

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

May 13, 2018 – Ascension

Spiritual Ponderings Devil's Beatitude

"We too need to guard the faith, guard it from darkness. Many times, however, it is a darkness under the guise of light. This is because the devil, as Saint Paul, says, disguises himself at times as an angel of light." – Pope Francis

Let us continue looking at the Devil's Beatitudes.

3. Blessed are the touchy who stop going to church - they are my missionaries.

Nine people can say I did a good job and one person can say I did a bad job. Most of us focus on the one bad review instead of the nine positive reviews. People who get upset could possibly be driving more people away from the Church than possible. I wonder if so many of our family don't come to Mass anymore because they hear so many of us complain about having to go to Church or the priest's homily, lack of bells, quality of music, etc. What if we all focused on one positive thing each week? Would our Church be filled again?

4. Blessed are the trouble makers - they shall be called my children.

I am all for jokes and I know that people can get carried away.

What frustrates me is when people are unwilling to admit that maybe they have gone too far or when someone does not make sure that the person they were teasing in a friendly way is alright and has not taken the teasing too personally. When we cause trouble for the sake of entertainment, we are heading down a dangerous path.

5. Blessed are the complainers - I'm all ears to them.

"If you took one-tenth the energy you put into complaining and applied it to solving the problem, you'd be surprised by how well things can work out... Complaining does not work as a strategy. We all have finite time and energy. Any time we spend whining is unlikely to help us achieve our goals. And it won't make us happier." — Randy Pausch, The Last Lecture

Complaining is just trying to get others share in our misery.

6. Blessed are those who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes - for they get nothing out of his sermons.

One of my favorite sayings is "A broken clock is right twice a day". I like this quote because it reminds me of my need to listen to each person and judge his or

her argument on its own merits. The truth is the truth no matter what that is why I like the following story about Abraham Lincoln:

There is a story about Abraham Lincoln who was arguing with a political opponent.

"How many legs does a cow have?" he asked his adversary.

"Four, of course," came the disgusted reply.

"That's right," agreed Lincoln. "Now suppose you call the cow's tail a leg; how many legs would the cow have?"

"Why, five, of course," was the confident reply.

"Now, that's where you're wrong," said Lincoln. "Calling a cow's tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."



Breaking Open the Word

May 13, 2018 - Ascension of the Lord The Ascension of the Lord Lectionary: 58 Gospel MK 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

Spiritual Reflection:

The world was won for Christ not by arguments but by sanctity: "What you are speaks so loud, I can hardly hear what you say." - Peter Kreeft

Spiritual Questions:

1. How are you answering Jesus' great commission to spread the Gospel?
2. How can lay hands on people to help them get better?
3. How can you help drive out demons?
4. How can you help people speak the truth of the Gospel?
5. What signs do you use to help others see the truth of the Gospel?

Prayers for the Week

ASCENSION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in this Easter season we celebrate today your Ascension to God's right hand as the goal of your resurrection from the dead. We thank you that you have not left us orphans, because you remain with us to the end of time. May we always be glad when we think of the many ways you are with us to the end of time. May we always be glad when we think of the many ways you are with us: in the Eucharist, in your Word, in one another, in your ministers. May we respond to your presence by keeping your commandments, above all, to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

ASPIRATIONS AND THOUGHTS

1. O God! Who knows what fate awaits me?
2. I shall be either eternally happy or eternally miserable.
3. Of what worth is all the world without God? Let all be lost, but let not God be lost.
4. I love Thee, my Jesus Who didst die for me! Would that I had died before I ever offended Thee!
5. I will rather die than lose God.
6. Jesus and Mary, Thou art my hope.
7. My God, help me, for the love of Jesus Christ! My Jesus, Thou alone art sufficient for me!
8. Suffer me not to separate myself from Thee.
9. Give me Thy love, and then do with me what Thou pleasest.
10. Whom shall I love, if I love not Thee, my God?
11. Eternal Father, help me, for the love of Jesus! I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, I love Thee!
12. Here I am, O Lord; do with me what Thou wilt!
13. When shall I see myself altogether Thine, my God?
14. When shall I be able to say to Thee, My God, I can lose Thee no more?
15. Mary, my hope, have pity on me!
16. Mother of God, pray to Jesus for me!
17. Lord, who am I, that Thou shouldst desire to be loved by me?
18. My God, I desire Thee alone, and nothing more.
19. I desire all that Thou dost will, and that alone.
20. Oh, that I might be annihilated for Thee, Who

wast annihilated for me!

21. Towards Thee alone, my God, have I been ungrateful!

22. I have offended Thee enough, I will no longer displease Thee.

23. If I had died then, I could not have loved Thee any more.

24. Let me die before again offending Thee.

25. Thou hast waited for me that I might love Thee. Yea, I will love Thee.

26. I consecrate the remainder of my life to Thee.

27. O my Jesus, draw me entirely to Thyself!

28. Thou wilt not leave me; I will not leave Thee.

29. I hope that we shall always love each other, O God of my soul!

30. My Jesus, make me all Thine before I die!

31. Grant that when Thou shalt come to judge me, I may see Thee with a benign countenance.

32. Thou hast done more than enough to oblige me to love Thee. I love Thee, I love Thee!

33. Deign to accept the love of a sinner who has so often offended Thee.

34. Thou has given Thyself all to me; I give myself all to Thee.

35. I desire to love Thee exceedingly in this life that I may love Thee exceedingly in the next.

36. Teach me to know Thy great goodness, that I may love Thee very much.

37. Thou lovest those that love Thee. I love Thee, do Thou also love me?

38. Give me the love Thou requirest of me. I rejoice that Thou art infinitely happy.

39. Oh that I had always loved thee, and had

died before I had offended Thee. Grant that I may overcome all things to please Thee.

40. I give Thee my whole will; dispose of me as thou pleasest.

41. My pleasure is to please Thee, O Infinite Goodness!

42. I hope to love Thee for all eternity, O eternal God!

43. Thou art omnipotent; make me a Saint.

44. Thou didst seek me while I was flying from Thee; Thou wilt not drive me away now that I seek after Thee.

45. I thank Thee for giving me time to love Thee. I thank Thee, and love Thee!

46. Let me give myself entirely to Thee this day, punish me in any way, but deprive me not of the power of loving Thee.

47. I will love Thee, my God, without reserve.

48. I accept all sufferings and all contempt, provided I may love Thee.

49. I desire to die for Thee, Who didst die for me.

50. I wish that all could love Thee, Who didst die for me.

51. I wish that all could love Thee as Thou meritest.

52. I wish to do everything that I know to be Thy pleasure.

53. I care more to please Thee than for all the pleasures of the world.

54. O holy will of God, Thou art my love! O Mary, draw me entirely to God!

55. O my Mother, make me always have recourse to thee; it is for thee to make me a Saint; this is my hope.

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

Next to creating a life the finest thing a man can do is save one. - Abraham Lincoln

Cling to liberty and right; battle for them; lead for them; die for them, if need be; and have confidence in God. - Abraham Lincoln

It is a sin to be silent when it is your duty to protest. - Abraham Lincoln

The written word may be man's greatest invention. It allows us to converse with the dead, the absent, and the unborn. - Abraham Lincoln

I trust that as He shall further open the way, I will be ready to walk therein, relying on His help and trusting in His goodness and wisdom. - Abraham Lincoln

Catholic Trivia

Last Week's Answers



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

This Week's Questions



1. Which is bigger a parish or a deanery?
2. Which is bigger a stole or a chasuble?
3. Which is bigger an aspergillum or a processional cross?
4. Which is larger (taller) biretta or miter?

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.
- 5) How does Moses make his coffee? - Hebrews it. - Ok... interested. Tell me more. / Jesus Gifs
- 6) Who was the smartest man in the Bible? - Abraham. He knew a Lot.
- 7) What kind of man was Boaz before he married? - Ruthless.
- 8) Where is the first baseball game in the Bible? - In the big inning. Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.
- 9) Why did the hawk sit on the church's steeple? - It was a bird of pray.
- 10) Which servant of God was the worst lawbreaker in the Bible? - Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.