

# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

May 6, 2018 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Spiritual Ponderings Devil's Beatitude

"The Prince of this world, Satan, doesn't want our holiness, he doesn't want us to follow Christ. Maybe some of you might say: 'But Father, how old fashioned you are to speak about the devil in the 21st century!' But look out because the devil is present! The devil is here... even in the 21st century! And we mustn't be naïve, right? We must learn from the Gospel how to fight against Satan."

For the month of May, I would like to take a deeper look at the "Devils Beatitudes". These twelve statements were given to me when I was a newly ordained priest. I do not know who the original author is but I have found them to be an excellent examination of conscience and there is something about them that seem to resonate with people when I use them in my homilies.

**1. Blessed are those who are too fired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians - they are my best workers.**

Archbishop Fulton Sheen shared this insight on the necessity of the Eucharist in his book called *Calvary and the Mass*:

*If then Death was the supreme moment for which Christ lived, it was therefore the one thing He wished to have remembered. He did not ask that men should write*

*down His Words into a Scripture; He did not ask that His kindness to the poor should be recorded in history; but He did ask that men remember his Death. And in order that its memory might not be any haphazard narrative on the part of men, He himself instituted the precise way it should be recalled.*

Intellectually, I am still a Catholic because of the Mass. On one level the Mass gives me the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the Real Presence of God (the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ). While I do not understand completely how this can be, my experience and the experience of others have taught me this to be true.

The Mass is also a mysterious teacher who teaches me in ways that I might not even notice as I spend time with God's family. When people do not go to Church they begin to isolate themselves from God and from others and this is what the devil wants.

**2. Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked - I can use them.**

Let the same mind be in you that was[a] in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.



And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **(Philippians 2:5-11)**

The happiest and greatest Christians I know are the ones who don't wait to be asked. They are constantly looking for ways to help others and they seek out opportunities to learn more about their faith. Bishop Barron in his writings refers to the Christian Life as moving from the Pusillia (Small) Soul to the Magna (Great) Soul. When we are stuck in our small soul our world is small but as detach from ourselves we discover there is a larger world of people.

"Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending

sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'? Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me

while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'? Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have

done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'" (Luke 17:7-10)

## Breaking Open the Word

### May 6, 2018 Sixth Sunday of Easter Lectionary: 56 Gospel JN 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."



#### Spiritual Reflection:

God desires a healthy Father child relationship and not a master slave relationship. There is something comfortable about a master slave relationship though because a slave is only expected to do enough not get punished. A child is supposed to go above and beyond.

#### Spiritual Questions:

1. What is your image of God?
2. What is your image of God's image of you?
3. Describe someone in a Father-child relationship with God
4. Describe someone if a master-slave relationship with God.
5. What type of relationship do you wish to have?

## Prayers for the Week

#### **THE PRAYER BLESS THIS DAY.**

This day is full of beauty and adventure, help me Lord to be fully alive to it all. During this day, may I become a more thoughtful person, a more prayerful person, a more generous and kindly person. Help me not to be turned in on myself but to be sensitive and helpful to others. Let me do nothing today that will hurt anyone, but let me help at least a little, to make life more pleasant for those I meet. When night comes, may I look back on this day without regrets; and may nobody be unhappy because of anything I have said or done or failed to do. Lord God, bless this

day for me and all of us. Make it a day in which we grow a little more like your Son, and gentle as Mary His Mother. Amen.

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS.**

**Leader: Our Father Who art in heaven,**

All: You have promised not to leave us orphans. Send Your holy ministers of salvation to give us the Spirit's life through the food of faith and charity.

**Leader: Hallowed be Thy name,**

All: Through Your chosen ministers filled with Your Holy Spirit, may You be made known and loved

by all people on earth.

**Leader: Thy kingdom come,**

All: And may it be built by Your faithful ministers through the sanctity of their lives, their burning zeal for Your glory, and the salvation of all.

**Leader: Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

All: Eternal Father, do not cease to provide Your Church with Your holy ministers who teach all people Your holy law.

**Leader: Give us this day our daily bread,**

All: The bread of grace which nourishes us through Your sacraments. Enrich Your Church with chosen ministers who bring Your sanctifying grace to all men and women.

**Leader: And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

All: Send Your people, Lord, chosen and faithful priests, who by the sacrament of reconciliation bring back to You numerous hearts in need of Your forgiveness.

**Leader: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

All: Lord, if our sins have deprived us of Your friendship, we ask You: send your ministers of mercy among us, with personal zeal and sacrifice. May they keep our souls from sin, and lead us to sanctification and eternal salvation. Amen.

**Leader: Let us ask Mary, Mother of God, for priestly and religious vocations.**

All: O Mother, awaken among the young generation a willingness to serve God alone. Implore for us numerous vocations for the priesthood and religious life. O Mother, confirm the faith of all our lay brothers and sisters that in every area of social, professional, cultural and political life, they may work according to the truth. Bless us all and assist us by Your prayers, that we might live effectively the vocation to which we have been called. Amen.

## Saint Monica Society Prayer For May

### TURN THE HEARTS OF OUR LOVED ONES BACK TO YOU



O Lord, take away anything that is turning the hearts of our love ones into hearts of stone, soften their hardened hearts, and grant to them new hearts filled with your love. Purify their hearts clean their hearts, dwell in their hearts. Guide their most intimate thoughts and seal them in holiness. In thy great mercy please bring them back to your holy. O God us all to share eternity with you. – Amen.

#### **St. Monica Society**

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

## Quotes of the Week

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. - Abraham Lincoln

Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right. - Abraham Lincoln

Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought - Abraham Lincoln

No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar. - Abraham Lincoln

## Catholic Trivia

### Last Week's Answers



Number the choirs of angels with 1 being the lowest and nine being the highest.

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1-Angels           | 2- Archangels |
| 3 - Principalities | 4 - Powers    |
| 5 -Virtues         | 6 - Dominions |
| 7- Thrones         | 8 - Cherubim  |
| 9 - Seraphim       |               |



### This Week's Questions



1. Which angel is the patron of police officers?
2. Who was the angel that announced to Zechariah that he was going to be the Father of John the Baptist?
3. Which angel helped Tobit's son find a wife?
4. In the Holy of Holies were two statues of what kind of angels?

## Pro-Life Corner

### A PRAYER TO BE GENEROUS

Teach us, Lord Jesus, to be generous: to serve You as You deserve; to give, not counting the cost; to fight, not heeding the wounds; to toil, not asking for rest; to labor, not seeking any reward, save that of knowing that we do Your will. May the way we live our lives inspire everyone with a greater respect for all human life. Amen.



## Catholic Humor

- 1) What is a dentist's favorite hymn? Crown Him with Many Crowns Extra points: Holy, Holy, Holy
- 2) Who's the arch-enemy of the Gsus chord? The Dmin chord.
- 3) What's a salesman's favorite Scripture passage? The Great Commission
- 4) Where was Solomon's temple located? On the side of his head.