

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

Julv 23. 2017 – 16th Sunday Ordinary Time

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Faith & Film: Jungle Book

A young human boy named Mowgli was rescued as a baby from death by a panther named Bagheera. Bagheera entrusts Mowgli to a pack of wolves led by Akela. Akela tries to raise Mowgli as a wolf and therefore looks down upon him when Mowgli uses his human reasoning to invent tools to make his life easier. During a particular dry year, a truce is called in the jungle and everyone gathers around the river. At the river Sheer Khan, a tiger, makes it known that he plans to kill Mowgli when the drought ends. Bagheera decides that the best thing for Mowgli is that he be taken to the man village at the edge of the jungle.

During their travels, Mowgli and Bagheera become separated and Mowgli meets a python named Kaa. Mowgli is rescued from Kaa by Baloo, a giant bear. Baloo and Mowgli quickly become friends and are reunited with Bagheera. As they continue their journey to the man village Mowgli is kidnapped by monkeys and taken to their king – a giant monkey named Louie. Louie wants Mowgli to give him the secret to fire (the red flower) which Mowgli does not know anything about.

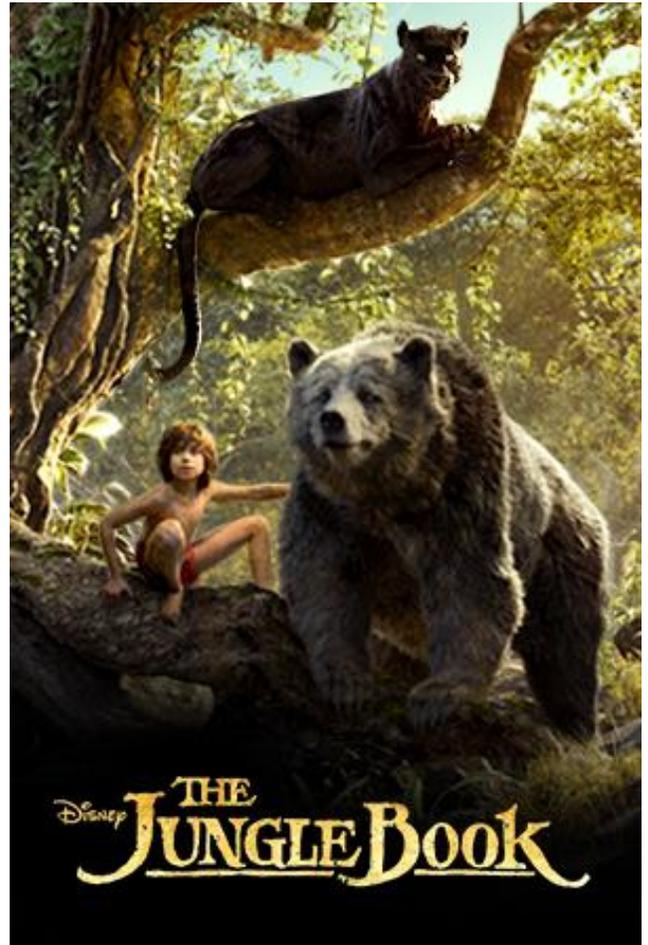
torch from the man village and runs back into the jungle to face Sheer Kahn. Mowgli accidentally sets the forest on fire and Sheer Khan falls to his death.

Spiritual Insight #1 – Be oneself

One of the key struggles that Mowgli has in the story is discovering who he is supposed to be. Akela and Bagheera wanted Mowgli to act like a wolf and did not appreciate Mowgli's "human tricks" (making of tools). At the end, Mowgli learns that he has to be himself if he is going to beat Sheer Kahn. Baloo on the other hand appreciates Mowgli's tricks but does not at first appreciate the fact that Mowgli has his own life to live. Mowgli had to learn to appreciate his tool making ability and to do the things he feels compelled to do despite what other people may think of him.

Spiritual Insight #2 – Friendship

Mowgli learns a lot about friendship throughout the movie as he encounters different animals. The main lesson he learns is that friends want what is best for you. King



relationship with Mowgli by using him to get honey but he quickly learns that friendship with the man cub is worth more than all the honey he could eat. This is why he is willing to fight the monkeys and Sheer Kahn to save Mowgli.

Spiritual Insight # 3 – Part of a Pack

A youth minister I know is very fond of saying "The Catholic Faith was never meant to be lived alone." This is somewhat similar to the wolves' Law of the Jungle: "Now this is the Law of the Jungle—as old and as true as the sky; And the Wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but

the Wolf that shall break it must die. As the creeper that girdles the tree trunk, the Law runneth forward and back; For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack."

The Law of the Jungle I think can be compared to St. Paul's teaching on the Mystical Body of Christ in 1 Corinthians: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say,

"Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." Indeed, the parts

of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy."- 1 Corinthian 12: 12:26

Breaking Open the Word

July 23, 2017 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 106 Gospel MT 13:24-43

Spiritual Reflection: Jesus' teaching of the weeds and wheat is a reminder that we need to learn and practice the art of discernment. Not every idea that pops into our head are going to be good ideas. It is important to remember that temptations are not sins. It is what we do with them that matter. For example, I may be tempted to skip prayer and if I do I commit a sin. If I do not skip my prayers but instead use my temptation to skip prayer as a sign that I should pray more than I have actually increased in virtue.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What are some weeds (bad thinking) that you fall into again and again?
2. Why do you think God allows temptations to enter into your life?
3. Describe a time in which you turned a temptation to do something bad into a moment of doing something good.
4. How do bad ideas lead to frustrations?
5. How does good ideas lead to happiness?



Prayers for the Week

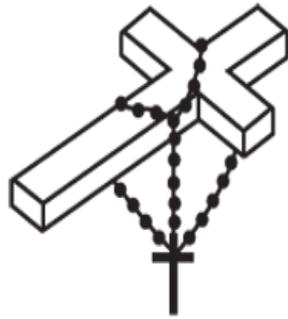
THE CHAPLET OF MERCY AND FORGIVENESS

How to pray the Chaplet of Mercy and Forgiveness

This devotion may be prayed on the regular Marian Rosary of 59 beads.

History: This chaplet was composed by

Chorbishop Joseph Saidi of Worcester, Massachusetts, U.S.A. Father Saidi was the pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Maronite Catholic Church from 1947 until his retirement in August 1977.



Begin by blessing yourself and kissing the Crucifix. Looking at the crucifix, say:
 "Lord Jesus, we believe in You as You are the Son of Mary and the Son of the Living God, Creator and Redeemer. You came from heaven to earth to save all mankind. You are the Savior of the World. You taught us to pray: 'Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.'"

On all of the "Our Father" beads, instead of the

"Our Father," say:
 "Merciful Jesus, our Redeemer, You said, "ask and you shall receive." We humbly ask You to hear our prayer, forgive us our sins and grant us Your peace and salvation. We praise You now and forever." Amen.

On all of the "Hail Mary" beads, instead of the "Hail Mary," say:
 "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us."

At the end of each decade (10 beads), instead of the "Glory be to the Father," say:
 "Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, intercede for us."

At the end of the last decade of the chaplet, say:
 "Most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, intercede for us, for the forgiveness of our sins, peace and eternal salvation from your loving Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of the Living God, and we praise you, we bless His name now and forever."

Glory be to the Father...

Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

Answer the Following Questions about Pope Francis?

1. Where was Pope Francis born? Answer: Buenos Aires, Argentina
2. What religious order did Pope Francis belong to before he became pope? Answer: Jesuit
3. What was Pope Francis's birth name? Answer: Jorge Mario Bergolio
4. What was the odd job Pope Francis had when he was young? He was a bouncer at a night club.



This Week's Questions

Answer the Following Questions

1. Who was Ruth's second husband?
2. Who was King David's first wife?
3. Who was Jezebel married to?
4. Who was Elizabeth's husband?



Quotes of the Week

1. He who is chaste in flesh should not be proud, for he should know that he owes the gift of continence to another. –Pope St. Clement I

2. I thought that continence was a matter of our own strength, and I knew that I had not the strength: for in my utter foolishness I did not know the word of Your Scripture that none can be continent unless You give it. –St. Augustine

3. Great are those two gifts, wisdom and continence: wisdom, forsooth, whereby we are formed in the knowledge of God; continence whereby we are not conformed to this world. –St. Augustine

4. Do not say that you have chaste minds if you have unchaste eyes, because an unchaste eye is the messenger of an unchaste heart. –St. Augustine

Catholic Humor



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.