

# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

MAY 28, 2017

## SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

### 15<sup>th</sup> Diseases of Leadership Part IV

Let us continue our look at Pope Francis's "15 Diseases of Leadership". Pope Francis's diseases are in bold and my commentary in normal font.

**12. THE DISEASE OF A DOWNCAST FACE.** You see this disease in those glum and dour persons who think that to be serious you have to put on a face of melancholy and severity, and treat others—especially those we consider our inferiors—with rigor, brusqueness and arrogance. In fact, a show of severity and sterile pessimism are frequently symptoms of fear and insecurity. A leader must make an effort to be courteous, serene, enthusiastic and joyful, a person who transmits joy everywhere he goes. A happy heart radiates an infectious joy: it is immediately evident! So, a leader should never lose that joyful, humorous and even self-deprecating spirit which makes people amiable even in difficult situations. How beneficial is a good dose of humor! ...

I am more likely to jump out of an airplane after meeting a paratrooper who says, "I get to jump out of airplanes" than if I had met a paratrooper who says, "I have to jump out of airplanes." When people see, us lead, do they get to see us lead in such a way

that we say "I get to be a Christian" or does it appear that we are saying "I have to be a Christian." If we are not excited how can we expect others.

**13. THE DISEASE OF HOARDING.** This occurs when a leader tries to fill an existential void in his or her heart by accumulating material goods, not out of need but only in order to feel secure. The fact is that we are not able to bring material goods with us when we leave this life, since "the winding sheet does not have pockets" and all our treasures will never be able to fill that void; instead, they will only make it deeper and more demanding. Accumulating goods only burdens and inexorably slows down the journey!

I used to think of the sin of gluttony as only as wanting more for the sake of wanting more. Now I believe gluttony has more to deal with wanting more in order to cover up some emotional problem or fear. I can become gluttonous when I don't want to address my fear of loneliness in the right way. Hoarding is a sign that there is something emotionally wrong with us and we should get help

in addressing that issue so we can live healthy lives.

**14. THE DISEASE OF CLOSED CIRCLES, where belonging to a clique becomes more powerful**

**Ascension Of The Lord**  
**Lectionary: 58 Gospel MT**  
**28:16-20**

**Spiritual Reflection:** Jesus informs us that He will be with us and this should remind us of the Biblical principal that God always guarantees his presence He has a task for people to do. For us we are to out and baptize in God's name.

**Spiritual Questions:**

1. Why is Baptism so important?
2. Why do we need God's presence in our work?
3. How do we make God present in the world today?
4. How do we lift people up?
5. Why did Jesus return to heaven?



than our shared identity. This disease too always begins with good intentions, but with the passing of time it enslaves its members and becomes a cancer which threatens the harmony of the organization and causes immense evil, especially to those we treat as outsiders. "Friendly fire" from our fellow soldiers, is the most insidious danger. It is the evil which strikes from within. As it says in the bible, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste."

Michael Bay, the director of the Transformer movies, said that in the first movie he purposely limited the dialogue of the evil robots in order to make them as scary as possible. The more people talk with those that they consider scary the less scary they become. Being a new person

entering a large group can be scary and being a large group accepting a new person can also be scary for the group. It is therefore important to give each other time to talk and trust each other.

**15. LASTLY: THE DISEASE OF EXTRAVAGANCE AND SELF-EXHIBITION.** This happens when a leader turns his or her service into power, and uses that power for material gain, or to acquire even greater power. This is the disease of persons who insatiably try to accumulate power and to this end are ready to slander, defame and discredit others; who put themselves on display to show that they are more capable than others. This disease does great harm because it leads people to justify the use of any means whatsoever to attain their

goal, often in the name of justice and transparency! Here I remember a leader who used to call journalists to tell and invent private and confidential matters involving his colleagues. The only thing he was concerned about was being able to see himself on the front page, since this made him feel powerful and glamorous, while causing great harm to others and to the organization.

Being wealthy or famous does not allow us to live by a different moral code. As Catholics were all bound by the Universal Call to Holiness, the Law of Love, 10 Commandments, and 8 Beatitudes.

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

### Prayer For Graduates

Many people have graduated or will graduate soon. Here are some Graduation prayers.

#### Graduation Prayer #1

Lord God, We ask for your almighty hand to be upon all those who graduate today. Bless their lives from this day on with goodness and love. Help them to stay true to their dreams, to use their gifts wisely, and to walk into the future with faith, hope, and great love. Amen.

#### Graduation Prayer #2 (a prayer suitable for a student to say)

Dear Lord, May this graduation day be a celebration of your life within us. We give you all the learning, the skills and the hard work of these years. We pour out our gifts into

your hands. May we hold this memory in our heart as we continue on our adventure! Father, may we live a life that reveals your hope and be guided in everything we do by your everlasting truth. Amen.

#### Graduation Prayer #3 High School Graduation Prayer

Father, we thank you so much for our time here together for all the friends we have made For all the days of laughter and fun And for all the times of great discovery and learning. We thank You for all who have given of their energy and skill So that we can graduate today. Our teachers and mentors Our family and loved ones We thank You for them and give them all to You in

prayer.

As this chapter on our lives closes, so a new one begins. We present ourselves like an open book before You. Come and scribe Your words of life into our lives - Fill our minds with Your Thoughts Fill our bodies with Your strength Fill our hearts with Your dreams That we might eternally love and serve You This day and every day. We ask all this in the glorious name of Jesus Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit World without end. Amen.

#### Graduation Prayer #4

Father, I have knowledge, so will You show me now, how to use it wisely and find a way somehow to make

the world I live in a little better place, And make life with its problems a little bit easier to face. Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days, And show me how to serve Thee in effective ways. So, my education, my knowledge and my skill May find their true

fulfillment as I learn to do Thy will. And may I ever be aware in everything I do, that knowledge comes from learning, and wisdom comes from You. Amen.

## Catholic Quiz

Last Week's Answers: Identify the following Apostles by their Coat of Arms



- 1. St. Peter
- 2. St. Philip
- 3. St. Simon
- 4. St. Thomas

This Week Trivia Questions: Which of the following does not belong?

- 1. Lisieux    Calcutta    Sienna    Avila
- 2. Loyola    Antioch    Laconi    Jerusalem
- 3. More    DeSales    Aquinas    Beckett
- 4. Chasuble    Dalmatic    Corporeal    Cope

## Epiphany of Our Lord Cow Patty Bingo



Epiphany is hosting its first ever Cow Patty Bingo on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2PM – 9PM.

### Cow Patty Bingo Basics:

1. Msgr. Sullivan field has been divided into 500 5ftx5ft squares.
2. Each square will randomly receive a number 1 through 500. (So #1 will not necessarily be a corner)
3. You may purchase a square for \$20.
4. Squares are assigned randomly.
5. If the Cow drops her patty on your square you win \$2,000

\*See [www.epiphanystl.org](http://www.epiphanystl.org) for more info, official rules, and to purchase your squares

## CATHOLIC HUMOR

### Catholic Laughs

A Protestant minister had this story tell once: I took her to bed and asked what she would like to pray about. Promptly she answered: "onions." We prayed about onions and the next morning I asked why she wanted to pray about onions. "Because you said in

your sermon that we should pray for things we don't like."



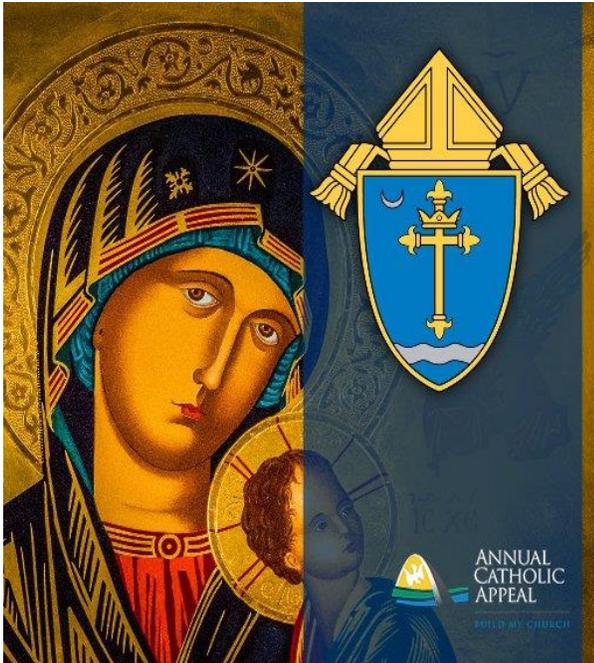
## CATHOLIC QUOTES

God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because God loves us. - Fulton J. Sheen

There is no word more "dangerous" than liberalism, because to oppose it is the new "unforgivable sin." - Fulton J. Sheen

If you do not worship God, you worship something, and nine times out of ten it will be yourself. You have a duty to worship God, not because He will be imperfect and unhappy if you do not, but because you will be imperfect and unhappy. - Fulton J. Sheen

Christianity, unlike any other religion in the world, begins with catastrophe and defeat. Sunshine religions and psychological inspirations collapse in calamity and wither in adversity. But the Life of the Founder of Christianity, having begun with the Cross, ends with the empty tomb and victory. - Fulton J. Sheen



**Fund-raising is also always a call to conversion. And this call comes to both those who seek funds and those who have funds. Whether we are asking for money or giving money we are drawn together by God, who is about to do a new thing through our collaboration (see Isa. 43:19). To be converted means to experience a deep shift in how we see and think and act. Fr. Henri Nouwen. (Spiritual Writer)**

Over the last six to seven years, I have grown to appreciate the Annual Catholic Appeal more and more. I used to think of it as the Archdiocese just wanting more of my money but now I see it as an opportunity to help other people and to build up the kingdom of God. I know that part of the reason, I feel this way is because I have met many of the ACA staff people (employees and volunteers) and their example of living up the Christian faith challenge me to grow. – Fr. Pastorius

### Spiritual Adoption Prayer



“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

MONTH 5 – Developing Baby – “Mommy felt me kick today!” Spiritual Adoption Program

Your spiritually adopted baby weighs over one pound now, and his mother can feel his movement. Before this time, he was too small for her to feel. Although he swam with ease in his watery world, he needed to be big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside wall and dent it -- the inside wall of the uterus has little feeling. We are mid-way through the pregnancy now. Your prayers have helped your baby’s mother continue with her pregnancy and seek the help she needs.

Memorial Day Weekend is tomorrow:

Go to : <http://www.mayjesuschristbepraised.com/memorial-day> for a Family Prayer Service.

