

# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

March 18, 2018 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

## Spiritual Ponderings Keys to Prayer

*“You go to pray; to become a bonfire, a living flame, giving light and heat.”* - St Josemaria Escriva. Quotes like this one from St. Josemaria Escriva when I was younger used to aggravate me because they encouraged me to want to pray but did little to teach me how to pray. I think Fr. Tobin's book *13 Ways to Pray* is great because it is packed with many insights that help me learn to pray. Let us continue to explore Fr. Tobin's 4 keys to prayer. Quotes from his book are in bold and my commentary is in normal font.

### Key 3: Connecting Prayer with Daily Life

**One of the biggest challenges of the spiritual journey is the integration of prayer (our relationship with God) to the rest of life. Most of us, particularly men, have a tendency to compartmentalize life. We give sections of our day to work, family and recreation, and only then do we allot to God a portion (too often a leftover portion) of our day.**

One of the biggest mistakes we can make as Catholics is to assume that God does not care about what is going on in our life because He does care. Our God wants to hear all about our day. He wants to hear about the things that we found to be exciting and He even wants to hear about the things we found difficult. He especially wants to hear, I think, about the things we

do not understand. One of the best ways for me to pray is for me to pretend I am a child at camp writing my heavenly Father about all that is going on – good and bad.

**If Jesus is to become Lord of life, he must be invited to guide and permeate every activity of our day. When this happens our whole day—with its religious and secular dimensions---will become one act of worship to the Father.**

Faith must permeate every aspect of my life. I am offering praise, witnessing, thanking God etc. by the way I live my life.

**The challenge is to make every encounter and event of our week a spiritual exercise every encounter and event of our week a spiritual exercise through which we grow in our relationship with God.**

The following prayer that someone gave me I think summarizes the importance of perspective when it comes to prayer.

*Prayer of Gratitude from a Different Perspective*  
Lord, thank you for this sink of dirty dishes, we have plenty of food to eat. Thank you for this pile of dirty, stinky laundry, we have plenty of nice clothes to wear. And I would like to thank you, Lord, for those unmade beds. They were so warm and so comfortable last night. I know that many have no bed. My thanks to you, Lord, for this bathroom, complete with all the splattered mirrors, soggy, grimy



towels and dirty lavatory. They are so convenient. Thank you for this finger-smudged refrigerator that needs defrosting so badly, it has served us faithfully for many years. It is full of cold drinks and enough left-overs for two or three meals. Thank you, Lord, for this oven that absolutely must be cleaned today. It has baked so many things over the years. The whole family is grateful for that tall grass that needs mowing, the lawn that needs raking; we all enjoy the garden. Thank you, Lord, even for that slamming screen door. My kids are healthy and able to run and play. All these chores awaiting me says you have richly blessed my family. I shall do them all cheerfully and I shall do them gratefully. AMEN

**The more we compartmentalize God and box him in, the more unreal he will be to us and the more we will be alienated from him. Perhaps one reason why God allows our prayer life to dry up is because we have stopped looking for the lord in the laundry room, the store, or the office.**

One of my favorite books in the seminary was called: *My Monastery Is A Minivan: Where the Daily is Divine and the Routine Becomes Prayer*, by

Denise Roy. The title alone reminds me that I do not need to be in a big fancy Church to

pray. I can encounter God anywhere that I am if I but take the time

## Breaking Open the Word

### March 18, 2018 - Year B Fifth Sunday of Lent Lectionary: 35 Gospel JN 12:20-33

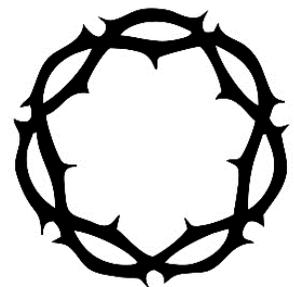
Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

#### Spiritual Reflection:

"May the church be the place of God's mercy and love, where everyone can feel themselves welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel. And in order to make others feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged, the church must have open doors so that all might enter. And we must go out of those doors and proclaim the Gospel." —Pope Francis. Philip and Andrew realized that the Church was the place for people to come to know who Jesus was and therefore it was their job not to judge the Greeks but it was their job to introduce them to Jesus.

#### Spiritual Questions:

1. Do you place demands on people who come to Church? Dress? Moral code?
2. How can the Church hold a standard (God's law) and still welcome sinners?
3. When someone is looking for advice about the faith, will they turn to you? Why or Why not?
4. How can you become a better ambassador for Jesus?
5. Who is your role model for getting to know Jesus better?



## Prayers for the Week

### CHAPLET OF THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The Chaplet of the Way of the Cross was granted to the Vincentian Order by Pope Pius IX and X. Later it was withdrawn by the Holy Office (1912), since the indulgences can be gained by using

the Crucifix alone.

How to pray the Chaplet of the Way of the Cross  
This Chaplet is a way of meditating on the Way of the Cross. On it, there are 15 groups of 3 beads,

each, between which are medals representing the Stations of the Cross. An additional 6 beads are added as well as a Crucifix.

1) Beginning with the Crucifix, you bless yourself.

2) Prior to each group of 3 beads, say the following prayer,

"We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the World."

3) Then say: 1 Our Father... 1 Hail Mary... 1 Glory Be...

At the same time, in each group of 3 beads, meditate on the particular station. These are:

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus is made to bear His Cross.
3. Jesus Falls the First Time.
4. Jesus is met by His Blessed Mother.
5. The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene.
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
7. Jesus falls the second time.
8. Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem.
9. Jesus falls the third time.
10. Jesus is stripped and receives gall to drink.
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
12. Jesus dies on the cross.
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.
14. Jesus is laid in the sepulcher.

## Saint Monica Society Prayer For March

### PRAYER TO KNOW THE WAY TO PEACE

Father of Heaven and earth, hear my prayer and show those who do not you the way to peace. Guide each effort of their lives so that their faults and sins may not keep them from the peace You promised.

May the new life of grace You desire to give all through the Eucharist and prayer make each person love for You grow and keep us moving toward the joy of Your Kingdom.

### St. Monica Society

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

## Catholic Trivia

 <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Last Week's Answers</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">This Week's Questions</p>
<p>Translate the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kyrie Eleison = Lord Have Mercy</li> <li>2. Spes = Hope</li> <li>3. Confiteor = I confess</li> <li>4. Santus = Holy</li> </ol>	<p>Match The Month with it's Official Devotion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Holy Childhood _____</li> <li>2. St. Joseph ____</li> <li>3. Mary ____</li> <li>4. Precious Blood ____</li> </ol> <p>A, March B. May C. July D. January</p>

## Quotes of the Week

The most important hour is always the present. The most significant person is precisely the one sitting across from you right now. The most necessary work is always love. - Meister Eckhart

What good is it to me that Mary gave birth to the son of God fourteen hundred years ago, and I do not also give birth to the Son of God in my time and in my culture? We are all meant to be mothers of God. God is always needing to be born. - Meister Eckhart

Jesus went into the temple and boldly drove out those that bought and sold. And when all was cleared, there was nobody left but Jesus. Observe this, for it is the same with us: when he is alone he is able to speak in the temple of the soul.

If anyone else is speaking in the temple of your soul, Jesus will keep still, as if he were not at home. And he is not at home wherever there are strange guests-guests with whom the soul holds conversation, guests who are seeking to bargain. If Jesus is to speak and be heard, the soul must be alone and quiet. - Meister Eckhart

The only thing that burns in hell is the part of you that won't let go of your life: your memories, your attachments. They burn them all away, but they're not punishing you, they're freeing your soul.

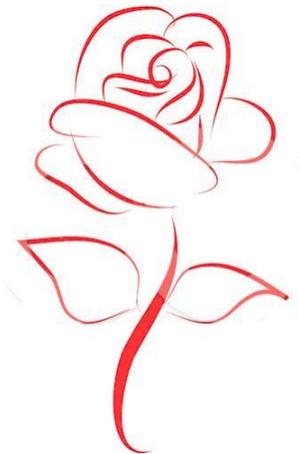
If you're frightened of dying and you're holding on, you'll see devils tearing your life away. If you've made your peace, then the devils are really angels freeing you from the earth. - Meister Eckhart

The most powerful prayer, one well-nigh omnipotent, and the worthiest work of all is the outcome of a quiet mind. The quieter it is the more powerful, the worthier, the deeper, the more telling and more perfect the prayer is. To the quiet mind all things are possible. What is a quiet mind? A quiet mind is one which nothing weighs on, nothing worries, which, free from ties and from all self-seeking, is wholly merged into the will of God and dead to its own. - Meister Eckhart

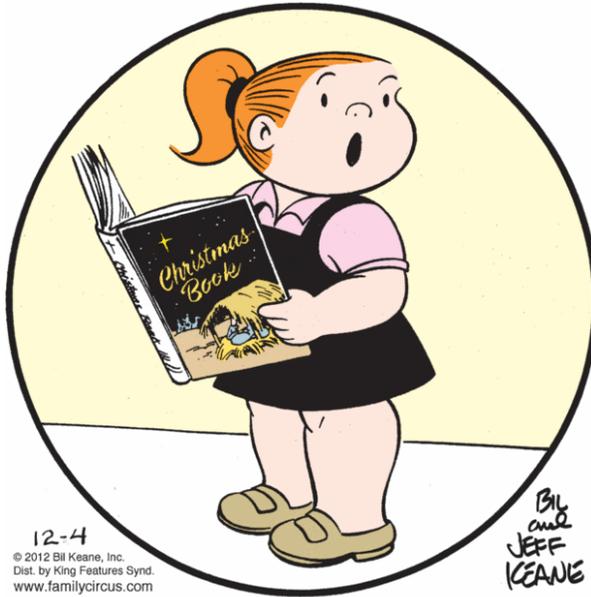
## Pro-Life Corner

### **Pro-Life Prayer for March:**

O Jesus, Lover of Children, bestow Your Most precious graces on the children You have confided to our care. Grant them the gift of life. Increase in them Faith, Hope and Charity. May Your love lead them to solid piety, inspiring them with dread for sin, love of work and an ardent desire of worthily approaching Your Holy Table. Preserve in them innocence and purity of heart; and if they should offend You, grant them the grace of a prompt and sincere repentance. From Your Heavenly throne watch over them day and night; protect them in all their stages of development. Grant that they may acquire the knowledge that they need to embrace the state of life to which You have called them. Grant us a sincere love, constant vigilance and generous devotedness towards all children. Grant us all consolation on earth and eternal reward in heaven.



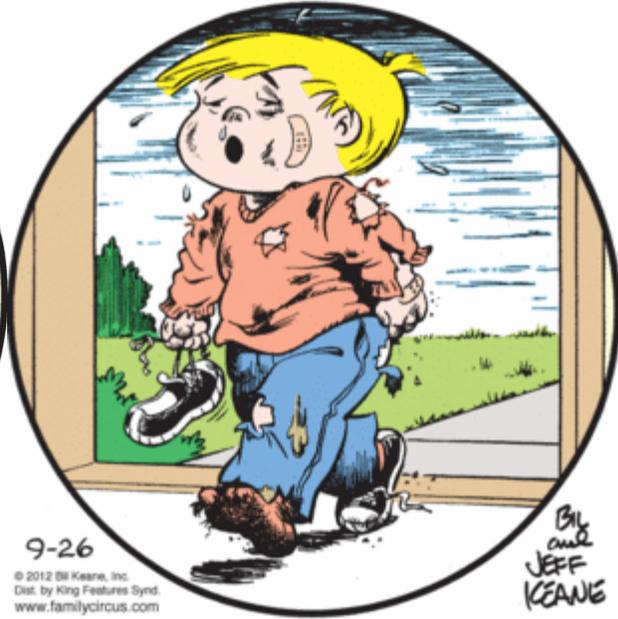
# Catholic Humor



12-4  
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

Bil  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

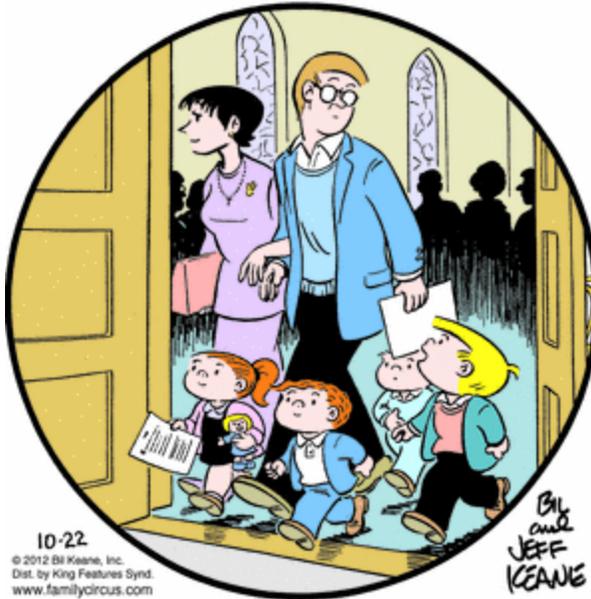
**“How come the only kid Baby Jesus got to have at his birthday party was that little drummer boy?”**



9-26  
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

Bil  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

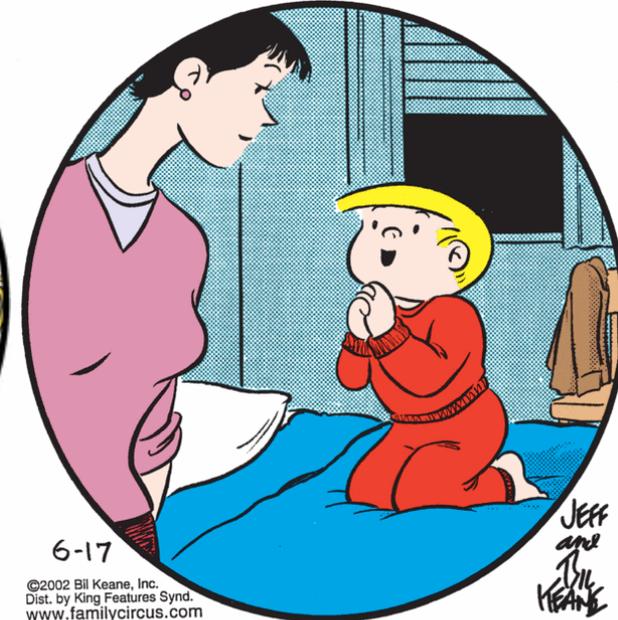
**“I think my guardian angel took the day off.”**



10-22  
© 2012 Bil Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

Bil  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

**“When we sing the hymns, I think it’s best for me to just be a listener.”**



6-17  
© 2002 Bil Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

JEFF  
and  
BIL  
KEANE

**“Sayin’ ‘Amen’ is like pressing the ‘SEND’ button for your prayers.”**