

October 14, 2018 – 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time



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

# SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

## **Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary Iveron Mother of God of Montreal**

The next image that Ann Ball presents to us in her book titled: *The Other Faces of Mary: Stories, Devotions, and Pictures of the Holy Virgin Around the World* is called Iveron Mother of God Of Montreal.

### **Iveron Mother of God Of Montreal.**

1982 a young Chilean convert to Orthodoxy living in Canada. Jose Munoz Cortes went on pilgrimage to Mount Athos in Greece and purchased a modern copy of a famous icon called the “Iveron icon of the Mother of God.” Upon returning to Canada the icon began to “exude” myrrh which continued to flow for fifteen years until someone killed Jose and stole the icon. No one knows where the icon is today. For fifteen years though Jose traveled the world with the Icon showing it to anyone who wanted to see it. It was said that the Icon itself was a conduit for many miracles.

I think it is important to realize that God is the source of all miracles but God has chosen to use things and people as conduits of His grace. Praying with an Icon is something special. The following from an article in US Catholic Magazine..

### **A GUIDE TO PRAYING WITH AN ICON** *By Jim Forest* **ARTICLE YOUR FAITH**

“In the beginning was the Word,” wrote St John. “He is the

image [*ikon* in Greek] of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,” wrote St. Paul. We meet him still in both word and image.

Both have figured in the worshiping life of followers of Christ from the church’s beginning, as visitors to the catacombs in Rome are reminded. The bones are mainly gone, but icons remain on the walls and ceilings of those underground places where Christians prayed and celebrated the Eucharist.

In the eighth century, when the emperor of Constantinople outlawed icons and initiated a 55-year wave of destruction of sacred images in the East, many iconographers fled to Italy for safety and continued their work under the pope’s protection.

Fashion can destroy even more thoroughly than imperial edicts. Through never banned in the West, icons gradually fell out of favor during the Renaissance. Increasingly religious paintings moved toward natural lighting, the illusion of three dimensions, and the ever more vivid portrayal of emotion—all qualities carefully avoided in iconography, which aims for silence and stillness. Icons are not emotionally manipulative. They are less a display of individual talent than the creation of a zone of prayer using artistic minimalism.

Early in the 20th century a slow recovery of appreciation of icons began. Today icons can be found not only in Orthodox and Catholic churches but also in

Protestant churches and homes. It is a form of ecumenism without words or arguments.



Icons may be beautiful, but they do not exist just to add a little color or a special atmosphere to the rooms they happen to be in. They’re there to help us pray. An icon that isn’t being used in prayer is like a musical instrument not being played or a cookbook that never gives birth to a meal.

But just how can you use them in prayer? First of all, identify a place in your home—such as a corner of a room or a fireplace mantel—that provides a place where you can stand for short times slightly apart from the busyness of daily life. This will be your “icon corner.”

At the beginning you probably won’t have any hand-painted icons, but in religious bookstores or online you can easily find good, inexpensive printed icons mounted on wood.

You might start with an icon of the face of Christ. These are usually called *Pantocrator* icons, from the Greek word for “Lord of Creation.” They show not only his face but the book containing the gospels resting against his heart. If the book is open, it will often show one of the “I am” texts—such as “I am the truth, the way, and the life.” Such icons remind us that God became incarnate, revealing himself not only to our ancestors but to us, and that each person—no matter how well he or she has managed to hide it—is made in God’s image. Finally such icons remind us that one day we will be present for the Last Judgment and will hear Christ say, “What you have done to the least person, you did to me.”

You may also want an icon of Mary holding Christ in her arms. In many of these their faces are touching. These “tenderness icons” vividly remind us that love is at the core of life, and that to follow Christ and to revere his mother inevitable draws us toward the source of love and mercy. Mary’s body language always draws us toward her son, as if she were saying, “Do whatever he tells us.”

Arrange your icon corner so that a candle or vigil lamp can be lit during the periods when you’re praying. Icons are best suited to places that aren’t brightly lit and seem to flourish in candlelight. So there you are in your icon corner. But how are you praying? You may be praying in silence, simply remembering the crucial fact that God is at the center of everything, that it is impossible not to be in God’s presence even if we’re totally oblivious to this reality.

You may be able to talk to God as comfortably as if you were talking to your very best friend. God made us to communicate and much

of that communication is in words. Something terrible may have happened and you may just want to stand there and cry—or complain to God.

If you are at all like me, someone who usually feels embarrassed with attempts at devising my own words of prayer, you may want to use some of the prayers that have arisen during the centuries Jews and Christians have been around: the psalms or canticles in the Old and New Testaments (such as the one by the three young men in the furnace in Daniel, or Mary’s Magnificat). In any religious bookstore you will find collections of prayers organized into periods of the day. Little by little you can learn many prayers by heart.

Your icons don’t have to be suitable for a fine art book. It’s the faith of the praying person that matters most—a lesson I learned from Dorothy Day.

In her early 60s at the time, she was having increasing trouble climbing the five flights to her apartment in Manhattan’s Little Italy. We found another not far away and only one flight up, but in appalling condition. A friend and I went down to clean and paint it. We dragged box after box of debris down to the street, including what seemed to us an awful painting of the Holy Family rendered in bright colors against a gray background on a piece of plywood. We shook our heads, deposited it in the trash along the curb, and went back to our labor.

Not long after that, Dorothy arrived, the painting in hand, “Look what I found! The Holy Family! It’s a providential sign, a blessing.” She put it on the mantel of the apartment’s bricked-up fireplace. Looking at it again, this time I saw it was a work of love.

## Quotes of the Week

Respect begins with this attitude: "I acknowledge that you are a creature of extreme worth. God has endowed you with certain abilities and emotions. Therefore, I respect you as a person. I will not desecrate your worth by making critical remarks about your intellect, your judgment or your logic. I will seek to understand you and grant you the freedom to think differently from the way I think and to experience emotions that I may not experience." Respect means that you give the other person the freedom to be an individual. - Gary Chapman

“On the parable of the Good Samaritan: "I imagine that the first question the priest and Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But by the very nature of his concern, the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" — Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*

Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines. - Henri Nouwen

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# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**October 14, 2018 Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 143 Gospel MK 10:17-30**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: *You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.*" He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God." Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."

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## **Spiritual Reflection:**

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God, who will thwart our plans and frustrate our ways time and again, even daily, by sending people across our path with their demands and requests. We can, then, pass them by, preoccupied with our important daily tasks, just as the priest-perhaps reading the Bible-passed by the man who had fallen among robbers. When we do that, we pass by the visible sign of the Cross raised in our lives to show us that God's way, and not our own, is what counts. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The rich young man was willing to follow Jesus as long as Jesus did not ask anything too hard from Him. God though knows what we are capable of and wants us to excel.

## **Spiritual Questions:**

1. Do you follow God when He asks you to do difficult things?
2. How do we do our daily tasks in a way that open us to receiving God's grace?
3. Why does God want us to excel?
4. Do we believe that with God we will be able to live without our safety blankets
5. What does faith have to do with receiving eternal life?

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 **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**

### **A PRAYER OF ATONEMENT – FOR NEGLECTING TO HONOR MARY.**

Lord, forgive all reviling of Mary's name! We beseech Thee, hear us!

Lord, forgive all contempt of her Immaculate Conception! We beseech Thee, hear us!

Lord, forgive all coldness in the honoring of Mary! We beseech Thee, hear us!

Lord, forgive all contempt of Mary's pictures! We beseech Thee, hear us!

Lord, forgive all neglect of the Holy Rosary! We beseech Thee, hear us!

Lord, forgive all indifference to Mary's Motherly love!

### **PRAYER OF POPE PIUS XII – BEND TENDERLY OVER OUR WOUNDS**

Enraptured by the splendor of your heavenly beauty, and impelled by the anxieties of the world, we cast ourselves into your arms, O Immaculate Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Mary, confident of finding in your most loving heart appeasement of our ardent desires, and a safe harbor from the tempests which beset us on every side.

Though degraded by our faults and overwhelmed by infinite misery, we admire and praise the peerless

richness of the sublime gifts with which God has filled you, above every other mere creature, from the first moment of your conception until the day on which, after your assumption into heaven, he crowned you Queen of the Universe.

O crystal Fountain of Faith, bathe our minds with the eternal truths! O fragrant Lily of All Holiness, captivate our hearts with your heavenly perfume! O Conqueress of Evil and Death, inspire in us a deep horror of sin, which makes the soul detestable to God and a slave of hell! O well-beloved of God, hear the ardent cry which rises up from every heart. Bend tenderly over our aching wounds. Convert the wicked, dry the tears of the afflicted and oppressed, comfort the poor and humble, quench hatreds, sweeten hardness, safeguard the flower of purity in youth, protect the holy church, make all men feel the attractions of Christian goodness. In your name, resounding harmoniously in heaven, may they recognize that they are brothers, and that the nations are members of one family, upon which may there shine forth the sun of a universal and sincere peace.

Receive, O most sweet Mother, our humble supplications, and above all obtain for us that, one day,

happy with you, we may repeat before your throne that  
hymn which today is sung on earth around your

altars: You are all-beautiful, O Mary! You are the glory,  
your are the joy, your are the honor of our people! Amen.

## TRIVIA

Last Week's Answers	This Week's Question
What do the following symbolize? 1. Acorn - B 2. Almond – C (Numbers 17:8) 3. Anchor – D (Hebrew 6:19) 4. Ant – A  A. Religious Industry B. Latent strength, potential progress C. Favor of God D. Hope	What do the following symbolize? 1. Apple 2. Arch 3. Ark 4. Armor  A. Resistance to Evil B. Original Sin, Eve, C. Mary, Noah, Ark of Covenant D. Victory



## Humor

- 1. What do you call a dinosaur that is sleeping?** A dino-snore!
- 2. What is fast, loud and crunchy?** A rocket chip!
- 3. Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?** Because she was stuffed.
- 4. What has ears but cannot hear?** A cornfield.
- 5. What did the left eye say to the right eye?** Between us, something smells!
- 6. What do you get when you cross a vampire and a snowman?** Frost bite!
- 7. What did one plate say to the other plate?** Dinner is on me!
- 8. Why did the student eat his homework?** Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake!
- 9. When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look?** Because when you find it, you stop looking.
- 10. What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses?** A coconut on vacation.