

July 1, 2018 – Thirteenth Sunday Ordinary Time



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

# SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

## Faith & Film

The month of July is once again upon us and so it is time again for me to turn my attention to spiritual themes found in movies.



### Star Wars VII: The Last Jedi

**Synopsis:** The Resistance Forces, led by Princess Leia, had no time to celebrate the destruction of the Star Destroyer base and weapon. They know that they must flee their base before the evil First Order with its powerful space fleet arrives and wipes them out. After a quick skirmish the Resistance fleet and the First Order begin a game of cat and mouse in space with the Resistance ships being just able to stay out of the range of the First Order's weapons. At the same time Rey has found Luke Skywalker on a remote planet living as an odd hermit. Instead of

embracing Rey and welcoming her, he decides to wallow in his own grief because he feels responsible for Ben Solo becoming Kylo Ren, one of the leaders of the First Order.

### First Spiritual Insight: Pride and Reality

The Seven Deadly Sins are considered "deadly" because they distort our reality. For example pride makes us believe that we are the center of the universe instead of God. Envy makes us view others as competition for God's love instead of brothers and sisters in Christ. The more we allow our reality to be distorted the more sins we are willing to commit.

One of my favorite scenes in the movie takes place when Kylo Ren is presenting Rey to Supreme Leader Snoke as his prisoner. At this point Supreme Leader Snoke began to express his pride by talking about how powerful he was and how much control he had over his young apprentice Kylo Ren. He does not sense or see that Kylo using his force powers to manipulate a nearby light saber. Kylo using the force powers activates the light saber and slices Master Snoke in half. Snoke's pride blinded him to the threat that his young apprentice had become.

### Second Spiritual Insight: Self-Hate is a Form Of Pride

Luke Skywalker the hero of Star Wars IV, V, and VI has exiled himself to a remote planet where he focuses

on hating himself for one mistake that he committed while training Kylo. This self-hate leads him to miss out on the opportunity to make a positive difference in the future by training Rey. There are many people out there who feel that they have committed a horrible sin that God cannot forgive and thus more evil happens in the world because they refuse to accept God's forgiveness and move on. St. Peter would be the opposite of Luke in the sense that St. Peter uses his failures to teach others. God's mercy is greater than any sin we have.

### Third Spiritual Insight: Differences of Opinion

Ace fighter pilot Poe Dameron and Vice Admiral Holdo each have a deep love for the Resistance and believe in what they are fighting for. They are also both willing to die for what they believe. Sadly instead of being supportive of each other in this time of crisis, they find themselves at each other's throats. Eventually Poe discovers that Holdo has more information about the escape plan than he does and his actions have been putting the Resistance at risk but before he can reconcile with Holdo, she takes the largest resistance ship and rams it into the largest First Order ship in order to allow Resistance fighters to escape.

There are many times in life where we come across people who have the same goal as we do but we don't always agree on what is the best way

to accomplish this goal. We need to avoid the mistakes that Poe and Holdo made by making sure that we have all the information and that we have not stereotyped others (Holdo assumes that Poe is just a hot shot spacey jockey). We all need to spend more time talking with people we disagree with and work together to find the truth or best way to do something and we need to make sure that we keep our ego out of the way.

**Forth Spiritual Insight: Anybody can become a somebody**

There were many articles before the release of the movie speculating a lot about Rey in particular there was a lot of speculation about who her parents were. Many people assumed that she was the daughter of Obi Wan Kenobi or even Luke Skywalker. It is revealed in the movie that Rey's parents were nobodies. Sometime we can feel like we are nobodies and that we does not matter but the Catholic Church teaches that everybody is a somebody no matter who their parents are. We are all children of God.

I think sometimes we want to think that because if I am a nobody than what I do does not matter. I think the following quote from Marianne Williamson is more in line with reality.

Our Greatest Fear-M. Williamson  
*it is our light not our darkness that most frightens us*  
*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.*

*Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.*  
*It is our light not our darkness that most frightens us.*  
*We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?*

*Actually, who are you not to be?*  
*You are a child of God.*  
*Your playing small does not serve the world.*  
*There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.*

*We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.*

*It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.*  
*And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.*

*As we are liberated from our own fear, Our presence automatically liberates others.*

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## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**July 1, 2018 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 98 Gospel MK 5:21-43**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live." He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him. There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew



### This Week's Trivia

True or False

1. John the Baptist is the first to call Jesus the "Lamb of God." T or F
2. Paul and Barnabas were called Christians before Peter, James, or John. T or F
3. King David was the first King of Israel. T or F
4. Nehemiah was the "Poison Tester" for the King of Persia. T or F



### Last Week's Answer

Match the following symbol with Biblical character

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1.  | 2.  |
| 3.  | 4.  |

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| A. John ___  | B. Matthew ___ |
| C. Peter ___ | D. Paul ___    |



worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?" But his disciples said to Jesus, "You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction." While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child's father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha kum,*" which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.



#### **Spiritual Reflection:**

Jesus answers everyone's prayers but not always in the way that they were expected.

#### **Spiritual Questions:**

1. Has God answered your prayers in an unusual way?
2. Do you realize that God cannot be too busy to listen to your prayer?
3. Do you offer God prayers for those in need? How persistent are you?
4. Jesus still invites others to be a part of his ministry? "give her something to eat."
5. What kept Jesus going when others told Him not to bother?



## PRO-LIFE

### **Prayer for our Nation**

God our Father, giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Reclaim this land for your glory and dwell among your people. Send your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. - Amen.



## **Quotes of the Week**

Sometimes we are looked upon as people who speak only of prohibitions. Nothing could be further from the truth! Authentic Christian discipleship is marked by a sense of wonder. We stand before the God we know and love as a friend, the vastness of his creation, and the beauty of our Christian faith. - Pope Benedict XVI

"If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In a time of universal deceit - telling the truth is a revolutionary act. - George Orwell

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident. - Arthur Schopenhauer

The high-minded man must care more for the truth than for what people think. – Aristotle

Obedience, fasting, and prayer are laughed at, yet only through them lies the way to real true freedom. I cut off my superfluous and unnecessary desires, I subdue my proud and wanton will and chastise it with obedience, and with God's help I attain freedom of spirit and with it spiritual joy. - Fyodor Dostoevsky





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

**A Prayer to the Blessed Trinity for Fallen Away Catholics**

God the Father, I thank You for creating me. Please lead those members of my immediate family back to You.  
God the Son, I thank You for redeeming me. Please lead those who have wandered away from Your Church back to you.

God the Holy Spirit, I thank Thee for sanctifying me. Please guide my thoughts, words and actions by thy grace, so that I may be pleasing to You and that I may inspire others to once again take their spiritual life seriously.

O Blessed Trinity, abundantly assist us in becoming that which You intended us to become when You created us, for in that perfection we will give You the glory that You deserve and we will find our greatest joy in heaven. - Amen.



## PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

### Prayer for our Nation

God our Father, giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for your glory and dwell among your people.  
Send your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation’s leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the “culture of death.” Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

### (Psalm 86:9-10).

“All the nations you have made shall come to bow before you, Lord, and give honor to your name. For you are great and do wondrous deeds; and you alone are God”

### Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of

the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome— for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us— this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. - Source: *USCCB.org*

### Collect for Independence Day, *New Roman Missal*

Father of all nations and ages, we recall the day when our country claimed its place among the family of nations; for what has been achieved we give you thanks, for the work that still remains we ask your help, and as you have called us from many peoples to be one nation, grant that, under your providence, our country may share your blessings with all the peoples of the earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Prayer offered by the chaplain, Rev. Edward G. Latch on July 3, 1974 in the U.S. House of Representatives

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Psalms 33:12). Eternal God, stir thou our minds and stimulate our hearts with a high sense of patriotism as we approach the Fourth of July. May all that this day symbolizes renew our faith in freedom, our devotion to democracy, and redouble our efforts to keep a government of the people, by the people, and for the people truly alive in our world.

Grant that we may highly resolve on this great day to dedicate ourselves anew to the task of ushering in an

era when good will shall live in the hearts of a free people,  
justice shall be the light to guide their feet, and peace shall

be the goal of humankind: to the glory of thy holy name  
and the good of our nation and of all mankind. Amen.”

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 **Catholic Humor**

