

August 26, 2018 – 21st Sunday Ordinary Time



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

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Cardinal Thuận's Ten Rules of Life

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August 26, 2018

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.

7. I WILL SEEK THE PEACE THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE

When I began to discern between God and God's works, when I chose God and his will and left everything else in his hands when I learned to love others, especially my enemies as Jesus loved me, I felt great peace in my heart. Deprived of freedom, of absolutely everything and living in extreme poverty in my dark cell, I was at peace because I could say, "My God and my all". The peace that the world cannot give brought me great joy. "Holiness consists in being continuously joyful because we possess God".

When I believe that God loves me then I am much more peaceful in handling difficult situations. When I am doubting God's love for me then I am more likely to lash out at people and get frustrated.

8. I WILL CARRY OUT A REVOLUTION BY RENEWAL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus Christ came into the world to bring fire to burn all waste, a sword to cut all the bonds that hold us in slavery. He brought Truth because Truth alone can set us free. He died to free us from death. He rose from the dead to give us life in abundance. How do we carry out this revolution? "You desire to carry out a revolution, namely the reform of the world. You will carry out this precious and noble mission which God has entrusted to you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Every day, prepare a new Pentecost around you".

I truly believe the Catholic Church is called to change the world by treating one another with love. At one time the Roman Empire had infanticide, slavery, and gladiatorial games and they disappeared because of Catholic teaching of love your enemies. We should be able to end racism, abortion, and the death penalty.

9. I WILL SPEAK ONE LANGUAGE AND WEAR ONE UNIFORM: CHARITY

Prisoners held captive for very long periods, without trial and in oppressive conditions retain bitter memories and sentiments of hate and vengeance. That's a normal reaction everywhere. I was in prison for 13 years, 9 of which in solitary confinement. Two guards watched me but never spoke to me; just yes and no. But I knew that after all, they were my brothers and I had to be kind to them. I had no



gift to offer as a prisoner I had nothing at all, nothing to please them. What to do? One night, a thought came. "You are still very rich. You have the love of Christ in your heart. Love them as Jesus loves you". The next day I set to work, first, by showing gladness and by smiling. I began to tell stories about my journeys in countries where people live in freedom and enjoy their culture and great technical progress. That stimulated their curiosity and they asked many, many questions. Slowly, very slowly, we became friends. They wanted to learn foreign languages. My guards became my disciples! The atmosphere of the prison changed considerably. The quality

of our relationship changed for the better.

If Cardinal Thuận could treat his guards with love, I can love my brothers, sisters, and coworkers.

"You wear one uniform and speak one language - Charity." Charity is the sign by which you will be recognized as one of our Lord's disciples. (John 10:10). It is a badge which costs little but is most difficult to find. Charity is the most important language. Saint Paul regarded it as far more important than being able "to speak the languages of men and even of angels" (1 Cor 13:1) (RH 984).

10. I WILL HAVE ONE SPECIAL LOVE: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The harsh years in prison pass very slowly. While suffering humiliation and abandonment, my only support and hope was the love

of Mary, Our Blessed Mother. The wonderful servants of Mary, Grignon de Montfort, Don Bosco, Maximilien Kolbe were my companions on the road of hope. They inspired me and gave me unwavering trust in the love of Mary, the Queen of the Apostles and Martyrs. I said this prayer to Mary. "Mary, my Mother, if you know that I cannot be of any more use to the Church, grant me the grace to die here in prison and consummate my sacrifice. If you know that I can still be of use to the church, grant me the grace of freedom on one of your feast days.

Blessed Virgin Mary can be a great spiritual assistance and role model for all believers. I challenge people who are struggling in life to pray the Memoare.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

August 26, 2018 21st Sun. Ordinary Time Lectionary: 122 Gospel [JN 6:60-69](#)

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Spiritual Reflection:

Living one's faith does not mean things would be easy. We see throughout the Scriptures that the opposite is true. God promises us though not temporary happiness but lasting joy.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How do you handle rejection?
2. What parts of our faith "shock you"?
3. How do you handle doubts?

Quotes of the Week

"Pray, hope, and don't worry."
Padre Pio

"The reason for our existence is to quench the thirst of Jesus. When he asked for water, the soldier gave him vinegar to drink—but his thirst was for love, for souls, for you and me."
Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"Jesus loves hidden souls. A hidden flower is the most fragrant. I must strive to make the interior of my soul a resting place for the Heart of Jesus."
Maria Faustina Kowalski

"I pray God may preserve your health and life many years."
Junipero Serra

"This is a serious warning cry: Surrender without reservation to the Lord who has called us. This is required of us so that the face of the earth may be renewed." Edith Stein

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." Pope John Paul II

"I can have no other spouse, but Jesus Christ. I have considered myself content to live in poverty and misery for his love." Kateri Tekakwitha



4. Do you believe God is “Holy” and what does that mean?
5. How do you act towards those who know might hurt you?



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.



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

LITANY FOR PRIESTS

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, give all priests Thy spirit of humility;
Jesus, poor and worn out for souls, give all priests Thy spirit of zeal;
Jesus, full of patience and mercy for sinners, give all priests Thy spirit of compassion;
Jesus, victim for the sins of the world, give all priests Thy spirit of sacrifice;
Jesus, lover of the little and the poor, give all priests Thy spirit of charity.
Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us; and obtain for us numerous holy priests and religious. Amen.

THE LITANY OF FORGIVENESS

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Yet we are preoccupied with money and worldly goods and put our trust in what we possess rather than in your care for us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Yet we are so concerned about our own rights and self-interest and so little concerned about serving others. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Yet we are impatient under

our burdens and unconcerned about the burdens of others. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall have their fill. Yet we do not thirst for you, the fountain of all holiness, and we are satisfied with half-measures and mediocrity. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy. Yet we are so quick to condemn, so slow to forgive. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. Yet we have often regarded

persons created in your image as objects of our own lusts and cannot raise our eyes to you. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Yet we are so often ruthless with each other, and our homes and our world are full of discord and resentments. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, Jesus Christ. you said: Blessed are those who suffer persecution for holiness' sake, for the Kingdom of God is theirs. Yet we suffer no opposition because we have been ashamed of you, our Crucified Savior, and have lived worldly compromises of your Gospel. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

TRIVIA

Last Week's Answers	This Week's Question
1. Who was the first person to call Jesus "The Lamb of God"? Answer: John the Baptist	1. What color in a stained glass window represents "divinity"?
2. Who was given the title of "First Apostle"? Answer: Saint Andrew	2. What color in a stained glass window represents "humanity"?
3. Who drank a cup of poison and lived? Answer: St. John the Apostle	3. What is the practical reason for gargoyles on the outside of a church?
4. Who was the Archbishop of St. Louis during the Civil War? Answer: Archbishop Peter Kenrick.	4. What is the "spiritual" symbolism for gargoyles on the outside of a church?



Humor

Daniel slept in a lions' den.

Peter slept in prison

Jesus slept in a storm

No matter your circumstances, you can always take a nap.