

# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

September 17, 2017 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

## Spiritual Ponderings

### Seven Steps to Bring Your Child Home to the Faith Part III

I have dedicated this month's Spiritual Ponderings to reflect on ideas of how best to bring fallen away Catholics back to the Catholic Church. I know that this is an important topic too many of us because I believe we all know at least one person who has fallen away from the daily living out of one's faith. Brandon Vogt's article: "Seven Steps to Bring Your Child Home To the Faith" is providing us with the structure we need for this important topic that always has the possibility of derailing into many different tracks of thought if we are not capable. Quotes from Brandon's article will be in bold and my commentary will be in the normal font.

#### 4. Start the conversation

**At some point, you need to open a dialogue about God and the Church. You might say, "Can I ask you something? I wonder if you'd be up for talking about spiritual things some time. I know you have a mixed relationship with the Church, but would you be open to chatting about it with me? I just want to listen." Then do just that: listen. Your goal is to detect why your child has drifted from the Church. Note that the reasons he gives may be different than what you expect. Ask him what he believes and why, and what pushed or pulled him away. Don't respond to the objections or criticisms just yet — just absorb them. This may involve**

**biting your tongue, but the scar tissue will be worth it!**

Remember that the key here is dialogue. In dialogue both parties want to discover the truth or the right way to do something. If you are not looking for the truth or the best way to do something and when one or both parties have a desire to "win" the argument you are no longer dialoguing but rather you are in conflict. Very few people are ever persuaded by conflict. Remember therefore to always speak in a nice tone, never criticize or put down, etc.

Remember also that the issue may not be the issue.

**5. Move the dialogue forward You've now identified why your child left the Church. Maybe he drifted away unintentionally. Maybe he switched religions. Maybe he disagrees with the Church's moral teachings. Or maybe he no longer believes in God. Whatever the case, now's the time to start discussing those factors. Speaking with joy and positivity, clear up any misconceptions he has. For example, if he says, "I was never spiritually fed as a Catholic," it's likely he never fully understood the Eucharist or was exposed to the great spiritual masters of our tradition. Gently propose those to him and encourage him to reconsider.**

I am a big Star Wars fan. I have loved the movies from the first

time I saw them. My love for them increased when I watched a documentary about the making of Star Wars. The documentary helped me understand how truly radical George Lucas's vision was and how his experience of making Star Wars has helped modern day movie making. Did you know for example that George Lucas left Hollywood after making Empire Strikes back because he was fine by the Screen Actors guild and director's guild for not having opening credits. Angry, George left Hollywood and created Skywalker Ranch and it is there that he and his engineers created so much of the equipment used in modern film making today. How can you help your love one know about the Catholic Church? Maybe you could show them a good movie series like Catholicism by Fr. Robert Barron?

You could also give them a copy of the lives of the saints. They may be surprised to find out that Dorothy Day had an abortion which she later regretted. They may also be surprised that a young Frenchman named Jacques Fesch is up for canonization despite being executed for killing a police officer because he became a mystic in prison after expressing sorrow for his life of crime. They may be inspired by the life of Maximillian Kolbe who gave himself up to death so that another man could live. They may also be inspired by the intellectual thought of

Thomas Aquinas, Edith Stein, or the wit of G.K. Chesterton.

Invite them to take a class with you or to watch a video program on the Catholic faith.

Show them that you are still learning and invite them to dive deeper into the Catholic faith.

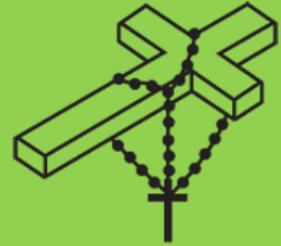
## Breaking Open the Word

**September 17, 2017 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 130 Gospel MT 18:21-35**

**Spiritual Reflection:** It seems that the servant in the story acts the way he does because he has become fixated on his inability to repay the loan and on his own weakness instead of being grateful for what his master has done for him. He, therefore tries to make himself feel better by pointing out his fellow servant's debt.

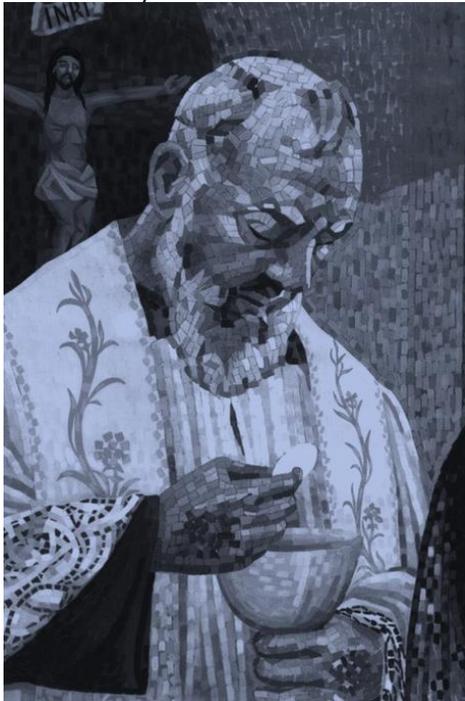
### Spiritual Questions

1. Have you ever tried to act tough after doing something embarrassing?
2. How will the man repay his debt if he is thrown into slavery?
3. Why did the man torture the other servant?
4. How does our family pay the price for our sins?
5. How can you take a step toward forgiving someone?



## Prayers for the Week

September 22<sup>nd</sup> is Padre Pio's Feast Day



**PADRE PIO'S PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You. Stay with me, Lord,

because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often. Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life and without You I am without fervor. Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light and without You I am in darkness. Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will. Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You. Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You very much and always be in Your company. Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You. Stay with me, Lord, as poor as my soul is I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of Love. Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late and the day is coming to a close and life passes, death, judgment and eternity approaches. It is necessary to renew my strength, so that I will not stop along the way and for that, I need You. It is getting late and death approaches, I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the

cross, the sorrows. O how I need You, my Jesus, in this night of exile! Stay with me tonight, Jesus, in life with all its dangers, I need You. Let me recognize You as Your disciples did at the breaking of the bread, so that the Eucharistic Communion be the Light which disperses the darkness, the force which sustains me, the unique joy of my heart. Stay with me, Lord, because at the hour of my death, I want to remain united to You, if not by Communion, at least by grace and love. Stay with me, Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit, because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more. With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity. Amen.

## Catholic Trivia

 <b>Last Week's Answers</b>	 <b>This Week's Questions</b>
<p>Answer the Following Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who was Jacob's older brother? Essau was Jacob's older brother</li>   <li>2. What city did Abraham and Sarah move from? They moved from the City of Ur</li>   <li>3. Who is Moses's brother? Moses brother was Aaron</li>   <li>4. Who is Moses's sister? Moses's sister was Miriam</li> </ol>	<p>Which of the Following Does Not Belong:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jeremiah – Gideon – Samson – Samuel</li>   <li>2. Zebulun -- Judah – Dan -- Philistia</li>   <li>3. Elijah – Nathan – Elisha -- Hosea</li>   <li>4. Moses – Isaiah --Joshua – Elijah</li> </ol> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>

## Quotes of the Week – Padre Pio Quotes

<p>“Jesus is with you even when you don't feel His presence. <b>He is never so close to you as He is during your spiritual battles.</b> He is always there, close to you, encouraging you to fight your battle courageously. He is there to ward off the enemy's blows so that you may not be hurt.” (8/15/1914)</p> <p>“The storms that are raging around you will turn out to be for God's glory, your own merit, and</p>	<p>the good of many souls.” (6/15/1914)</p> <p>“Every sacrifice which your soul makes, every good it does is directed to God for the sanctification of all.” (4/2/1917)</p> <p><b>“Don't be daunted by the cross.</b> The surest test of love consists in suffering for the loved one, and if God suffered so much for love, the pain we suffer</p>	<p>for Him becomes as lovable as love itself.” (7/14/1914)</p> <p>“True and substantial devotion consists in serving God without experiencing any sensible consolation. This means serving and loving God for His own sake.” (7/14/1914)</p> <p><b>“The greater your sufferings, the greater God's love for you.”</b> (9/19/1914)</p>
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## Catholic Humor

**A pastor, associate pastor and youth minister were walking to a meeting** and decided to take a shortcut through a

vacant lot, when they stumbled upon an ancient oil lamp. They laughed and decided to rub it, and to their amazement

a genie appeared and offered to grant them each one wish.

The youth minister cries out, "I want to be on an island paradise, laying around in the sun without a care!" So the genie waves his hand and he disappears in a puff of smoke.

The associate pastor jumps up and tells the genie, "I want to walk through the halls of the Vatican and look at all the artwork and never have to go to another meeting as long as I live." So, he too disappears.

The pastor scowled at the genie and said, "I want those two back in time for the meeting."

**A young priest was giving a lesson on the 23rd Psalm to the children in third grade.** He noticed that little Jimmy seemed upset with the verse, "Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life."

So the priest asked him, "What's wrong, Jimmy?"

Little Jimmy replied, "Well, I'm not too worried about the goodness and mercy part, but I'm not so sure that I would like Shirley following me around all the time."

**A small parish suddenly stopped buying office supplies from it's regular supplier.** So, the dealer called the pastor to ask him why.

"I'll tell you why," shouted the pastor. "Our church ordered some pencils from you that we used in the pews for the new visitors to fill out their registration forms."

"Well," the dealer interrupted, "did you receive them on time?"

"Oh, we received them all right," answered the pastor. "You sent us 6 bundles of little pencils, and each one was stamped with the words: Play Golf Next Sunday."

## Saint Monica Society Prayer For September

The feast of St. Monica is August 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.