

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

May 20, 2018 – Pentecost

Spiritual Ponderings Devil's Beatitude

"It is enough to open a newspaper and we see that around us there is the presence of evil, the Devil is at work. But I would like to say in a loud voice 'God is stronger.' Do you believe this, that God is stronger?" – Pope Francis

Here are three more of the Devil's Beatitudes:

7. Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church - for he is a part of the problem instead of the solution.

Martin Niemöller (1892–1984) was a prominent Protestant pastor who emerged as an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. Niemöller is perhaps best remembered for the quotation:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

We should never wait to be asked to do the good.

The following quote also comes in mind in the light of this Devil's beatitude: "The only thing

necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."- Edmund Burke. Therefore the devil applauds our inaction.

8. Blessed are those who gossip - for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.

St. John Vianney spoke out strongly against gossip because he knew that gossip could easily cause other sins. "Very often it requires only one immodest or unseemly word to start a thousand evil thoughts, a thousand shameful desires, perhaps even to cause a fall into an infinite number of sins and to bring innocent souls evil of which they had been happily ignorant."

Saint John of the Cross echoed idea "Joy in hearing useless things gives direct rise to distraction of the imagination, gossiping, envy, uncertain judgments, and wandering thoughts, from which flow many other pernicious kinds of harm."

9. Blessed are those who are easily offended - for they will soon get angry and quit.

This beatitude of the devil demonstrates the beauty and the wisdom of Mother Teresa.

"People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful

friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway. If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway. What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway. Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway. In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."



Pope Francis said the following: "The church is not a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners." In saying this he was modifying the famous St. Augustine quote: "The church is not a hotel for saints, but a hospital for sinners." This is a reminder that we are not going to find perfect people present in the Church on earth. Thank God for this though

because if only the perfect were allowed in, we would not be included.

Breaking Open the Word

May 20, 2018 - Pentecost Sunday - Mass during the Day Lectionary: 63

Gospel JN 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews,

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

JN 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

Spiritual Reflection:

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and are the measuring sticks by which we can measure our spiritual growth?

Spiritual Questions:

1. How are you growing in Wisdom and Understanding?
2. How are you growing in Counsel, and Fortitude?
3. How are you growing in Piety and Knowledge?
4. How are you growing in Fear of the Lord and Awe?
5. How are you advancing in faith over all?

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Prayers for the Week

THE LITANY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lord, have mercy on us. **R.:** Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us. **R.:** Christ have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us. **R.:** Have mercy on us.

Father all powerful. **R.** Have mercy on us.

Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father, Redeemer of the world,

R. Save us.

Spirit of the Father and the Son, boundless Life of both

R.: Sanctify us.

Holy Trinity, **R.:** Hear us.

R: enter our hearts:

Holy Spirit, Who proceedest from the Father & the Son, **R.**

Holy Spirit, Who art equal to the Father and the Son, **R.**

R: have mercy on us.

Promise of God the Father, **R.**

Ray of heavenly light, **R.**

Author of all good, **R.**

Source of heavenly water, **R.**

Consuming Fire, **R.**

Ardent Charity, **R.**

Spiritual Unction, **R.**

Spirit of love and truth, **R.**

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, **R.**

Spirit of counsel and fortitude, **R.**

Spirit of knowledge and piety, **R.**

Spirit of the fear of the Lord, **R.**

Spirit of grace and prayer, **R.**

Spirit of peace and meekness, **R.**

Spirit of modesty and innocence, **R.**

Holy Spirit, the Comforter, **R.**

Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, **R.**

Holy Spirit, Who governest the Church, Gift of God the Most High, **R.**

Spirit Who fillest the universe, **R.**

Spirit of the adoption of the children of God, **R.**
Holy Spirit, **R.** inspire us with horror of sin.

Holy Spirit, **R.** come and renew the face of the earth.

Holy Spirit, **R.** shed Thy light into our souls.

Holy Spirit, **R.** engrave Thy law in our hearts.

Holy Spirit, **R.** inflame us with the flame of Thy love.

Holy Spirit, **R.** open to us the treasures of Thy graces.

Holy Spirit, **R.** teach us to pray well.

Holy Spirit, **R.** enlighten us with Thy heavenly inspirations.

Holy Spirit, **R.** lead us in the way of salvation.

Holy Spirit, **R.** grant us the only necessary knowledge.

Holy Spirit, **R.** inspire in us the practice of good.

Holy Spirit, **R.** grant us the merits of all virtues.

Holy Spirit, **R.** make us persevere in justice.

Holy Spirit, **R.** be our everlasting reward.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.**

Send us Thy Holy Spirit.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.**

Pour down into our souls the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.**

Grant us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.

Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Thy faithful, **R.**

And enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Let Us Pray. Grant, O merciful Father, that Thy Divine Spirit may enlighten, inflame and purify us, that He may penetrate us with His heavenly dew and make us fruitful in good works, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, liveth and reigneth forever and ever. 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

O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams. - Saint Augustine

Your job is to allow the Holy Spirit to remove the fearful thinking that surrounds your perfect self. - Marianne Williamson

Let yourselves be led by the Holy Spirit, with freedom and, please, do not cage the Holy Spirit - Pope Francis

A sedentary life is the real sin against the Holy Spirit. Only those thoughts that come by walking have any value. - Friedrich Nietzsche

Catholic Trivia

Last Week's Answers



Which three of the following are not Doctors of the Church?

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. St. Thomas Aquinas | 2. St. Athanasius |
| 3. St. Therese of Lisieux | 4. St. Jerome |
| x. St. Cecilia | x. St. Katherine Drexel |
| 7. St. Therese of Avila | 8. Saint Methodius |
| 9. St. Ephraim | x. St. Perpetua. |

This Week's Questions: Which of the following statements are true?

1. The Vatican is the smallest sovereign state in the world.
2. The Catholic version of the Old Testament differs from the Protestant one in that the Catholic edition has seven more books than the Protestant Bible. These "extra" books were removed during the Protestant reformation by Martin Luther—the Catholic Church did not add them as is commonly believed
3. The Catholic Church is the largest charitable organization in the U.S.

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

