Password To Heaven

After a long illness, a woman died and arrived at the Gates of Heaven. While she was waiting for Saint Peter to greet her, she peeked through the Gates. She saw a beautiful banquet table. Sitting all around were her parents and all the other people she had loved and who had died before her.

They saw her and began calling greetings to her - "Hello, How are you! We've been waiting for you!" "Good to see you".

When Saint Peter came by, the woman said to him "This is such a Wonderful place! How do I get in?" "You have to spell a word", Saint Peter told her.

"Which word?" the woman asked.

"Love."

The woman correctly spelled "Love" and Saint Peter welcomed her into Heaven.

About six months later, Saint Peter came to the woman and asked her to watch the Gates of Heaven for him that day. While the woman was guarding the Gates of Heaven, her husband arrived. "I'm surprised to see you", the woman said. "How have you been?"

"Oh, I've been doing pretty well since you died," her husband told her. "I married the beautiful young nurse who took care of you while you were ill. then I won the lottery. I sold the little house you and I lived in and bought a big mansion. And my wife and I traveled all around the world. We were on vacation and I went water skiing today. I fell, the ski hit my head, and here I am. How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word", the woman told him.

"Which word?" her husband asked.

"Czechoslovakia."

Spiritual Adoption

Spiritual Adoption 1-2 Month

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.

1 Month since Conception –Developing Baby "My heart is beating!"

Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Already your baby is 10,000 times bigger than at conception. Your baby has developed the foundations of his brain, spinal cord, and nervous system by the 20th day. His heart began to beat on the 21st day, pumping blood through its own circulatory system and the blood type can be different from his mother's. Your baby is most vulnerable during the next month of being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of his mother to give him the most precious gift of all - - the gift of life.

CATHOLIC QUOTES

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." -- Pope Benedict XVI

"Nothing, how little so ever it be, if it is suffered for God's sake, can pass without merit in the sight of God." -- Thomas a Kempis

Special Lenten Holy Hour

I am also excited to announce that we will be having a special Holy Hour each Sunday of Lent at Epiphany from 6PM-7PM. These Holy Hours will carry with them a special reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Please see the schedule below.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Words of Christ</u>	<u>Meditation</u>
March 5th	Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. – Luke 23:34	Fr. Michael Rennie
March 12th	Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise. – Luke 23:43	Fr. Bill Kempf
March 19th	Woman, behold your son, Son behold your mother. – John 19:26-27	Msgr. Gregory Mikesch
March 26th	My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? – Matthew 27:46	Fr. Ralph Houlihan S. J.
April 2nd	I thirst -John 19:28	Fr. Tom Miller
April 9th	It is finished. - John 19:30 Father into your hands I commit my spirit -Luke 23:46	Msgr. John Borcic



**Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Formation Parents Association
Invite You To The
5th Annual ASCJ Trivia Night**



All proceeds benefit the ASCJ Education Fund

The ASCJ Education Fund helps support the educational needs of the ASCJ sisters in the formation process, specifically covering the cost of their theology classes and the pursuit of academic degrees, allowing them to minister with integrity and competency to the contemporary needs of the People of God.

When: Saturday, March 25, 2017

Where: Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall

Time: Doors open 6:00pm

Cost: \$160 per Table (8 max per table)

Beer, Wine, Soda & Water Provided

Bring your favorite snacks to share

Questions start at 7:00pm

Tables are limited...so reserve your table early

For an evening of trivia fun & in support of the Sisters, please enclose your check (payable to Apostles of Sacred Heart of Jesus) with the order form below. For further information contact Beth or Jim Zak at bkzakphoto@gmail.com or at (314) 831-2502.