

June 24, 2018 – Twelfth Sunday Ordinary Time



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

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Sacrament of Reconciliation



Some more thoughts on the Sacrament of Reconciliation

8. Confession is a Weapon in our Battle against the Devil.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, in his rules of discernment implies that the devil can best be defeated by talking with a confessor, spiritual director, or a group of spiritually enlightened people. St. Ignatius of Loyola says the devil is like a person who wants to have an affair with you and the devil knows this affair can only happen if you do not tell your spiritual spouse (God). Once you tell God that the devil is trying to persuade you and bring the temptation to the light the devil loses all power. What better way to do this than in the Confessional to a priest while celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

St. Ignatius also compares the devil to a bully than when directly confronted will back down. Again is there a better way to confront the

devil then by going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and confessing your sins. Admitting our sinfulness to God strengthens our bond with Him. The devil must run away.

Finally St. Ignatius of Loyola compares the devil to a military general of sorts who is constantly probing to attack us at our weakest point. By having a daily examination of conscience and celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis one discovers one's weakest points and can strengthen them before the devil attacks there again.

9. Temptation verses Sin

Over the last few years, I have become more and more convinced that one of the problems in the world today is that we often equate temptation with sin. I might want to hit someone but until I do hit that person or enter into a fantasy about striking that person, I have not committed a sin. Maybe in wanting to strike that person is a temptation that I can turn into a moment of virtue by praying for the person I wanted to strike and/or by examining my reason for wanting to strike that person. It is important for Catholics to realize temptations are neutral because if we don't we can begin to beat ourselves up for having them and that makes us easier prey for the devil. Remember Jesus was tempted but never sinned.

10. Stained Glass Window Effect

Finally, I want to discuss what I have named the Stained-Glass window effect. One of my jobs at my current parish is to lock up the Church each evening and during the winter months night comes pretty early and so when I enter the Church late at night and the sun is not out the stained-glass windows do not look very impressive because there is no light shining through them. In the morning when I open the Church and see the sunlight coming through the windows I see their beauty but also how dirty they are.

In the same way a soul that does not have the love of God shining through it will not recognize how dirty it is. When God is pouring His light through the person than he or she becomes more aware of his or her sins. This is most evident in Scripture in the story of Isaiah and the Call of St. Peter in Luke's Gospel. They both admit that they are "sinners in a world of sinners" and it is at that moment that God can work with them and them His co-workers.

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked

him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said,

"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything* and followed him.

When was the last time you went to the Sacrament of Reconciliation? If it has been over sixth months, I would strongly encourage you to make the effort to go soon. There really is not a good reason to not go and be reconciled with the Lord.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

June 24, 2018 - Nativity of Saint John the Baptist Lectionary: 587
Gospel LK 1:57-66, 80

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Spiritual Reflection: Every child should be greeted with awe and expectation and not worry! This is not always the case and so that is when we should listen to Mother Teresa - "Give that child to me. I want it. I will care for it. I am willing to accept any child who would be aborted and to give that child to a married couple who will love the child and be loved by the child."

Spiritual Questions:

1. How can we help women know that they do not need to have an abortion?
2. How can we help those in need?
3. How can we help heal the wounds that abortion causes?

TRIVIA

This Week's Trivia

Match the following symbol with Biblical character

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|--|--|
| 1.  | 2.  |
| 3.  | 4.  |
| A. John ___ | B. Matthew ___ |
| C. Peter ___ | D. Paul ___ |



Last Week's Answer

Match the Following Songs with Biblical Character.

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|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Benedictus | 2. Magnificat |
| 3. Sanctus | 4. Psalms |
| A. Mary _2_ | B. Zechariah _1_ |
| C. Isaiah _3_ | D. David _4_ |



4. How can we look forward to children at home? In our families?
5. How can we help the Church accept children whose parents cannot keep them?

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.



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

PRAYER IN TIME OF SUFFERING

Behold me, my beloved Jesus, weighed down under the burden of my trials and sufferings, I cast myself at Your feet, that You may renew my strength and my courage, while I rest here in Your Presence. Permit me to lay down my cross in Your Sacred Heart, for only Your infinite goodness can sustain me; only Your love can help me bear my cross; only Your powerful hand can lighten its weight. O Divine King, Jesus, whose heart is so compassionate to the afflicted, I wish to live in You; suffer and die in You. During my life be to me my model and my support; At the hour of my death, be my hope and my refuge. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

My Lord Jesus Christ, who for the love you bear us, remain night and day in this Sacrament, full of compassion and of love, awaiting, calling and welcoming all who come to visit you. I believe that you are present in the

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



Sacrament of the Altar. I adore you from the abyss of my nothingness and I thank you for all the graces you have given me until now, and in particular, for having given me your Most Holy Mother Mary as my advocate and for having called me to visit you in this church. I now salute your Most Loving Heart, and this for three ends: first, in thanksgiving for this great gift; second, to make amends to you for all the outrages which you receive in this Sacrament from all your enemies; third, I intend by this visit to adore you in all the places on earth in which you are present in this Sacrament and in which you are the least revered and the most abandoned.

My Jesus, I love you with my heart. I grieve for having until now so many times offended your infinite goodness. I purpose by your grace never more to offend you for the time to come; and now, miserable and unworthy though I am, I consecrate myself to you without reserve. I give you and renounce my entire will, my affections, my desires, and all that I possess. From now on, use me and all that I have as you wish. All I ask of you and desire is your holy love, final perseverance and the perfect accomplishment of your will.

I recommend to you the souls in Purgatory; but especially those who had the greatest devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament and to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. I also

recommend to you all poor sinners.

And finally, my dear Savior, I unite all my affections with the affections of your most loving Heart, and I offer them with you to your Eternal Father and beg him for your sake and for love of you, graciously to accept and grant them. (Prayer of St. Alphonsus de Liguori.)

THE PRAYER, BE WITH ME TODAY, O LORD.

May all I do today begin with you, O Lord. Plant dreams and hopes within my soul, revive my tired spirit: be with me today. May all I do today continue with your help, O Lord. Be at my side and walk with me: Be my support today. May all I do today reach far and wide, O Lord. My thoughts, my work, my life: make them blessings for your kingdom; let them go beyond today, O God Today is new unlike any other day, for God makes each day different. Today God's everyday grace falls on my soul like abundant seed, though I may hardly see it. Today is one of those days Jesus promised to be with me, a companion on my journey, and my life today, if I trust him, has consequences unseen. My life has a purpose. "I have a mission... "I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. God has not created me for naught... Therefore I will trust him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. God does nothing in vain. "He knows what he is about."



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 sleeve!
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