

June 17, 2018 - Eleventh Sunday Ordinary Time



*MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED  
NOW AND FOREVER!!!*

# SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS



## Sacrament of Reconciliation



Some more thoughts on the Sacrament of Reconciliation

### 5. It is about Forgiveness and Not Acquitting

Many people also avoid the Sacrament of Reconciliation because they confuse the idea of acquitting with forgiveness. Acquitting is a legal term that means that a person did not commit a crime that he or she was accused of. Forgiveness is about accepting the fact that a person has done wrong and instead of responding with hate, anger, or punishment, one responds with love and peace. As Catholics we do not enter the confession seeking to be acquitted. We admit right off the bat that we have sinned and that we are sinners. We confess our guilt. God instead of wiping away our past or punishing us for our sins offers us forgiveness. He wipes away our debt but not the fact that we were in debt.

This is an important distinction when we talk about faith being a relationship with God. When I admit

to others that I have hurt them (intentionally or not) and I receive their forgiveness my relationship with that person is strengthened. The person I confess to becomes impressed with my willingness to admit my wrong and I am more grateful for their forgiveness. The more I confess to God my sins and the more I receive His forgiveness the closer we become.

### 6. Forgiveness is Also not About Feeling

Some people tell me that they have not been to confession in a long time because the last time they went they still felt guilty. God through the Sacrament does not promise us good feelings. He promised us the forgiveness of our sins. There are times in which I have gotten into my car and started driving to a place only to arrive at to destination without remembering half of my trip. Just because I don't remember making a right turn at an intersection or remembering going over a bridge does not mean I did not reach my destination.

God promised to forgive our sins through the Sacrament and our God is trustworthy. The power of the Sacrament rests solely on God's power and not on the priest or the penitent.

Sometimes people complain about the penance they receive from the priest and think that doing something like praying 3 Hail Mary's

can in no way make up for the pain that their sins has committed. These are true but remember the point of the penance is not to repair the damage our sins has caused. Jesus did that through the cross. The purpose is to help us grow in holiness. Maybe saying 3 Hail Mary's as a penance is meant to make us realize how great God is or to remind us that we cannot earn God's love. It might also mean to remind us to avoid the sin in the future one should follow the example of Mary who said "yes" to God.

### 7. Guilt can Be Good For Us.

Some people complain about leaving the Sacrament of Reconciliation still feeling guilty. Guilt though is not necessarily a bad thing. Guilt is a feeling that is meant to create a desire within us not to commit the same mistake again. If a person burns themselves by touching the top of the stove, the pain the memory of the pain they received should make them more careful the next time they are around the stove. In the same way guilt is meant to help avoid committing the same sin over and over again.

We must be careful because there is such a thing as bad or truncated guilt which is not healthy because instead of learning from our mistake and advancing along the road to life, we begin to become fixated on the act that caused guilt and instead of growing from our experience we become fixated on it.

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# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

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**Gospel MK 4:26-34** Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. but once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

## Spiritual Reflection:

The Lord lays down very easy the conditions for our faith to accomplish great things: "If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed you'll say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there!' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you" (Mt 17:21). Why? Because it is God who performs the action and not ourselves. -Cardinal Thuan

## Spiritual Questions:

1. What is your part in faith? What is God's part?
2. How can you grow in trust with a co-worker? Can you apply anything with your relationship with God?
3. Why does God preach in parable?
4. Write a parable helping others understand what God means to you?
5. How can you improve your patience with God?



**PRO-LIFE**

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD TO ABORTION

BY FR. FRANK PAVONE

Lord of all Life, You have entrusted us to the care of one another, and called us to be one Body in Christ. You call us to rejoice with those who rejoice, And to weep with those who weep. Hear our prayer today for our brothers and sisters who have lost children to abortion. Help us to understand the pain that is in their hearts, and to be a living sign to them of your welcome, your mercy, and your healing. Help them to undergo with courage the process of grief and the journey of healing. Never allow them to feel alone; always refresh them with the presence of Your Spirit And of their brothers and sisters in Christ. Console them with the sure hope that you love and care for their children. Give them new strength that even while they grieve what they have lost, they may look forward to all the good that you still have in store for them. Lord of healing and hope, Give us all the forgiveness of our sins, and the joy of your salvation. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

## Quotes of the Week

Each human being, however small or weak, has something to bring to humanity. As we start to really get to know others, as we begin to listen to each other's stories, things begin to change. We begin the movement from exclusion to inclusion, from fear to trust, from closedness to openness, from judgment and prejudice to forgiveness and understanding. It is a movement of the heart. - Jean Vanier

In the end, the most important thing is not to do things for people who are poor and in distress, but to enter into relationship with them, to be with them and help them find confidence in themselves and discover their own gifts. - Jean Vanier

It is my belief that in our mad world where there is so much pain, rivalry, hatred, violence, inequality, and oppression, it is people who are weak, rejected, marginalized, counted as useless, who can become a source of life and of salvation for us as individuals as well as for our world. And it is my hope that each one of you may experience the incredible gift of the friendship of people who are poor and weak, that you too, may receive life from them. For they call us to love, to communion, to compassion and to community. - Jean Vanier





# St. Monica Society



Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith. The following prayer is a prayer from St. Thomas Aquinas with a petition for fallen away Catholics attached.

Grant Me

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen. May the life I live lead my brothers and sisters who have fallen away the faith back to you.



## PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

### BLESSING OF A FATHER

Lord Jesus, our brother, we praise You for saving us. Teach us to love you and Your Father by keeping Your commandments. Bless + this father and deepen his love for his wife and family. By his work and example and prayer, may he lead his children to follow You. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer as we offer You glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Father, it is Your Commandment that we should honor our fathers; hear the prayers we offer You for them. Grant them many years on earth and keep them in health of mind and body. Bless their word and all they do. Give them back a hundred-fold whatever they have done for us. Inspire them with Your love and help them to fulfill Your holy law. One day, may we be their comfort and support, so that having enjoyed their affection on earth we may have the joy of being with them forever in Your home in Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God our Father, in Your wisdom and love You made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR FATHER'S DAY

Lord, please bless our fathers, these men who mean so much to us, who are greatly responsible for who we are and who we are becoming. Bless them for having the courage to do what's necessary to keep us out of trouble, for making us do the right thing, for helping us build our character, even when it makes us angry; and bless them

for pushing us to do our best, even when they just want to love us. Bless our fathers for being our protectors, for leading us through stormy times to safety, for making us believe that everything will be all right and for making it so. Bless our fathers for quietly making a living to provide for those they love most, for giving us food, clothing, shelter and the other material things that really matter, for unselfishly investing time and money in us that they could have spent on themselves. Bless our father, Lord, for saving some energy for fun, for leading us on adventures to explore the outer reaches of ourselves, for making us laugh, for being our playmates and our friends. Bless them for being our secure foundation, our rock, for holding on tight to us... until it's time to let us go. Lord, bless these men we look up to, our role models, our heroes, our fathers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## This Week's Trivia

Match the Following Songs with Biblical Character.

- 1. Benedictus
- 2. Magnificat
- 3. Sanctus
- 4. Psalms

- A. Mary \_\_\_
- B. Zechariah \_\_\_
- C. Isaiah \_\_\_
- D. David \_\_\_



## Last Week's Answer

Match the Following Item with the Biblical Character.

- 1. Apple
- 2. Golden Calf
- 3. Lion's Den
- 4. Ladder

- A. Jacob \_4\_
- B. Aaron \_2\_
- C. Daniel \_3\_
- D. Adam \_1\_





# Catholic Humor

1. What did the Buddhist ask the hot dog vendor? - "Make me one with everything."
  2. You know why you never see elephants hiding up in trees? - Because they're really good at it.
  3. What is red and smells like blue paint? Red paint.
  4. A dyslexic man walks into a bra.
  5. Where does the General keep his armies? In his sleeveies!
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