

# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

July 16, 2017 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

## SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

### Faith & Film: Suicide Squad

As we continue to look at some of the stories that were made movies this past year, let us remember to explore some of the spiritual insights the author may have planted in the movies (knowingly or unknowingly).

#### **Suicide Squad:**

The premise behind this comic book movie is an interesting one. A woman, by the name of Amanda Waller, gathers together humanity's worst criminals. Each of these criminals has one or more special superpower. (I would argue Harley Quinn's super craziness is her superpower). Amanda implants a small bomb inside each of them that will go off if they do not do as they are told. They are then placed under the command of Colonel Rick Flag.

An ancient witch named Enchantress becomes determined to take over Midway City. Amanda Waller sends the Suicide Squad to Midway City with the mission of rescuing a "high value" asset from the city before the witch gets him or her. Throughout the movie, the Joker tries to rescue his girlfriend Harley Quinn. Amanda Waller is eventually captured by the Enchantress and the villains are given a chance to run away.



Instead of running away they gather together and defeat the Enchantress and save the world.

#### **Spiritual Insight #1 Doing Bad Things Do Not Make Us Bad**

The men and women of the Suicide Squad have embraced the label of being a villain. Each has done so for a different reason for example: Deadshot does it for the money, Harley Quinn does it for love (or lust), El Diablo does it because he uses his gift (superpower) for his own personal gain instead of helping others, and Killer Croc does so as a result of the way that others treated him.

They fail to realize that "villain" is just a label and not who they are at the deepest part of the being. Each of them is a child of God and has the capacity for doing good. They just have to reject the label of villain and start doing good. There is a

young French man named Jacques Fesch who is up for canonization. Jacques was a villain, he killed a police officer while robbing a bank. In prison though he took ownership of his evil choices and became a mystic.

#### **Spiritual Insight #2 Good Guys are Bad Guys because they objectify others**

Even though Amanda Waller is trying to protect the people of the world from an evil threat and is not labeled a criminal she is a bad guy. What makes Amanda Waller a bad guy is that she objectifies others. Everyone in her life is a means to an end. She will treat them well while she needs them but the moment that she does not need them they become expendable. This is proven by how she treats Rick Flag, the other intelligence operatives trapped in Midway City with her (she kills them all without a moment of hesitation) and of

course how she treats the villains.

John Paul II stated in his teachings that the opposite of love is not hate but rather objectification. When we love someone, we want what is best for them even if it requires a sacrifice on our part. The opposite of them is when we use another person, even if it hurts them, for our own benefit. Amanda Waller is therefore one of the evilest people because she only sees people as an object. We see that most of the villains cared for

someone for example Deadshot loves his daughter, Harley loves the Joker and El Diablo loved his family.

### **Spiritual Insight #3: Image of God**

The Enchantress and her brother Incubus, according to the story, were at one time mistaken in history to be a god or goddess. They decided that since people are no longer worshipping them that they would kill all the humans. This is pagan mythology/theology at its best. We must be careful that we do not assume that

this is how God really is. Our God is love and therefore He is: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 12). Remember that God is not like the Enchantress or Incubus.

## Breaking Open the Word

### **July 16, 2017 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 103 Gospel MT 13:1-23**

**Spiritual Reflection:** The fact that God gives good things to bad people is proof that God's goodness is limitless. Otherwise He would have to ration His goodness. The sower in the Gospel story freely spreads His seed because He has no fear of running out.

#### **Spiritual Questions:**

1. Why does God allow good things to happen to bad people?
2. Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?
3. How does God's goodness show the overabundance of His grace?
4. What are some things that prevent you from receiving God's grace?
5. Which type of soil do you feel like?



## Quotes of the Week

1. Let us begin in earnest to work out our salvation, for no one will do it for us, since even He Himself, Who made us without ourselves, will not save us without ourselves. -St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

2. It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels. -Saint Augustine

3. To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible. -St. Thomas Aquinas

4. Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you. -St. Augustine of Hippo

## Catholic Trivia



### Last Week's Answers

#### True or False

1. T or F – The Big Bang Theory was created by a Catholic priest.

True: Fr. Georges Lemaître was a Belgium priest who studied Astronomy at the Louvain

2. T or F - Dom Pierre Pérignon, the inventor of champagne was a Catholic monk.

True: Don Pierre Pérignon was a monk who invented Champaign

3. T or F – A Catholic by the name of André-Marie Ampère is the reason why we measure electricity in AMPS

True – “Amps” derived their name from Fr. Andre Marie Ampere i

4. T or F – Louis Braille, the inventor of the reading and writing format for blind people was also a Catholic.

True



### This Week's Questions

#### Answer the Following Questions about Pope Francis?

1. Where was Pope Francis born?

2. What religious order did Pope Francis belong to before he became pope?

3. What was Pope Francis's birth name?

4. What was the odd job Pope Francis had when he was young?



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## Catholic Humor

1. As the substitute preacher was greeting the congregation he made the statement, “You know, a substitute preacher is like a piece of cardboard in a broken window. He fills the space, but after all, he’s not the real glass.” He then

compliment by saying, “You weren't a replacement after all. You were a real pane.

2. Watch out in the morning  
Two little brothers, Harry and James, had finished supper and were playing until bedtime.

Somehow, Harry hit James with a stick, and tears and bitter words followed. Charges and accusations were still being exchanged as mother prepared them for bed.

The mother instructed, "Now, James, before you go to bed, you're going to have to forgive your brother." James was thoughtful for a few moments, and then he replied, "Well, OK, I'll forgive him tonight, but if I don't die in the night, he'd better look out in the morning."

### 3. Juggler

A professional juggler, driving to his next performance, is stopped by the police. "What are you doing with these matches and lighter fluid in your car?" asks the police officer.

"I'm a juggler and I juggle flaming torches in my act."

"Oh yeah? Let's see you do it," says the officer. So the juggler gets out and starts juggling the blazing torches masterfully.

A couple driving by slows down to watch. "Wow," says the driver to his wife. "I'm glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're giving now!"

### 4. Referees

Hours after the end of the world, a border dispute emerged between heaven and hell. God invited the devil for conversations to find a way to resolve this dispute quickly. Satan, the devil, proposed a soccer game between heaven and hell.

God, always fair, told the devil, "The heat must be affecting your brain, the game would be so one sided, don't you know all the 'good' players go to heaven?"

The devil, smiling, responded "Yeah, but we've got all the refs'..."

## Spiritual Adoption



### 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

Seventh Month Your baby is now about 3 pounds – this added weight makes her skin look smoother. Her eyelids can now open and close, her eyes look around and respond to light. She has a powerful grip now - strong enough to support her body weight with one hand.