

August 12, 2018 – 19th Sunday Ordinary Time



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

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Cardinal Thuận's Ten Rules of Life

Let us continue to look at Cardinal Thuận's Ten Rules of Life. His writings will be in bold and my commentary will be in regular font.

3. I WILL HOLD FIRMLY TO ONE SECRET: PRAYER

When I was let out of prison, several people remarked that at least I had had lot of time to pray! It's not as simple as you may think. God allowed me to see all my weaknesses, both physical and mental. Time passes so slowly in prison, particularly during solitary confinement. A week, a month, two months are exceedingly long but as they turn into years, it becomes an eternity! There were days when I was not able to recite a single prayer.

One of the key things that I have learned from Cardinal Thuận is that God loves us even when we can offer nothing to God in return. God's love for us is pure love and is not tainted by self-interest at all. In fact our God loves us even when we hate Him. Cardinal Thuận experienced God's love even when he was not able to pray.

A story came to my mind, the story of old Jim. Every day at twelve o'clock, Jim went into church and after not more than two minutes, he left. The sacristan was intrigued. One day, he grabbed Jim

and asked, "What do you come in here for every day?"

"I come in say prayer"

"That's impossible. What kind of a prayer can you say in 2 minutes?"

"Me ignorant old man; pray to God my own pray."

"But what do you say?"

"I say, "Jesus, here Jim" and I go out"

Years go by. Jim grows old becomes ill and enters the hospital, in the ward for poor people. After a time, they see that Jim is going to die and the priest and a nurse are with him at his beside.

"Tell us, Jim, why is it that since your arrival in the ward everything has changed for the better? The men are happier and friendlier."

"Dun no. When I could walk, I went around and visit everybody, say hello, talk a bit. When I'm laid up. I call to everybody from my bed, laugh a lot, make everybody happy. Jim always happy."

"But why are you always happy?"

"When you get a visit every day, you happy, right?"

"That's right. But who comes to see you? We've never seen anyone."

"Jesus. He come every day at twelve o'clock."

"And what does he day to you?"

"He says, Jim, here Jesus!"

As Jim was dying, he gestured and smiled broadly and



pointed to the chair beside his bed, inviting someone to sit down. After a short time, he smiled again, closed his eyes and died.

At times, when my strength failed and I could not even recite my prayers, I repeated, "Jesus, here Francis". Consolation came and I knew that Jesus was replying, "Francis, here Jesus".

Praying is being with someone, with Jesus.

4. I WILL SEE IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST MY ONLY POWER

"Were you able to say Mass in prison" - is a question I have been asked many, many times and when I say "Yes", I can foretell the next question, "How did you get the bread and wine?" I was taken to prison empty-handed. Later on, I

was allowed to request the strict necessities like clothing, toothpaste, etc. ... I wrote home saying "Send me some wine as medication for stomach pains". On the outside, the faithful understood what I meant. They sent me a little bottle of Mass wine, with a label reading "medication for stomach pains", as well as some hosts broken into small pieces. The police asked me: "Do you have pains in your stomach?" "Yes" "Here is some medicine for you!" I will never be able to express the joy that was mine: each day, three drops of wine, a drop of water in the palm of my hand. I celebrated my Mass.

The six Catholics in my group of fifty prisoners tried to stay together. We lined up the boards we were given as beds; they were about 20 inches wide. We slept close together in order to be able to pray during the night. At nine-thirty every evening when lights out rang everyone had to be lying down. I bent over my wooden board and celebrated Mass, by heart of course, and distributed Communion to my neighbors under their mosquito

nets. We made tiny bags from cigarette paper to protect the Blessed Sacrament... At night, the prisoners took turns and spent time in adoration. The Blessed Sacrament helped tremendously. Even Buddhists and other non-Christians were converted. The strength of the love of Jesus is irresistible. The darkness of the prison turned into light, the seed germinated silently in the storm. I spent nine years in solitary confinement and during that time I said Mass every day at three o'clock, the hour of Jesus death on the cross.

It saddens me that so many Catholics who have the ability to go to Mass each week chose not after hearing stories like the one above. People in our world feel so unloved and yet God desires to love us in the Eucharist. People feel lonely and yet God invites us all to His Eucharistic table. People are looking for purpose in life and God through the Eucharist desires to help them discover why they were created.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

August 12, 2018 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 116 Gospel [JN 6:41-51](#)

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God*. Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Quotes of the Week

"To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good. because he is God, he is that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where. He is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But: to move forward! And this bothers us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable." — Pope Francis

The tongue of the scandalmonger is like the worm which gnaws at the good fruit -- that is, the best actions that people do --- and tries to turn them all to bad account. The tongue of the scandalmonger is a grub which taints the most beautiful of the flowers and upon them leaves behind it the disgusting trace of its own slime. - *St. John Vianney*

"Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven." — Pope Francis.

"You are what you do, not what you say you'll do." — C.G. Jung

Spiritual Reflection:

“The word "Eucharist" means literally "act of thanksgiving." To celebrate the Eucharist and to live a Eucharistic life has everything to do with gratitude. Living Eucharistically is living life as a gift, a gift for which one is grateful. But gratitude is not the most obvious response to life, certainly not when we experience life as a series of losses! Still, the great mystery we celebrate in the Eucharist and live in a Eucharistic life is precisely that through mourning our losses we come to know life as a gift.” - — Henri J.M. Nouwen.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How does thanksgiving play an important part in any relationship?
 2. How does the Eucharist help us see life as a gift?
 3. How does the Eucharist fulfil His promises “flesh for the life of the world.”
 4. How is Jesus the Bread of Life?
 5. What is the Eucharist to you?
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 **PRO-LIFE** 

PRO-LIFE PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

O dear Jesus, I humbly implore You to grant Your special graces to all families. May all homes be shrines of peace, purity, love, labor and faith. I beg You, dear Jesus, to protect and bless all of us, absent and present, living and dead.

O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus, and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our family, and for all the families of the world, bring into the world all family members that are currently in their mother’s womb, guard the cradles of all newborns, and safeguard the schools of our young.

Blessed Saint Joseph, holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life. Ask of Jesus that special grace which He granted to you, to watch over our homes at the pillow of the sick and the dying, so that with Mary and with you, heaven may find our families unbroken in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amen.

 **St. Monica Society** 

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

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH FOR OUR LOST BROTHERS AND SISTERS

O glorious St. Joseph, to you God committed the care of His only begotten Son amid the many dangers of this world. We come to you and ask you to take under your special protection those who have fallen away from their faith. Through holy baptism they became children of God and members of His holy Church. We consecrate them to you today, that through this consecration they may become your foster children. Guard them, guide their steps in life, form their hearts after the hearts of Jesus and Mary. St. Joseph, who felt the tribulation and worry of a parent when the child Jesus was lost, protect our dear brothers and sisters who have wandered away now and for time and eternity. May you be their father and counsellor. Let them, like Jesus, grow in age as well as in wisdom and grace before God and men. Preserve them from the corruption of his world and give us the grace to be one day reunited with them around the Lord’s table. Amen.



PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

Prayer for Beatification of Cardinal Thuan

By The Most Reverend Giampaolo Crepaldi

O mighty and eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
I offer thanks for giving to the Church the heroic testimony
of Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyễn Van Thuân. The suffering

he experienced in prison, which he united with the crucified Christ and commended to the maternal protection of Mary, is for the Church and the world a shining witness of unity and forgiveness, and of justice and peace. His loving person and his Episcopal ministry radiate the light of faith, the enthusiasm of hope and the warmth of love. Now, my Lord, through his intercession and according to your will, grant me the grace I am imploring in the hope that he will soon be elevated to the honor of sainthood. Amen.

Prayer for Peace

Father God, my heart is filled with chaos and confusion. I feel as if I am drowning in my circumstances and my heart is filled with fear and confusion. I really need the strength

and peace that only You can give. Right now, I choose to rest in You. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen. ~ Mary Southerland.

Prayer for the Broken-Hearted

Lord, my heart is broken but You are near. My spirit is crushed, but You are my rescuer. Your Word is my hope. It revives me and comforts me in especially now. My soul faints, but you are the breath of life within me. You are my help, the One who sustains me. I am weak but You are strong. You bless those who mourn, and I trust You to bless me and my family with all that we need. You will rescue me from this dark cloud of despair because You delight in me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TRIVIA

Last Week's Answers	This Week's Question
<p>1. Who were the parents of King Solomon? Answer: King David and Bathsheba</p> <p>2. How many books of the Bible are named for women? Answer: 3 Ruth and Esther in Protestant and Catholic Bible. Judith only in Catholic Bible.</p> <p>3. In the Old Testament, who was Jezebel's husband? Answer: Ahaz</p> <p>4. According to the Bible, what substance was used to caulk Noah's ark and to seal the basket in which the infant Moses was set adrift on the Nile? Answer: Pitch</p>	<p>1. Bilocation 2. Ecstasy 3. Incorruptibility 4. Levitation</p> <p>__Mystical enrapture of the body and soul.</p> <p>__Floating above the ground, referred to in the Life of St. Francis.</p> <p>__ The apparition of a saint in two different places at the same time.</p> <p>__The failure of the a saint's body to decay.</p>



Humor

A man and his young son went to church, and when they came out the father was complaining that the service was too long, the preacher was no good, and the singing was off-key. Finally the little boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for a dime."