

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

August 27 2017 – 21st Sunday Ordinary Time

Spiritual Ponderings: Toxic Behaviors (Part IV)

I was recently talking with a friend about this month's spiritual ponderings topic about Toxic behaviors. He responded to me by quoting Martin Luther King Jr: "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend." I immediately knew that my friend was on to something. Love is wanting what is best for another person even if it requires a sacrifice on my part and Jesus commands us to love ourselves within the context of the Law of Love. Improving our lives by making the sacrifices necessary to overcome these toxic behaviors should therefore be an important part of the life of every Christian. Two more toxic behaviors to confront, remember the quotes from the handout are in bold and my commentary is in regular font.

Superficial

Being overly judgmental will only force people to judge you because of your superficial nature. It's not fair to judge others with scrutiny. Some people only choose to show others a side that they want to see - this can go both ways, therefore it is not wise to pass judgment on others.

The following quote from Mother Teresa comes to mind every time I think about judging other

people. "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

I also think of an interview that Michael Bay the director of the Transformers movies gave. In this interview he explained that he personally limited the dialogue of the evil robots in his first movie because he realized in his own life that people become less scary the more we hear them speak. When I find people whom I want to judge and dismiss right away, I remember Michael Bay's insight and I try to listen to them. Most of the time, I discover that there is nothing to be scared of or that they are nothing like I thought they would be.

Cruelty

Cruelty stems from a lack of empathy and compassion for others. Tearing people down is not the right way to treat people. In the long run cruelty, backstabbing, and hurting others for any reason will hurt you. People enter your life for a reason, do not treat them cruelly and push them away.

When I was growing up, I worked in a pizza place where my manager would instruct us to work with the customer until he or she started to cuss. If the customer started to cuss then according to the manager we had a right to hang up on the customer or walk away. It was my manager's philosophy that no one ever deserved to be cussed at or threaten. I, think he was on to something.



In my own life there are a few people who from time to time think that the best way for them to get what they want is to be intimidating and mean. I guarantee that these people do not get what they want from me but instead they simply get me to pray for them that they will see that their temper will not get them what they want.

I have also come to realize that it takes more strength to do things in a loving way instead of resorting to force. St. Frances de Sales put it this way: "Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."

One last thought, I have come to believe that people are like turtles in that you have to make them feel safe if you want them to come out of their shells. It is therefore good to avoid any form of violence or cruelty when dealing with another person.

Serenity Prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the

things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to

peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably

happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.

Breaking Open the Word

August 27, 2017 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 121 Gospel MT 16:13-20

Spiritual Reflection: Notice that no one says Jesus is like Herod (a man full of pride and lust), Pilate (a man full of pride and wrath), or Caesar Augustus (Pride and Greed).

Spiritual Questions:

1. Who do you say Jesus is like?
2. Who do you say Jesus is not like?
3. What do people say about you?
4. What do you want people to say about you?
5. How can you help others?



Prayers for the Week

August 29th is the feast of the Passion of John the Baptist. In honor of that Feast Day here is the Litany of St. John the Baptist.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.
Queen of Prophets, pray for us.
Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.
Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, precursor of Christ, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, glorious forerunner of the Sun of Justice, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, minister of baptism to Jesus, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, burning and shining lamp of the world, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, angel of purity before thy birth, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, special friend and favorite of Christ, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, heavenly contemplative, whose element was prayer, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, intrepid preacher of truth, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, voice crying in the wilderness, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, miracle of mortification and penance, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, example of profound humility, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, glorious martyr of zeal for God's holy law, pray for us.
St. John the Baptist, gloriously fulfilling thy mission, pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

V. Pray for us, O glorious St. John the Baptist,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray:
 O God, Who hast honored this world by the birth
 of Saint John the Baptist, grant that thy faithful

people may rejoice in the way of eternal
 salvation, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
 R. Amen.

Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

1. Which evangelists wrote more than one New Testament Book?

- A. Matthew B. Mark
C. Luke **D. John**

2. What Gospel(s) contain the story of Jesus washing of the feet?

- A. Matthew B. Mark
 C. Luke **D. John**

3. What Gospel(s) contain the story of the feeding of the 5,000?

- A. Matthew** **B. Mark**
C. Luke **D. John**

4. What Gospel contains story of two disciples on the Road to Emmaus?

- A. Matthew B. Mark
C. Luke D. John



This Week's Questions

1. What is a rectory?

2. What is a rector?

3. What is a papal legate?

4. Who legalized Christianity?

Quotes of the Week – St. Augustine Quotes (Feast August 28)



To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.

A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.

The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself.

If God seems slow in responding, it is because He is preparing a better gift. He will not deny us. God withholds what you are not yet ready for. He wants you to have a lively desire for His greatest gifts. All of which is to say, pray always and do not lose heart.

Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever; and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow.

Catholic Humor

Teacher: Class, we will have only half a day of school this morning.

Class: Hooray!

Teacher: We will have the other half this afternoon.

Stevie: Hey, Mom, I got a hundred in school today!

Mom: That's great. What in?

Stevie: A 40 in Reading and a 60 in Spelling.

Hunter: What has given Mr. Bubbles nightmares since elementary school?

Josh: Beats me.

Hunter: Pop quizzes!

What kind of school do you go to if you're...

...an ice cream man? Sundae school.

...a giant? High school.

...a surfer? Boarding school.

...King Arthur? Knight school.

Mom: What did you do at school today?

Mark: We did a guessing game.

Mom: But I thought you were having a math exam.

Mark: That's right!



Saint Monica Society

The feast of St. Monica is August 27th. St. Monica is probably best well known for praying for the conversion of her family especially her son Augustine when he was living a very sinful life. Eventually one by one all her family became believers and Augustine excelled in faith to the point that he became a bishop and was later recognized as a saint.

I know many of us know people, especially family members who have fallen away from the faith. I would therefore like to invite you to pray with me for these people that they may once

again find God. Each month therefore I will present to you a new prayer to pray.

Dear Saint Monica, you were once the mournful mother of a prodigal son. Your faithfulness to prayer brought you and your son so close to God that you are now with him in eternity. By your intercession and God's grace, your son St. Augustine became a great and venerable Saint of the Church. Please take my request to God with the same fervor and persistence with which you prayed for your own son.

Please guide back to the Holy Church the following people (names) and all who have wandered away from your truth. With your needs, worries and anxieties, you threw yourself on the mercy and providence of God. Through sorrow and pain, you constantly devoted yourself to God. Pray for me that I might join you in such a deep faith in God's goodness and mercy. Above all, dear Saint Monica, pray for me that I may, like your son, turn from my sin and become a great saint for the glory of God.

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

MONTH 8 – Developing Baby -- “I like to listen to my Mommy’s voice!” Spiritual Adoption Program

Now your spiritually adopted baby is finished developing and is concentrating on gaining weight; she might be making her mother uncomfortable with her size. She will need a layer of fat to help her stay warm after she leaves the perfect temperature inside her mother’s womb. For some weeks now she has recognized her mother’s voice. In a short time, her baby will be born. Your baby’s mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.