

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

March 25, 2018 – PALM SUNDAY

Spiritual Ponderings Keys to Prayer

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March 25, 2018
Spiritual Ponderings
Keys to Prayer

Let us look at Fr. Tobin's last key to prayer. Quotes from his book will be in bold and my commentary will be in regular font.

Key 4: Listening to God in Prayer
True listening in prayer is a real challenge, demanding faith, selflessness, patience, a reflective attitude and courage.

We need faith to believe that God does communicate with us, his people; and we especially need faith to believe that God really does want to speak to us personally.

We need selflessness because listening always demands the ability and willingness to put aside our own need to talk or our desire to be center stage, so that we can listen to others and give them center stage.

We need patience because God does not always speak to us according to our time schedule. He tell us so himself, "Nor are your ways my way." (Isaiah 55:8)

We need to develop a reflective attitude toward life so we can learn to read God's messages as they come to us in the events of daily life.

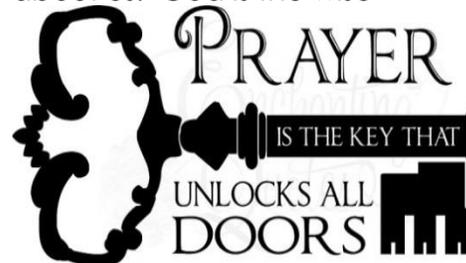
When someone tells me that they do not pray the rosary because it is too repetitive, I really want to smack them and tell them that is the whole point of the prayer. The rosary is meant to be repetitive because its repetitive nature is meant to calm our minds and slow us down. The rosary and other meditative prayers are meant to help us focus on the present moment. In the book of Kings Elijah discovers God's presence not in the whirlwind or earthquake but rather in the quiet.

Prayer for me in many ways is like art. The more we practice it the better we get at it.

...Prayer is irrelevant when it is merely our attempt to get God to do what we want—to get God to do our will. On the other hand, prayer is very relevant when it is our attempt to discover what God wants of us and our attempt to seek the strength to carry out his will.

Many times throughout the Gospels the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes demand Jesus to perform a miracle and each and every time Jesus refuses to. Our God cannot be controlled. We can never put God in our debt and therefore it is a waste of time trying to force God to do anything for us. God however does care about what is going on in our life because he cares

about us. God is the wise



person who always knows what is best for us even if we do not want to admit it. He wants to help us carry our cross.

If our primary goal in prayer is to let God know our needs and to ask him to take care of them, we run the risk of developing a kind of professional relationship with God, not a personal one.

A true friendship is not based on a utilitarian relationship. A true friendship is based on a love that wants what is best for the other person even if it requires a sacrifice on our part. There are times in my relationship with my friends where I have to go the extra mile for them (and I do so willingly) without knowing if they will ever repay me. I do this because I like the other person and because I know if things were reverse that they would help me.

Prayer is allowing God to love us; it is our becoming aware of God's great love for us.

The more I waste time with God the more I know He loves me. Prayer is about diving deeper into God's love for me.

Breaking Open the Word

March 25, 2018 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion Lectionary: 37 and 38 At The Procession With Palms

Gospel MK 11:1-10

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethpage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'" So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"

JN 12:12-16

When the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel." Jesus found an ass and sat upon it, as is written: Fear no more, O daughter Zion; see, your king comes, seated upon an ass's colt. His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him.

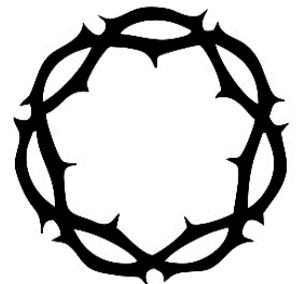
Spiritual Reflection:

Palm Sunday positions Jesus as being the true king of Israel. The question that should arise to anyone who has read the Old Testament is this: "Will Jesus be a good king that follow's God's command to the end? Or Will he be a bad king and do things His way."

Throughout the Old Testament there were many bad kings who did things there way and people suffered the consequences for it. There were also a few good kings who followed God's will and thus brought about prosperity. What type of king will Jesus be?

Spiritual Questions:

1. What do you know about the kings of the Old Testament?
2. How does entrance to Jerusalem speak of His true indemnity?
3. How does the crowd go so quickly from welcoming Christ as their king to wanting Him crucified?
4. What do you think Herod or Pilate thought about Palm Sunday?
5. Are you ready for Holy Week?



Prayers for the Week

THE LITANY OF THE PASSION.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. 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 Spirit, Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, the eternal Wisdom, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, conversing with men, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, hated by the world, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, sold for thirty pieces of silver, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, prostrate in prayer, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, strengthened by an angel, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, agonizing in a bloody sweat, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, betrayed by Judas with a kiss, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, bound by the soldiers, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, forsaken by Your disciples, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, before Annas and Caiaphas, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, struck by a servant on the face, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, accused by false witnesses, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, declared worthy of death, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, spat upon in the face, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, blindfolded, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, smitten on the cheek, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, thrice denied by Peter, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, delivered up to Pilate, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, despised and mocked by Herod, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, clothed in a white garment, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, rejected for Barabbas, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, torn by scourges, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, bruised for our sins, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, regarded as a leper, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, covered with a purple robe, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, crowned with thorns, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, struck with a reed, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, demanded for crucifixion, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, condemned to death, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, given up to Your enemies, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, laden with the Cross, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, led as a lamb to the slaughter, Have mercy

on us.
Jesus, stripped of Your garments, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, fastened with nails to the Cross, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, wounded for our iniquities, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, praying for Your murderers, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, reputed with the wicked, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, blasphemed on the Cross, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, reviled by the malefactor, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, giving Paradise to the thief, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, commending Saint John to Your Mother as her son, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, forsaken by Your Father, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, given gall and vinegar to drink, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, testifying that all things written concerning You were accomplished, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, commending Your Spirit into the hands of Your Father, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, obedient even unto death, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, pierced with a lance, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, made a propitiation for us, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, taken down from the Cross, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, laid in a sepulcher, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, rising gloriously from the dead, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, ascending into heaven, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, our Advocate with the Father, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, sending down the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, exalting Your Mother, Have mercy on us.
Jesus, who shall come to judge the living and the dead, Have mercy on us.
Be merciful, spare us, O Lord.
Be merciful, graciously hear us, O Lord.
From all evil, deliver us, O Jesus.
From all sin, deliver us, O Jesus.
From anger, hatred, and every evil will, deliver us, O Jesus.
From war, famine, and pestilence, deliver us, O

Jesus.
From all dangers of mind and body, deliver us, O Jesus.
From everlasting death, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your most pure conception, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your miraculous nativity, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your humble circumcision, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your baptism and fasting, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your labors and watchings, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your cruel scourging and crowning, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your thirst, and tears, and nakedness, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your precious death and Cross, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your glorious resurrection and ascension, deliver us, O Jesus.
Through Your sending forth the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, deliver us, O Jesus.
On the day of judgment, we sinners, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would spare us, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would pardon us, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would bring us to true penance, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would pour into our hearts the grace of the Holy Spirit, we beseech You, hear us.

That You would defend and propagate Your Church, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would preserve and increase all societies assembled in Your holy Name, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would bestow upon us true peace, humility, and charity, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would give us perseverance in grace and in Your holy service, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would deliver us from unclean thoughts, the temptations of the devil, and everlasting damnation, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would unite us to the company of Your Saints, we beseech You, hear us.
That You would graciously hear us, we beseech You, hear us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.
Christ hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

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

 Last Week's Answers	 This Week's Questions
Match The Month with it's Official Devotion 1. Holy Childhood _____ 2. St. Joseph _____ 3. Mary _____ 4. Precious Blood _____ A, March B. May C. July D. January	1. Baldacchino ___ 2. Apse ___ 3. Fald Stool ___ 4. Rood Screen___ A. A portable folding chair the bishop uses during formal liturgical celebration. B. Semi-circle part of a sanctuary in traditional Church C. Italian word for Baghdad. Now refers to a canopy above the altar or bishop's chair. D. Normally a depiction of the Crucifixion located high in the Church.

Quotes of the Week

"God, who needs nothing, loves into existence wholly superfluous creatures in order that He may love and perfect them. He creates the universe, already foreseeing - or should we say "seeing"? there are no tenses in God - the buzzing cloud of flies about the cross, the flayed back pressed against the uneven stake, the nails driven through the mesial nerves, the repeated incipient suffocation as the body droops, the repeated torture of back and arms as it is time after time, for breath's sake, hitched up. If I may dare the biological image, God is a "host" who deliberately creates His own parasites; causes us to be that we may exploit and "take advantage of" Him. Herein is love. This is the diagram of Love Himself, the inventor of all loves."

— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

"We have never preached violence, except the violence of love, which left Christ nailed to a cross, the violence that we must each do to ourselves to overcome our selfishness and such cruel inequalities among us. The violence we preach is not the violence of the sword, the violence of hatred. It is the violence of love, of brotherhood, the violence that wills to beat weapons into sickles for work."

— Oscar A. Romero, *The Violence of Love*

"I'll look to the cross As my failure is lost In the light of Your glorious grace" — Hillsong

"You must accept your cross; if you bear it courageously it will carry you to heaven."

— John Vianney

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

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"It says on your résumé that you were created in God's image. Very impressive."

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"This week's sermon is about how we all need to simplify our lives. Unfortunately, I lost the whole thing when my computer crashed."

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"The dating service finally found someone who meets all of my qualifications. Unfortunately, God doesn't have time for dating."

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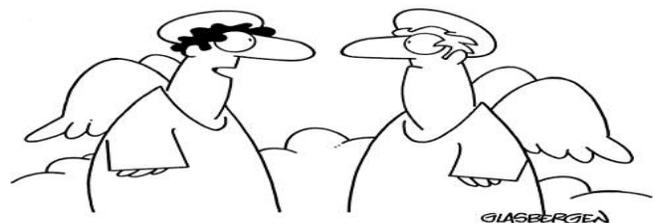
"Mom, if Heaven is real, give me a sign. Post your location and a selfie on Facebook."

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"There are some things even God doesn't understand. That's why He created lawyers."

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"Dying is the best thing that ever happened to me — it gets me out of jury duty!"