

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

MARCH 19, 2017

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Seven Lasts Words of Christ Part III

Let us begin today's reflection with a quote from Cardinal Thuan: "You have to make many sacrifices when you live in the midst of people who differ from you politically, socially, and ideologically. But look at the example of Jesus. He Who is God chose to live among humanity I thirty-three years of continual sacrifice."

5. "I thirst" {John 19:28}

Fulton Sheen in his book: *The Cross and Beatitudes: Lessons on*

Love and Forgiveness is quick to point out the following when it comes to Jesus' thirst. "It was not a thirst for earthly waters, for the earth and its oceans were his. And when they offered him vinegar and gall as a sedative for his sufferings he refused it. It was therefore not a physical, but a spiritual thirst that troubled him—the thirst for the Beatitude of Justice—an insatiable thirst for the souls of human beings."

Pope Benedict XVI in his book *God is Love* talks about the many different types of love in the world by talking about how the Greeks had seven words for love. Pope Benedict XVI talks about "agape love" which is the highest form of

love because it is totally selfless. It is the love that wants what is best for the other even if it requires a sacrifice on our part. We know that God's love is this way. He desires what is best for us. Pope Benedict XVI also writes about "eros love". This love is best describe as a "possessive love". I have to have it type of love that boards on infatuation. Finally, Pope

Benedict XVI explains that in God these two love meet and

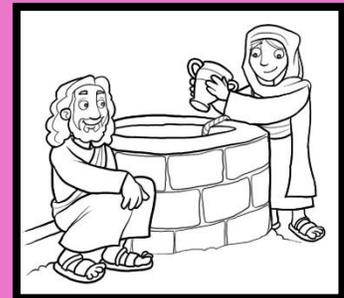
perfect each other. God not only loves me and wants what is best for me but he desires (He thirsts) to be with me. This idea of Pope Benedict XVI has deepened my relationship with God because I realize that God does not just love me and thus tolerates me. He loves me and desires to be with me. As a child who was never chosen first for any team at recess growing up, I imagine God always choosing me first so much does He desire to have me as a part of His team. What does it mean to you to know that God not only loves you but also desires to be with you? He would literally rather die than be without you.

3rd Sunday of Lent Lectionary: 28 Gospel JN 4:5-42

Spiritual Reflection: One counselor told me that contempt is the refusal to treat someone with even common respect. We see Jesus show the woman at the well that despite her many sins, she still has Jesus respect. He never demeans her or attacks her character. By spending time with her and treating her with respect Jesus gains many disciples through her testimony.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Do you talk to people about Jesus? What do you say to people?
2. What words would you use to describe your relationship with Jesus?
3. How would you have reacted to this woman if you saw her at your department store?
4. How do you convince people to do things your way?
5. What does it take for you to change your mind?



6. **“It is consummated/ finished.”**
(John 19:30)

Cardinal Thuan in his book: Road of Hope: A Gospel from Prison writes the following: “Don’t be discouraged by your failures.

When you seek to do the will of God and meet with failure, that

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and with one question makes them doubt God’s love. Their act of

failure may be a success in God’s eyes because the outcome is as God desired. Look at the example of Jesus on the cross.”

It is my opinion that the first sin of Adam and Eve was not that they ate something against God’s will but that their disobedience rather was a manifestation of their doubt of God’s love for them. God had done so many things for them. He

created the world, the plants & animals, He gave them a good home (Eden), and a meaningful job. All of these were things that were meant to demonstrate God’s love for them. The devil comes

disobedience was a sign of their new lack of trust in God. Instead of recalling all the good things God had done for them, they chose to believe the serpents suggestion that God was holding back on them. God’s answer to humanity’s doubts about God’s love for them was to send His Son into the world to show us that God would rather die than be without us. Jesus says through His

death, that God loves us this much. Salvador Dali painted a picture of Jesus being crucified and he intentionally left the nails out of the painting. When asked why, Salvador Dali told people that it was not the nails that kept Christ on the Cross but rather His love for us.

I truly believe that one of the problems in our Church today is that we are filled with groups of people who give up too easily. St. Ignatius of Loyola in his rules of discernment warns Christians that desolation (the feeling of God’s absence) is a part of the Christian journey. Instead of giving up we need to stay the course and keep praying through the dry spell (desolation).

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayer of Deliverance/Protection

The following prayer, I used at the close of my homily on the First Sunday of Lent. Since then people have asked me to share it with them. I hope that it helps you in your spiritual growth.

Prayer of Deliverance/Protection

My Lord, you are all powerful, you are God, you are Father. We beg you through the intercession and help of the archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, for the deliverance of our brothers and sisters who are enslaved by the evil one. All saints of Heaven, come to our aid.

From anxiety, sadness and obsessions, we beg You. **Free us, O Lord.**

From hatred, fornication, envy, we beg You, **Free us, O Lord.**

From thoughts of jealousy, rage, and death, we beg You, **Free us, O Lord.**

From every thought of suicide and abortion, we beg You, **Free us, O Lord.**

From every form of sinful sexuality, we beg You, **Free us, O Lord.**

From every division in our family, and every harmful friendship, we beg You, **Free us, O Lord.**

From every sort of spell, malefic, witchcraft, and every form of the occult, we beg You, **Free us, O Lord.**

Lord, You Who said, “I leave you peace, My peace I give you,” grant that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, we may be liberated from every evil spell and

enjoy your peace always. In the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer



CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Last Week Answers: Trivia True or False

1. The story of Veronica wiping the face of Jesus is found in the Bible. FALSE
2. The word "tabernacle" comes from a word meaning "tent". TRUE
3. Faith, Hope, & Love are considered the theological virtues. TRUE
4. Somewhere in the world there is always a Mass being celebrated. FALSE (No Mass on Good Friday)

This Week's Trivia Question. Match the Saint with his or her quote.

- 1) "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!"
- 2) "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."
- 3) "Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you."
- 4) "Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity."

A-St. Vincent de Paul B-St. Francis C-St. Catherine of Sienna D-St. Augustine

CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

A group of Catholic ladies, who belonged to their parish Ladies Guild, unfortunately met an untimely death as the bus that they were on for their day trip was involved in a tragic accident and all of them died. St. Peter was taken by surprise and said that due to redecorating there wasn't room for them so they would have to spend a little time, about forty days in hell until their mansion was ready. The devil reluctantly agreed to offer them the temporary accommodation.

Three weeks later Satan called St. Peter and told him "You have to come get them. They must leave".

St. Peter was surprised that the devil was so frantic and asked "Why?".

Satan made a long sigh then answered, "These Ladies guild members are just about two fish fries, two bingos and a card party away from having enough money to air condition this place!"

Spiritual Adoption

MONTH 2 – Developing Baby
– "I'm dancing!"

Your baby is making progress developing all of her external features and internal organs. Her brain is functioning at 40 days. Her mother can hear her heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Baby-teeth buds are present at 6 ½ weeks. The central nervous system is functioning and 40 muscle sets begin their first exercises. From this moment, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines her body. But everything she needs to survive after birth is already present by the end of the eighth week. She is now called a "fetus" a Latin word meaning "little one". Ultrasound reveals that this little one can now spring, flip and jump – her first dance steps!

Epiphany
Fish Fries
4:30-
7PM

Fridays
March 3
March 10
March 24
March 31
April 7



CATHOLIC QUOTES

“Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ.” – St. John Paul II

“The human person is a good towards which the only proper attitude is love.”

-St. John Paul II

“Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.” -St. John Paul II

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 bzakphoto@gmail.com or at (314) 831-2502.