

October 07, 2018 – 27th Sunday Ordinary Time



*MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED
NOW AND FOREVER!!!*

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary Good Shepherdess (Divina Pastora)

From time to time, the Church dedicates certain periods of time to a particular saint, dogma, or object of faith, with the hopes that by doing so the Church will inspire us to explore this area of our faith more closely. Therefore, I think that it is very beneficial for those who seize these invitations. It also says something to me that the Catholic Church dedicates two months (May and October) to the Blessed Virgin Mary. As I strive to learn more about the Blessed Virgin Mary each October, I turn to a book written by Ann Ball titled: *The Other Faces of Mary: Stories, Devotions, and Pictures of the Holy Virgin Around the World*. I never fail to grow in my appreciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and thus of Jesus her Son when I reflect on these images.

Good Shepherdess (Divina Pastora)

A small parish church in Siparia, Trinidad there is a dark-skinned image of the Blessed Virgin Mary that gives me hope for according to Ann Ball the image of Blessed Virgin Mary known as the Good Shepherdess has become an interreligious focal point. The Catholics, Muslims and Hindus of the area honor the Blessed Virgin Mary under this title. The Hindus of the area in a special way on Holy Thursday honor Mary with a procession that thousands of Hindus take part in. This two and half feet

tall statue made of African Cedar being such a source of unity for the people of the area, I believe is a miracle in itself.

In 1703, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Isidore of Seville. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared dressed in the clothes of a shepherd. She informed St. Isidore that her mission in life was to shepherd people toward her son the Good Shepherd.

On Holy Thursday, Hindus of the area gather around the shrine and have a celebration in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary which includes almsgiving, bazaar, ritual dance, and the presentation of children. The evening ends with Catholic volunteers providing dinner for everyone. Anne Ball makes the following statement about “The history of the devotion to the Good Shepherdess demonstrates that mission and evangelization must reject aggressiveness and the belittling of other religions. Here, Christians follow the directives of the Second Vatican Council in respecting others and appreciating their freedom to follow the religion of their choice. To use her image as a tool for conversion would defy what she represents to those of different faiths who come to her. Instead, La Divina Pastora provides reassurance and hope for the oppressed and leads them to god in her own way and in his own time.



PRAYER TO THE DIVINE SHEPHERDESS

*O Divine Shepherdess of souls,
Mother of the Blessed You who have
always cared for us, you who are our
salvation, That you have taken care
of us with motherly protection, That
you have given us strength and value
in sorrows, grief and
discouragement, That with love and
understanding you give us hope in
our affliction That you are with us
always, grant us your help, shelter
and attention. Divine Shepherdess,
Mother of the Good Shepherd, Who
never forsakes her children,
Intercede for us before Jesus Christ
your Son, The Good Shepherd, So
that he will grant the favors we now
ask with faith and humility of heart.
(add your prayer request) Mary,
Divine Shepherdess, May your
Mother's hands guide and direct our
steps In the difficult road of life. Lead
us with your immense tenderness
and mercy, Make us faithful to the*

following of your Son, faithful disciples like you O Divine Shepherdess. Give us strength in our weariness and misery, and help in our problems and needs, Free us from evil and the enemy that we may encounter, Free us from anything that might cause us to fall.

Divine Shepherdess, Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd, That with your help we can live with faith, hope and love, That the virtue of charity burns in our hearts For all of God's children, and all of God's creatures.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 140 Gospel MK 10:2-16

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

Spiritual Reflection:

"I didn't marry you because you were perfect. I didn't even marry you because I loved you. I married you because you gave me a promise. That promise made up for your faults. And the promise I gave you made up for mine. Two imperfect people got married and it was the promise that made the marriage. And when our children were growing up, it wasn't a house that protected them; and it wasn't our love that protected them--it was that promise." — Thornton Wilder.
Marriage as defined by Catholic is about two people imaging for us the commitment God made to us on the Cross. For someone to back out of the commitment of marriage – weakens our trust in God just as much as a bad or boring homily does if not more.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How does Marriage image God's covenant with us?
 2. How do Sacraments change us?
 3. How do good married couples lead us closer to God?
 4. How do poor marriage couples lead us further from God?
 5. How does "for worse" part of the marriage vow add beauty to the Sacrament of Marriage?
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Quotes of the Week

A 24 year old boy seeing out from the train's window shouted...

"Dad, look the trees are going behind!"

Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24 year old's childish behavior with pity, suddenly he again exclaimed...

"Dad, look the clouds are running with us!"

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man... "Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?"

The old man smiled and said... "I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today.

Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you. – Anonymous



PRO-LIFE

MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS - Pro-Life Prayer

Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin, Help of the Christians, we place ourselves under your motherly protection. Throughout the Church's history you have helped Christians in times of trial, temptation and danger. Time and time again, you have proven to be the Refuge of sinners, the Hope of the hopeless, the Consoler of the afflicted, and the Comforter of the Dying.

We promise to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, to proclaim His Good News of God's love for all people, and to work for peace and justice in our world. With faith in your intercession, we pray for the Church, for our family and friends, for the poor and abandoned, and all the dying. Grant, O Mary, Help of Christians, the graces of which we stand in need.

May we have the grace in our time to put an end to all attacks against life. May we see an end to abortion, abuse, euthanasia, and the death penalty.

May we serve Jesus with fidelity and love until death. Help us and our loved ones to attain the boundless joy of being forever with our Father in heaven. Amen.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us!



Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

MARY, QUEEN IN THE HOME

O Blessed Virgin Mary, you are the mother and queen of every Christian family. When you conceived and gave birth to Jesus, human motherhood reached its greatest achievement. From the time of the Annunciation you were the living chalice of the Son of God made man. You are the queen of the home.

As a woman of faith, answer the prayers of the mothers who have tried to raise their children in the faith but who now see their children living lives contrary to the faith. Watch over our families and reunite them all with the bond of faith. Let children learn about such a faith that they may be inspired by your obedience to God. Let parents learn and model dedication and selflessness based on your unselfish attitude. Let all families honor you and remain devoted to you so that they may be held together by your example and your intercession. Amen.



PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

AFFECTUATE SALUTATIONS TO MARY

I greet thee, Mary, Daughter of God the Father.

I greet thee, Mary, Mother of the Son of God.

I greet thee, Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

I greet thee, Mary, Temple of the Blessed Trinity.

I greet thee, Mary, White Lily of the resplendent Trinity.

I greet thee, Mary, Fragrant Rose of the heavenly court.

I greet thee, Mary, Virgin full of meekness and humility, of whom the King of Heaven willed to be born and nourished by thy milk.

I greet thee, Mary, Virgin of virgins.

I greet thee, Mary, Queen of martyrs, whose soul was pierced by the sword of sorrows.

I greet thee, Mary, Lady and Mistress, to whom all power has been given in Heaven and on earth.

I greet thee, Mary, Queen of my heart, my sweetness, my life and all my hope.

I greet thee, Mary, Mother most amiable.

I greet thee, Mary, Mother most admirable.

I greet thee, Mary, Mother of beautiful love.

I greet thee, Mary, Conceived without sin.
 I greet thee, Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women, and blessed be the Fruit of thy womb.
 Blessed be thy spouse, Saint Joseph.
 Blessed be thy father, Saint Joachim.
 Blessed be thy mother, Saint Anne.

Blessed be thy angel, Saint Gabriel.
 Blessed be the Eternal Father, Who has chosen thee.
 Blessed be thy Son, Who has loved thee.
 Blessed be the Holy Ghost, Who has espoused thee.
 May all those who love thee bless thee.
 O Blessed Virgin, bless us all in the name of thy dear Son.
 Amen

TRIVIA

Last Week's Answers	This Week's Question
Match the Apostles with the way that they died. 1. Andrew <u>_B_</u> 2. Bartholomew <u>_C_</u> 3. James the Greater <u>_D_</u> 4. James the Less <u>_A_</u> A. Stoned in Jerusalem B. Crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X" C. Had his skin removed while he was still alive. D. He was beheaded in Jerusalem.	What do the following symbolize? 1. Acorn 2. Almond 3. Anchor 4. Ant A. Religious Industry B. Latent strength, potential progress C. Favor of God D. Hope



Humor

Q: What do you call a sleeping bull?

A: A bull-dozer.

Q: How do you fit more pigs on your farm?

A: Build a sty-scraper!

Q: What did the farmer call the cow that had no milk?

A: An udder failure.

Q: Why do gorillas have big nostrils?

A: Because they have big fingers!

Q: What do you get from a pampered cow?

A: Spoiled milk.