

August 19, 2018 – Twentieth 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.

5. I WILL HAVE ONLY ONE WISDOM: THE SCIENCE OF THE CROSS

When I look back on my past, it's hard to understand the meandering of the path I traveled. I walked on nettles and rocks, I sang with joy as I moved ahead, groping my way in the darkness. Yet Jesus was there, walking with me, guiding me, carrying me when I could no longer move, when I was inches from death. It was at those moments that I would turn my thoughts to Jesus crucified and abandoned. He could no longer teach or cure the sick or raise his friend from the dead. He was in absolute immobility. In the eyes of the world he had lost, he was useless and frustrated. But in God's eyes, Jesus, on the Cross, had accomplished the greatest act of all; he had shed his blood to save humanity. I was liberated by the thought of Jesus crucified. When I was crushed by pain, disdain, unjust accusations, ingratitude and incomprehension, I prayed to unite myself to Jesus on the Cross and I knew that this was the most important act of my life. I often sang "O crux ave, spes unica mundi salus et gloria!" . Jesus, save the

World! You have one wisdom: the science of the Cross. (1 Cor 2:2). Look to the Cross and there you will find the solution to all the problems which are worrying you. If the Cross is the standard by which you make all your choices and decisions, your soul will be at peace (RH 989).

The cross is the source of power in my life. I have learned that happiness does not come with money or fame or success but has everything to do with loving and being loved.

What is foolishness in the eyes of men is wisdom in the eyes of God. 1 Cor 3:19 and 1 Cor 1:27 (RH 106).
The Church was born on the Cross. The Church grows by continuing the passion of Jesus until the end of time. If you put your trust in money, in diplomacy, in power and influence, or in campaigns of any kind, you will be very sadly misled.

Money, diplomacy, power and influence are not the things people appreciate about me. They love me because they see the gifts and talents God has given me.

6. I WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO MY MISSION IN THE CHURCH AND FOR THE CHURCH AS A WITNESS OF JESUS CHRIST.

In his testament, Jesus left me his Church but at the same time he entrusted me with a mission. "Be my witness unto the ends of the earth." (Act 1:8). I cannot be faithful to the testament of Jesus unless I carry out my mission within the



Church and for the Church: "Love the Church. Obey the Church. Be loyal to the Church. Pray for the Church (RH 253). There are various kinds of Catholics, the Catholic who makes use of the Church, the Catholic in name only; there is the opportunist and the honorary Catholic looking for status. But Our Lord accepts only those who are one hundred percent Catholic, those who accept him unconditionally. "They left all and followed him" (Lk. 5:11).

The following quote from Christopher West helps me understand the role of the Church:

In recent times, the term "hierarchy" has become a bad word. Many seem to think it's

somehow synonymous with inequality. But as we noted before, hierarchy simply means sacred order.

To reject hierarchy, then, is not to reject inequality. To reject hierarchy is to reject God's ordering of the universe. Not a good idea. The opposite of hierarchy is not equality but anarchy—no order at all, chaos...

The Church simply cannot change

what the Holy Spirit has revealed to be true. It's not a matter of stubborn unwillingness, it's a matter of impossibility...

God does not change for us. We must change for him. How our pride rebels. But until we come to grips with this fundamental reality—that we are not God—then we're living an illusion.

Quotes of the Week

“You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion.” - St. John Paul II

“It was fitting that she, who had kept her virginity in childbirth, should keep her own body free from all corruption even after death. It was fitting that she, who had carried the Creator as a child at her breast, should dwell in the divine tabernacles...it was fitting that God's Mother should possess what belongs to her Son, and that she should be honored by every creature as the Mother and the Handmaid of God.” – St. John Damascene

“As the most glorious Mother of Christ, our Savior and our God and the giver of life and immortality, has been endowed with life by him, she has received an eternal incorruptibility of the body together with him who has raised her up from the tomb and has taken her up to himself in a way known only to him.” – St. Modestus of Jerusalem

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

August 19, 2018 20th Sun. in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 119 Gospel [JN 6:51-58](#)

Jesus said to the crowds: "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." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

Spiritual Reflection:

“This wonderfully expresses what the Eucharist is meant to do. It is a call to move from worship to service, to take nourishment, the embrace, the kiss, we have just received from God and the community and translate it immediately and directly into loving service of others. To take the Eucharist seriously is to begin to wash the feet of others especially the feet of the poor and those with whom we struggle most relationally. The Eucharist is both an invitation that invites us to do is to replace distrust with hospitality, pride with humility, and self-interest with self-effacement so as to reverse the world's order of things---wherein the rich get served by the poor and where the first priority is always to keep one's pride intact and one's self-interest protected. The Eucharist invites us to step down from pride, away from self-interest, to turn the mantle of privilege into the apron of service, so as to help reverse the world's order of things wherein pride, status, and self-interest are forever the straws that stir the drink.” Ronald Rolheiser

Spiritual Questions:

1. What role does the Eucharist play in your faith life?
2. What role does Mass have for you?
3. How can you improve your appreciation of the Mass?
4. How does the Eucharist invite you to become a better person?
5. How can we become more humble?



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 TO THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

Holy Mother Mary, we all rejoice with you today on the feast of your glorious Assumption into heaven. Long ago in the Garden of Eden, our first parents, Adam and Eve, were told that they would have to earn their bread in the sweat of their brow and that the earth would be cursed, bringing forth thorns and thistles. Now, after Christ our Redeemer has come, and taught us how to make use of the thorns and thistles of this life, and turn them into blessings, you, like Him, have been taken up body and soul into heaven. There, with your Divine Son, you await our

coming, and prepare a place for us. Mother Mary, it is a great comfort to us to realize that your precious body, the tabernacle of the infant Christ, is now in heaven with Him. Your being taken into heaven is also, like the resurrection of Christ's body, a pledge to us of the resurrection of our own bodies. It is wonderful to think that these hands, with which we earn our bread now in the sweat of our brow, will, because of the merits of

Christ, one day, with our bodies, be glorified forever in heaven. O most pure Virgin Mary, help us to realize this as we go about our work from day to day. Help us to have great respect for these bodies of ours, and for those of others because we recognize in them the temple of the Holy Spirit, and because we look forward to seeing each other, body and soul, with you and your Son Jesus Christ forever in heaven. Amen.

TRIVIA

Last Week's Answers	This Week's Question
<p>1. Bilocation 2. Ecstasy 3. Incorruptibility 4. Levitation</p> <p>2__ Mystical enrapture of the body and soul.</p> <p>4__ Floating above the ground, referred to in the Life of St. Francis.</p> <p>1__ The apparition of a saint in two different places at the same time.</p> <p>3__ The failure of the a saint's body to decay.</p>	<p>1. Who was the first person to call Jesus "The Lamb of God"?</p> <p>2. Who was given the title of "First Apostle"?</p> <p>3. Who drank a cup of poison and lived?</p> <p>4. Who was the Archbishop of St. Louis during the Civil War?</p>



Humor

God said: 'Let there be Satan, so people don't blame everything on me. And let there be lawyers, so people don't blame everything on Satan.' George Burns