

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

JULY 02, 2017 – 13TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Faith & Film

Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham in their book: *The Spirituality of Imperfection: Storytelling and the Search for Meaning* has the following to say about storytelling: "For once upon a time, people told stories. In the midst of sorrow, and in the presence of joy, both mourners and celebrants told stories. But especially in times of trouble, when "a miracle" was needed and the limits of human ability were reached, people turned to storytelling as a way of exploring the fundamental mysteries: Who are we? How are we to live?" In keeping with my tradition and acknowledging the power of a story, I will share with you some spiritual reflection on different movies.



Captain America Civil War

Most superhero movies follow the basic format of one or two heroes going up against the villain of the day and it is normally very easy to know who to root for. This movie is different in that it pins two teams of super heroes against each other. The first team is led by Iron Man (A.K.A Tony Stark) and they believe that the team of super heroes need to have a govern body to hold them accountable. Iron Man strongly feels this way because he feels guilty for all the destruction the Avengers caused when fighting Ultron in their last movie. The second team is led by Captain America (A.K.A. Steve Rodgers) and they feel that no good can come out of having to report to any group. Captain America strongly feels this way because he had been betrayed by S.H.I.E.L.D. (which was infiltrated and taken over by an evil organization named H.Y.D.R.A.). Steve also has an ardent desire to rescue his childhood friend who had been turned into an evil

13th Sunday Ordinary Time

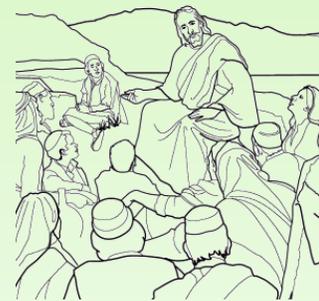
Lectionary: 97

Gospel MT 10:37-42

Spiritual Reflection: Most problems in any relationship are caused by neglect and not malice.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How can you avoid neglecting others?
2. How can you avoid neglecting God?
3. Describe a time in which you felt hurt because of someone neglected you?
4. Describe a time in which you neglected someone but they thought you were being malicious?
5. What is a righteous man's award?



assassin by H.Y.D.R.A. and he knows that no oversight committee would permit him. Other superheroes are then forced to choose sides depending upon personal beliefs and loyalties and this leads to a climactic battle at an airport when Captain America's team tries to stop a third evil threat that the

other heroes do not know about.

Spiritual Insight #1: Know your full motivation

Both Iron Man and Captain America have good reasons for their beliefs. The movie left me believing though that neither of the two knew their deepest reason for their beliefs. I never see Iron Man full come to grips with the guilt he feels for creating Ultron and the countless death's that he caused. Captain America's loyalty to his childhood friend also seems to motivate Captain America's thinking more than he would care. I wonder if the major conflict could have been avoided if they had done a little more soul searching of their motivation.

Spiritual Insight #2: Vengeance is Never Any Good

T'Challa (the Black Panther) seeks vengeance upon the Winter Soldier because he believed the Winter Soldier

had assassinated his father. There are a couple of times in which he almost succeeds but in the end, he is lucky and fails because the Winter Soldier had been framed and instead it was Helmut Zemo who was responsible for killing T'Challa's father. T'Challa shows that he has learned his lesson and stops Helmut Zemo from committing suicide at the end and instead turns him over the authority.

Tony Stark loses all control also when he realizes that the Winter Soldier (while under mind control) was the one who killed his father. Tony ends up taking his anger out on Captain America and almost kills him. Ultimately Iron Man is left alone and without any friends at the end of the movie because his anger has driven everyone away.

Spiritual insight #3: Know Your Enemy

Saint Ignatius of Loyola speaks of three enemies of

the spiritual life: our sinful nature, the world, and finally the devil. We sometimes are our own worst enemy because we can talk ourselves into doing things our way instead of God's way. The world tries to instill in us values that are not Christian. Finally, the devil desires to see us miserable like he is miserable. If we are not aware of how these enemies are affecting us, we can allow them to manipulate us in ways that lead us away from the good. The Avengers spend most of the movie not knowing that Helmut Zemo has declared himself their enemy and has manipulated them into their current conflict.



PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

Prayer for Our Country By our First Bishop John Carrol

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope N., the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, N., all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are

appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation.

We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment

decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his Excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for

all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of

peace; the souls of our parents, relatives, and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.



Catholic Quiz



Match the Saint with his or her quote

1. -D- It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.
2. -B- To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.
3. -C- Love to be real, it must cost—it must hurt—it must empty us of self.
4. -A- We are to love God for Himself, because of a twofold reason; nothing is more reasonable, nothing more profitable.

A=St. Bernard of Clairvaux B=St. Thomas Aquinas C=Mother Teresa D=St. Augustine

True or False

1. T or F – No American Bishops has ever been canonized.
2. T or F – The second diocese in the United States was Bardstown, Kentucky
3. T or F – St. Louis was once called the “Rome of the West” because it had so many Italians.



4. T or F – There is a public school in St. Louis named after a Catholic priest

CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

Lord Pass Me The Broom

The little boy was helping his mom around the house, and he left the broom on the back porch.

His mother was cleaning up the kitchen when she realized that her broom was missing. She asked the little boy about the broom and he told her where it was.

She then asked him to please go get it. The little boy informed his mom that he was afraid of the dark and didn't want to go out to get the broom.

His mother smiled and said "The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid."

The little boy opened the back door a little and said "Lord if you're out there, please hand me the broom."

CATHOLIC QUOTES

"It is necessary for the welfare of the nation that men's lives be based on the principles of the Bible. No man, educated or uneducated, can afford to be ignorant of the Bible." - Theodore Roosevelt

"A Bible and a newspaper in every house, a good school in every district; all studied and appreciated as they merit; are the principal support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty." - Ben Franklin

"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." - Thomas Jefferson, 1871

"I have carefully examined the evidences of the Christian religion, and if I was sitting as a juror upon its authenticity I would unhesitatingly give my verdict in its favor. I can prove its truth as clearly as any



Nuns in a fire

Several Nuns were in their second-floor convent one night when a fire broke out. The Nuns took their habits off and tied them together to make a rope to get out of the building via the window.

After they were safely on the ground and out of the building, a news reporter came over to one of the Nuns and said to her, "Weren't you afraid that the habits could have ripped or broke since they are old?"

The Nun Replied, "No, don't you know old habits are hard to break".

proposition ever submitted to the mind of man." - Alexander Hamilton

"The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained." - George Washington,

"Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him, who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, in the best way, all our present difficulty." – Abraham Lincoln



Flag Folding & It's Meaning

I am not sure if this is true or not. Either way, it is a powerful reminder to us of how blest our country has been to have such brave men and women defending it.

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention correctly folding the American flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

1st fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

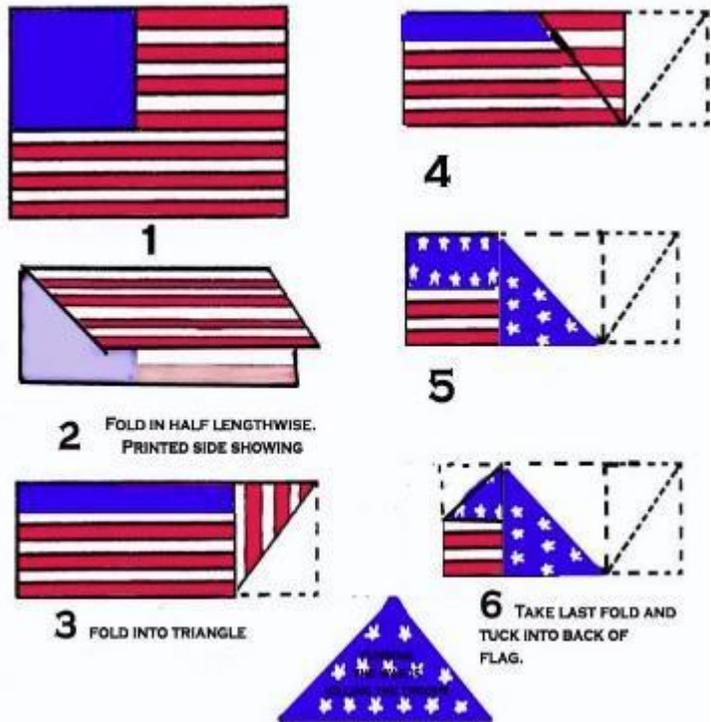
5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decaur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.

6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.



10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

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 6 – Developing Baby – "I'm sitting up straight now!" Spiritual Adoption Program

Your spiritually adopted baby is developing quite beautifully now. Her weight is approaching 2 pounds. She sits up straight now to accommodate her internal organs which have moved into their final place in her little body. Babies born prematurely at this time have a very good chance of surviving. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed. Don't forget to pray for your baby. Abortion is legal through all nine months and her mom might still feel pressure to abort.