



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

June 2014

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THE SACRED HEART AND THE EUCHARIST

By Fr. Richard Neilson

May is the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As May leads to and introduces June, so Mary brings us to the love of her Son, the love symbolized by His Sacred Heart.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message of love. Saint John in his first epistle tells us, "The man without love has known nothing of God, for God is love." In his great encyclical *Haurietis Aquas*, "You Shall Draw Water," (a quotation from Isaiah), Pope Pius XII wrote, "We do not hesitate to declare that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the most effective school of the love of God; the love of God . . . which must be the foundation on which to build the Kingdom of God in the hearts of individuals, families, and nations" (no. 123). Pope Pius XI called it "the synthesis of our whole religion and the norm of a more perfect life." Pope Paul VI in 1965 wrote, "It is absolutely necessary that the faithful venerate and honor the Sacred Heart in the expression of their private piety as well as in the services of public cult, because of His fullness we have all received." In 1984, on the feast of the Sacred Heart, Pope John Paul II said, "In the Sacred Heart every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden. In that Divine Heart beats God's infinite love for everyone, for each one of us individually."



We adore the physical Heart of Jesus with that worship we give to God alone because the unique Person whose Heart it is truly and completely both God and man. That physical Heart, said Pius XII, is a natural sign and symbol of Christ's three-fold boundless love for the human race: human sensible and human spiritual love, and the divine love of the Incarnate Word. In the Old Testament, God is described in human terms, metaphorically; He sees, hears, speaks, is offended, angry, rejoices, etc.: Now His own body, the God-man actually sees, hears, speaks, is offended, angry, rejoices, experiences every authentic human feeling. Devotion to the Sacred Heart, then, translates the divine nature into human terms for us so that no longer do our prayers seem to die away into infinite distance: Instead they reach readily the very human Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

The month of June is dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus. The beginning of the month falls within the liturgical season of Easter, which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remainder of the month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our pilgrimage to heaven during which we hope for reward.

Following Pentecost, the Church begins her slow descent from the great peaks of the Easter Season to the verdant pastures of Ordinary Time, the longest of the liturgical seasons. Like the lush June growth all around us, the green of the liturgical season points to the new life won for us by the Redemption of Jesus Christ, the new life of Charity. For Our Lord came to cast the fire of His love on the earth, and to that end, sent His Holy Spirit at Pentecost in the form of tongues of fire.

Ordinary Time is the hour to “go out to all the world and tell the good news.” The feasts of June highlight this expansion of the Church. At least ten times, the Church vests in the red of the martyrs whose blood is the very seed of her growth. She also celebrates the feasts of the apostles Peter and Paul, and the birth of St. John the Baptist, proto-disciple and prophet.

We too are called to be witnesses like the apostles and martyrs. May the Heart of Jesus inflame our hearts so that we may be worthy of our Baptismal call to holiness. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us. ☐

FEASTS FOR JUNE

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of June are:

- 1 Ascension or the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Solemnity
- 2 Marcellinus and Peter, Opt. Mem.
- 3 Charles Lwanga and Companions, Memorial
- 5 Boniface, Memorial
- 6 Norbert, Opt. Mem.
- 8 Pentecost; Whitsunday, Solemnity
- 9 Ephrem, Opt. Mem.
- 11 Barnabas, Memorial
- 13 Anthony of Padua, Memorial
- 15 Trinity Sunday, Solemnity
- 19 Romuald, Opt. Mem.
- 21 Aloysius Gonzaga, Memorial
- 22 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Solemnity
- 24 Nativity of John the Baptist, Solemnity
- 26 Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, Opt. Mem.
- 27 Sacred Heart of Jesus, Solemnity
- 28 Immaculate Heart of Mary, Memorial
- 29 Peter and Paul, Solemnity
- 30 First Martyrs of the Church of Rome, Opt. Mem.

The feasts of St. Justin (June 1), and Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More (June 22), are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. ☐

OUR CENACLE CORNER

*Seeking a deeper relationship with God through meditation
of passages from Holy Scriptures*

Evangelizing Simply -- Two By Two

Mark 6:7
Luke 10:1

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

THE ASCENSION

Excerpted from The Sunday Readings, Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.
www.catholicculture.org

The death of a member of his family or of a loved friend, must be the saddest event imaginable in the life of an atheist. He is one who really is convinced that there is no God, no future life and therefore that the relative or friend is to turn into dust in the grave, never to be met with again. The thought that every day that passes is bringing him too nearer to that same sad fate, death, which will be the end of all his ambitions, all his enjoyments, the end of everything he thought he was or had, must be something hard to live with.

Thank God, we have the good fortune to know, and reason and faith convince us of this truth, that death is not the end of man. It is rather the real beginning. Today's feast -- the Ascension of our Lord in his human nature -- to his Father's and our Father's home, is the confirmation and the guarantee of this doctrine of our faith. We shall all rise from the grave with new, glorified bodies and ascend to heaven, as Christ did. There we'll begin our true life of eternal happiness.

While it is true that even for good Christians the death of a beloved one is a cause of sorrow and tears, this is natural as we still are of the earthly. Yet the certitude that our beloved one has gone to his true life and will be there to meet us when our turn comes, is always at the back of our minds to console and comfort us. What all human beings want is to live on forever with our dear ones. Death breaks that continuity but only for a little while. That break is necessary for the new life to begin.

It is only in heaven that this natural desire of an unending life with all those we love can be realized and death on earth is the door to that eternal life.

Look up to heaven today. See Christ ascending to his Father and our Father. Say: Thank you, God, for creating me, and for giving me, through the Incarnation of your beloved Son, the possibility and the assurance that if I do my part here, when death comes it will not be an enemy but a friend, to speed me on my way to the true, supernatural life which you have, in your love, planned and prepared for me.

It was written, and foretold, that Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory. The servant is not above the Master. I too must suffer. I too must accept the hardships and the trials of this life, if I want, and I do, to enter into the life of glory. Christ, who was sinless, suffered hardship and pain. I have earned many, if not all of my hardships, by my own sins. I should be glad of the opportunity to make some atonement for my past offenses, by willingly accepting the crosses he sends me. These crosses are signs of God's interest in my true welfare. Through him he is giving me a chance to prepare myself for the day of reckoning, for the moment of my death which will decide my eternal future. For every prayer I say for success in life, I should say three for a successful death, a death free from sin and at peace with God. ☐

PENTECOST

Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace, Pius Parsch
www.catholicculture.org

After Jesus had ascended to heaven from Mt. Olivet, the apostles and disciples returned to the Holy City. They remained together in the Upper Room or Cenacle, the place where Jesus had appeared to them and which may well be called the first Christian church. About a hundred and twenty persons were assembled there. They chose Matthias as an apostle in place of the unhappy Judas; they prayed and waited for the Paraclete.

Ten days had passed, it was Sunday, the seventh Sunday after the resurrection. At about nine o'clock in the morning, as they were together praying fervently, the Holy Spirit descended upon them. Note how all the great theophanies in Christ's life occurred during the course of prayer. After His baptism, for instance, when Jesus was praying the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove; likewise, it was during

prayer at night that the transfiguration took place on Tabor. Surely too it was while Mary was praying that Gabriel delivered his message, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed her. Pentecost followed precedent. The small community of Christians had prepared themselves through prayer for the coming of the Paraclete. The same is true at Mass today, every day; through prayer we ready our souls for the advent of the Spirit.

The descent upon the apostles was internal and invisible in nature although accompanied by certain visible phenomena. There came a mighty roar, like the onrush of a violent wind. It came suddenly, from heaven; but unlike storms that strike a structure from without, this one penetrated and filled the room where the disciples were gathered. Therefore it was not a natural wind, it was a miracle peculiar to the occasion. A second visible sign

consisted in tongues of fire that descended upon each one present. These fiery tongues gave visible evidence that the Holy Spirit had descended upon them.

Today at Mass, particularly at holy Communion, the power of the Holy Spirit will come down upon us; fiery tongues will not be seen, but invisible tongues of fire will not be absent. There was still another external manifestation of the Holy Spirit; the apostles and disciples were enabled to speak various languages.

After the roar of the wind many of Jerusalem's pilgrims hurried to the Cenacle. Pentecost was one of the three festivals which obliged all Jews to be present in Jerusalem. Jews from distant lands, and Jewish converts from paganism too, attended these feasts. As a result, a colorful crowd speaking a variety of languages surrounded the house. Now the apostles, who so shortly before had hid in fear behind locked doors, came forth and courageously walked among the multitude speaking to each in his native tongue. It was indeed amazing! Galileans, and multilingual?

But the malicious too were present; they had the answer. Nothing marvelous at all! Those Galileans were simply drunk, and their drunken babble sounded like a foreign language! Peter showed no hesitation in answering the charge. None of their number, he said, were intoxicated; it was but nine o'clock in the morning, and at that hour men usually are sober. What the multitude saw was, in

fact, the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy: In those days (of the Messiah), God will pour forth His Spirit upon men and they will prophesy. . . . Then the apostle pointed his words more directly against the accusers: they had killed Jesus, had nailed Him to the Cross; but God had awakened Him and after His departure to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit.

The pilgrims who had heard Peter give this first pentecostal sermon "were pierced to the heart and said: Brethren, what shall we do? But Peter said to them: Repent and be baptized; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Three thousand responded.

One final question: why the miracle of tongues? In answer, recall the story regarding the tower of Babel. Puffed up by pride, men attempted to build a tower that would touch the heavens. To punish their sin, God confused their speech. Sin causes confusion and division. Now Christ came to gather all men into His Church and thereby to unite them to Himself. This should result in creating but one family of nations again. To this blessed state the miracle of tongues points.

Yes, even we as individuals have a gift of tongues which all men can understand. It is the gift of love infused into us by the Holy Spirit. Love unites, love is a common language, by means of love we can speak to all nations. □

THE HOLY TRINITY

*By William G. Most. (c)Copyright 1990 by William G. Most
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Perhaps the deepest, the most profound of all mysteries is the mystery of the Trinity. The Church teaches us that although there is only one God, yet, somehow, there are three Persons in God. The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God, yet we do not speak of three Gods, but only one God. They have the same nature, substance, and being.

We came to know this immense mystery because Christ revealed it to us. Just before ascending He told them: "Go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). We know that these Three are not just different ways of looking at one person. For at the Last Supper, Jesus told us: "I came forth from the Father." So He is different from the Father. But He also promised: "If I go, I will send Him [the Paraclete] to you. . . . He will guide you to all truth" (John 16:28, 7, 13). So the Holy Spirit is also different.

Even though the Three Persons are One God, yet they are distinct: for the Father has no origin, He came from no one. But the Son is begotten, He comes from the Father

alone. The Holy Spirit comes or proceeds from both the Father and the Son. These different relations of origin tell us there are three distinct Persons, who have one and the same divine nature.

Even though everything the Three Persons do outside the Divine nature is done by all Three, yet it is suitable that we attribute some works specially to one or the other Person. So we speak of the Father especially as the power of creation, of the Son as the wisdom of the Father, of the Holy Spirit as goodness and sanctification.

The two doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation are the foundation of Christian life and worship. By becoming man, God the Son offered us a share in the inner life of the Trinity. By grace, we are brought into the perfect communion of life and love which is God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This sharing in the life of the Trinity is meant to culminate in heaven, where we will see the three Persons face to face, united to them in unspeakable love. □

KNOWING OUR SAINTS

ST. NORBERT OF XANTEN

FEAST DAY: JUNE 6

www.catholic.org

St. Norbert was born at Xanten in the Rhineland, about the year 1080. The early part of his life was devoted to the world and its pleasures. He entered upon the ecclesiastical state in a worldly spirit.

The thunderstorm had boiled up suddenly as Norbert was out riding. Norbert, who had always chosen the easy way, would never have deliberately gone on a journey that promised danger, risk, or discomfort. He had moved easily from the comforts of the noble family he was born into at about 1080 to the pleasure-loving German court. He had no hesitations about joining in any opportunity to enjoy himself, no matter what the source of that pleasure. To ensure his success at court, he also had no qualms about accepting holy orders as a canon and whatever financial benefits that came with that position, although he did hesitate at becoming a priest and the implied responsibilities that came with that vocation.

But now high winds pushed and pulled at his fashionable coif, rain slashed at his fancy clothes, and dark roiling clouds pressed night down upon his light thoughts. A sudden flash of lightning split the dark and his horse bucked, throwing Norbert to the ground.

For almost an hour, the still form of the courtier lay unmoving. Even the rain soaking his clothes and the howl of thunder did not bring him back to consciousness and life. When he awoke his first words were, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" -- the same words Saul spoke on the road to Damascus. In response Norbert heard in his heart, "Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it."

He immediately returned to the place of his birth, Xanten, to devote himself to prayer and penance. He now embraced the instruction for the priesthood he had avoided and was ordained in 1115. His complete conversion and new ways caused some to denounce the former courtier as a hypocrite. Norbert's response was to give everything he owned to the poor and to go to the pope for permission to preach.

With this commission in hand, he became an itinerant preacher, traveling through Europe with his two companions. In an extreme response to his old ways, he now chose the most difficult ways to travel -- walking barefoot in the middle of winter through snow and ice. Unfortunately the two companions who followed him died from the ill-effects of exposure. But Norbert was gaining the respect of those sincere clerics who had despised him before. The bishop of Laon wanted Norbert to help reform

the canons in his see, but the canons wanted nothing to do with Norbert's type of reform which they saw as far too strict. The bishop, not wanting to lose this holy man, offered Norbert land where he could start his own community. In a lonely valley called Premonter, began his community with thirteen canons. Despite the strictness of his regulation, or perhaps because of it, his reforms attracted many disciples until eight abbeys and two convents were involved. Even the canons who had originally rejected him asked to be part of the reform.



In Norbert's community we have the first evidence of lay affiliation with a religious order. This came about when a count Theobald wanted to join Norbert. Norbert realized that Theobald was not called to holy orders but to marriage and worldly duties. But he did not entirely reject Theobald, giving him a rule and devotions as well as a scapular to wear to identify him as part of the community.

It was on the trip accompanying Theobald to his marriage, that Norbert was spotted by Emperor Lothair and chosen as bishop of Magdebourg. Legend has it the porter refused to let Norbert into his new residence, assuming he was a beggar. When the crowd pointed out to the flustered porter that this was the new bishop Norbert told the porter, "You were right the first time." Norbert carried the love of reform that he had found in his own life to his new diocese. As usual, this made him many enemies and he was almost assassinated. Disgusted with the citizens desire to keep to their old ways, he left the city, but was soon called back -- not because the citizens missed him but because the emperor and the pope pressured them.

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GOD TOUCHED ME

REMEMBERING RO

God does not call the equipped. He equips the called.

By LH and Friends of Ro

About 11 years ago, since we have accepted God's call to serve Him, our lives have never been the same – the joys and tribulations, the lessons learned, the mistakes committed or the near-perfect projects completed or underway, bonds and acquaintances developed and lost, the peace and the chaos – all these continue, as He slowly molds us and prepares us for more to come.

Each person He has allowed us to cross paths with were all unique and all distinctive to His purpose and will. Allow me to tell you about Rowena who I came to know better when she joined the devotions of The Spiritual Army of God the Father - and how she welcomed the revelations she had been given – with simplicity and generosity.

Rowena's "Yes" to God

[Part 1 of 2]

It was sometime in March two years ago that Rowena [with her parents] set foot at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master for the Army's 2000 Hail Mary devotion. Marilyn, our faithful and talented cantor, was the dear friend she first shared the devastating news that she had Pancreatic cancer and Cirrhosis of the liver, which was later diagnosed as bile duct/biliary intra-hepatic cholangio carcinoma.¹ Rowena's mom, Lou, shared her story with the group asking for prayers of healing. It was this same afternoon that Rowena received her first "message" from the Son Helper, a locutionist² from Los Angeles. Rowena admitted that she has never experienced anything like this but she did come with an open heart and mind.

It is through the heart that God speaks – and with Rowena's open heart, she accepted the invitation to come to the Sacred Room³ every 1st Friday of the month for six consecutive months for healing prayers and blessings. She continued to receive private revelations each 1st Friday that she came – guiding her each and every step of her "*journey of spiritual cleansing*", "*feeling His presence and seeing the light that will illumine her path*" and reiterating the message "*to spread His words.*" During her entire journey, her loving husband JJ was with her. Like Rowena, JJ was also blessed with an open heart and mind

and obedience to God's plan(s) which can be conquered only with His grace.

Rowena carried on with her treatment with great hope and trust in God's love for her. In the midst of her chemo therapy and other treatments, Rowena and JJ traveled to France to celebrate their 8th wedding anniversary soaking themselves twice in the miraculous waters of Lourdes! Going home from the trip rejuvenated, Rowena learned what complete surrender to our Lord Jesus Christ means – that is, really trusting Him and "*living*" her life under the most challenging circumstances of her battle with cancer. Rowena openly acknowledged the strength that God wanted her to have in her "*relationship with Him*". Everyone knew she was in extreme physical pain – some days worse than others. But neither JJ nor her parents, nor any of her other relatives and friends heard Rowena complain.

She instead shared her faith, her hope and her life with her friends. Most of these friends are her college buddies at CalState Fullerton. Jen, Marcie, Marilyn, Mernie, and Ruth were members of PASA or the Pilipino American Student Association. Vivien was a childhood friend. Both of their parents participated in their community's Block Rosary prayers. Sydney, who likewise grew up with Rowena and attended proms together, was the conduit to Rya's entry to the troop. Pam was introduced through a mutual college friend at a bridal shower. Denise met her at CalPoly Pomona when she started dating JJ some twenty years ago. She and Rowena got pregnant within months of each other for each of their two children. All of them are happily married [to either their high school or college sweethearts] and are all super Moms, except for Marilyn, who is a " professional aunt, no kids" and "living whole without a better half" – the one they fondly introduce as or tag in their group photos as "available". Marilyn now lives on one of her mother's kidneys. At the early age of two she was diagnosed with Wilms tumor and from then on continues to earn her medal of valor for all her "medical storms" clinging on to dear God's providence, healing and gift of enormous faith.

These women all love Disneyland – maybe much more than their children do! They had lots of double-dates in Disneyland. Disneyland is where they treat their children during school breaks, birthdays, etc. Disneyland is where Jen gave birth to Ethan on February 24, 2009 inside their van, with ER Doctor Jon (her husband) delivering him and yes, with big sisters Mia and Ella as eyewitnesses! These women were bridesmaids or sponsors to each other at their respective weddings. Marilyn sang at most of their weddings. They are Godmothers to each other's children.

¹ A relatively rare form of cancer with an annual incidence rate of 1-2 cases per 100,000. For more information, please go to <http://cholangiocarcinoma.org>.

² A locutionist is understood to be a person who receives messages from an outside spiritual source without an accompanying external vision. Still, a locutionist often does experience an internal type of vision when receiving messages.

³ The Lord's endearing name for the Son Helper's tiny Meditation Room.

They are daughters to each other's parents. They talk a lot – via text, e-mail, mobile phones. They party a lot – adults-only and children parties alike. They take most vacations together – with their children and parents in tow. Together, they laugh a lot, and they cry, too! They are faithful friends holding a bond together. *They have a secure refuge in each other. In each other they found a treasure. Sirach 6:14.*

It was in a conference call that Rowena made known to her cherished friends her doctor's devastating prognosis of cancer. Marcie was in shock and in disbelief! Vivien cried and felt she needed to reach out to her. Mernie was devastated. Rya was numb. She felt that all of a sudden a huge rock was thrown into her calm river and the ripples suddenly grew strong she didn't know what to do. Pam, a nurse practitioner, was all too familiar with the cancer yet this illness happening to a very dear friend made a different impact. She was sad and in denial, emotional and fearful she was losing a friend. Jen was speechless and scared to the point of having restless nights from then on. Her friend's battle with cancer was her first time to experience the malady up close and personal. Marilyn instantly reached out to the Army's prayer warriors and enlisted her for intercessory healing prayers. Denise was in shock and then numb when she received the group e-mail sent by JJ to his close college friends.

All of them thought it was not fair! They wondered why it's happening to someone who is so young and with two little children who need her guidance and care. Why her when she was such a good, kind, thoughtful person? Most of them asked God why – including Mernie who after doing so realized she was disrespecting God's plan for her and for all of them.

This tightly-knit troop is Rowena and JJ's biggest and dearest support group. God's hands of blessing and guidance was evident in each and everyone's way of reaching out. Right away, the Friday evening Rosary Novena for Rowena's healing began. Each of them tagging along all their babies and young children, their parents, sisters, brothers, -- all came religiously each Friday evening bombarding the heavens with petitions of healing for Rowena. Jen never expected that they will band together 15 long years after college to do just that - PRAY for their dear friend, acknowledging that she and most of them never prayed so hard in their lives! Mernie came up with fund-raising ideas -- selling t-shirts with the logo below she herself conceived. "RO" was how her college friends fondly addressed Rowena - her nickname within

the word
"strong",
which
would
later be
the
name of the domain for her website



www.strong4wena.org. The website would later be created and maintained by Remen [Pam's husband], who was also the IT-dude responsible for the live streaming of prayer sessions for Rowena enabling friends and relatives from all over the US and certain parts of the world to join in. The website was Rowena's venue to share updates on her condition and answer questions that people may have been afraid to ask. It was also a donation channel for those who wanted to help financially. Remen and Pam likewise hosted another fundraiser at Party Kingdom organizing gift raffle baskets and door prizes. Many who participated had not seen Rowena in years. The girls also coordinated, dedicated and ran several 5K races for Rowena.

Ruth, Rya, Pam and Remen took turns in taking care of Alexa and Reece when Ro wasn't feeling well or when she was scheduled for doctor's visits or treatments. Ruth stood in for Mommy Ro at Alexa's dance competition at Knotts – putting on her make-up, doing her hair and donning on her costume – stuff that JJ would really need assistance with. She also played cheerleader, clapping and yelling for Alexa in the audience.

Mernie, Pam and Rya prepared meals she craved for or requested. Denise and the rest of JJ's all-girls flag football team in college, set up a group calendar online and would pick dates to cook dinner for Rowena, JJ and their kids. The girls called and texted her often. They made every effort to spend more time with her and her family whenever she was up for such opportune visits or get-togethers.

In reaching out to their dear friend Ro during her battle with cancer, her girlfriends were at the same time dealing with their own respective fears and concerns. Marcie's main fear was talking about the cancer. She couldn't open up to Ro. Cancer was to her the big elephant in the room she couldn't get around in because it was real – and scary. She regrets that she couldn't be more open to her. Vivien feared that Ro would not survive cancer. She was terrified for JJ, Alexa and Reece; for her parents Tita Lou and Tito Adel, and for her sister Hannie.

Mernie was anxious about the pain she endured, her frailty. She feared for her fears. Pam dreaded the thought that she was losing a friend. During her chemo and radiation treatments, Pam knew Ro was physically suffering and in pain. She was deeply concerned about how her toddlers would survive their childhood without their mother's love and guidance. Jen and Denise shared Pam's fears about Alexa and Reece and how JJ will be raising them on his own. Ro's weakening health alarmed Ruth – that she may not be able to meet the demands of a mother's role in her children's social, physical and learning activities.

But Ro didn't talk about her fears. [Pam noted that she didn't like to talk about things that would make her sad.] On the contrary she reminded Mernie and all the girls that faith in the Lord would guide and get her through this

journey that He has set for her. All she asked them for were prayers.

Meanwhile, Rowena and JJ's relationship with God and with each other continued to grow. They did whatever it took to make sure that they did not miss any of the six 1st Fridays asked of them to come to the Sacred Room. As months passed, they actually looked forward to each 1st Friday's sojourn. God manifested the truth and made good His promise of "love and compassion" in His messages to her. Rowena knew and experienced how "so powerful" these manifestations were. She and JJ felt a sense of completion and happiness hearing Him and His Mother, through the Son Helper – reiterating previous messages that she "would feel the power of your God"; that He has "chosen her to pray for others who also suffer and to continue to offer prayers for the souls in purgatory." In subsequent messages, Rowena confirmed that God was listening to her as she talked and prayed to Him daily; that Mother Mary was unceasingly interceding for her.

Mother Mary asked her "to extend her hand to people who I feel in my heart would come to her devotion. And to extend not only to believers but also to unbelievers for their hearts would be opened by words of sincerity coming from a person who has felt the loving hand of Mother Mary's Son and the power of the Eternal Father."

Rowena always shared her messages with me. I recall that time when Rowena asked me how she was going to carry out the tasks asked of her. My quick response was to tell her to pray to our Lord for guidance and she will know what to do – in her heart.

And she did exactly that. She trusted in God's plan for her and for the people who were near and dear to her. Mother Mary's loving intercession helped her say "yes" to God in all that He asked of her. And with an all-willing heart, God bestowed upon her abundant graces to respond to Him, just as our Heavenly Mother has taught us through her example. We all saw the pain that Rowena bore, her fears and her anxieties – yet she carried her "cross" with so much hope and trust in the one true God who created her, the One who loves and cares for her dearly – and who was with her every step of her journey – as He has promised.

It was during her battle with cancer that Rowena was involved in the different ministries of her parish, St. Paul the Apostle Church, in Chino Hills. With Pam and Remen's promptings, JJ and her participated in its Marriage Enrichment Weekend Program in the Fall of 2012, and since then had assisted in the program. With Rya, she volunteered to train and became Eucharistic Ministers. Rowena was likewise a lector and assisted in the Baptism Ministry.

Rowena, JJ, her parents and her children made every effort to be at each of the devotional prayers and activities of the Army. They traveled to Las Vegas twice – (1) to visit the Cenacle House of the Army and (2) for the Miraculous Sustaining Grapes prayer gathering. She

would stay, pray and celebrate with us at each of our devotions for as long as her strength sustained her. She was a sight to behold – she donned on trendy fashions that hang on her well. Her haircut was neat and sassy. The little make-up she wore was refreshing. You will not believe that she was undergoing cancer treatment unless you were told. She exudes an aura of a spirited being you want to be with. This was how she looked on the day she crowned Mother Mary in May last year. A week or so after the Coronation, they were off to a Disney cruise in Florida.

For the first time on the 1st Saturday of June last year, I saw Rowena looking certainly fatigued and rather peeved. She had both her legs propped up on a chair as she talked to me and her Mom Lou about the birthday party she was going to that night. I saw her again after that – and holding on to Mother Mary's mantle, she told me that her stomach, her back and her legs really, really hurt. I wanted to cry at the sight of the pain on Lou's face as she devotedly massaged Rowena's back and her legs alternately. But Lou and I knew we couldn't – and we shouldn't! From then on, JJ was in constant communication with the Son Helper – to give updates on her condition; for prayers, for guidance and emotional support, for peace for Rowena and for everyone very close to her heart. At around noon on June 27, Rowena went home to Her Father and in Jesus' loving embrace. She was surrounded by the people she loved. I'm sure it was difficult for her father Adel to witness her very last breath – but he was indeed grateful to God and joyful to share with me the peace on her daughter's face as she expired. It was the grace that can only come from God!

Rowena's Legacy

[Part 2 of 2]

will be published in the July 2014 issue
of this 1st Saturday Newsletter.

*If you have any personal articles
or God's miracle in your life
you want to share with the devotees,
we may be reached at*

*the following e-mail addresses
and phone numbers:*

evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org

alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org

(702) 274-4315 and/or (213) 385-7798

The Sacred Heart and the Eucharist

Love for the Eucharist

Christ's heart of flaming love finds its truest and most profound expression in the Blessed Sacrament of His love, the Eucharist, God's giving of Himself, whose feast, Corpus Christi, each year most often falls within the month of June. How appropriate this is, for devotion to the Eucharist and to the Sacred Heart are in fact one thing, inseparable -- devotion to the mystery of Christ's human and divine love. In the Sacred Host dwells the God-man, Jesus; in His Person pulses His Heart through which we are loved with the perfection of His humanity, the fullness of His Godhead, one Person who not only loves but is love. Thus St. Peter Julian Eymard instructs us, "Let us learn to honor the Sacred Heart in the Eucharist. Let us never separate them."

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus infallibly leads souls to the Eucharist. Love for, and devotion to, the Eucharist infallibly leads souls to the mystery of God's infinite love symbolized for us by the Sacred Heart, a symbol necessary because love itself is immaterial and imperceptible: We need the sensible manifestation of the Divine Heart. So it is that the Sacred Heart, the Holy Eucharist, and Love itself, are one and the same thing; for in the Eucharist dwells Jesus, in Jesus His Heart, and in His Heart is infinite love. The Eucharist can be explained only by love; the love of Jesus is the love of His Heart, and so the Eucharist is explained only by the Sacred Heart. Drawn close to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by cords of love, we receive into our own hearts the Eucharistic Lord in Holy Communion. It is not possible to carry fire in one's bosom and not become inflamed by it. Fire enkindles fire. Every sacrament is an effect of Christ's love, but as St. Bernard said, the Blessed Sacrament is the love of loves, the effect of Jesus giving us Himself who is love, and the most fertile source of that most tender and ardent love man should have for Jesus. St. Francis de Sales tells us our great intention in receiving the Eucharist should be to advance in the love of God, to become intimate with Him. You cannot love someone you do not know, and you do not know anyone you do not speak to or visit often and intimately. Thus frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament, periods of prayer, adoration, are absolutely necessary.

Revelations to St. Margaret Mary

It was while she was kneeling in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament that Our Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque displaying His Heart (I quote the saint), "represented as a throne of fire with flames radiating on every side. It appeared more brilliant than the sun and transparent like crystal. The wound received on the Cross appeared clearly: There was a crown of thorns around the Heart and it was surmounted by a cross."

Our Lord told the saintly nun it signified His immense love for us who are the cause of His sufferings that He, in His humanity, willed freely to undergo for our redemption, and especially the outrages He is exposed to in the Blessed Sacrament. He lamented that man largely ignored His great thirst to be loved in the Blessed Sacrament. He told the saint that in Gethsemane, immediately after the Last Supper, as He sweated blood, His great suffering was caused by the ingratitude of men, particularly toward the Blessed Sacrament.

And so He asked for Communions of reparation and consolation every First Friday and for a Holy Hour of Reparation every Thursday evening in memory of the agony in the garden and His desertion by the Apostles on the very night of the institution of the Eucharist. During His Passion, Our Lord must have seen down the centuries the millions who would pass Him by in the tabernacles of the world without giving Him a thought. He must have seen millions of indifferent or even sacrilegious Communions; He must have seen the cruelest of all, those of His intimate circle, His priests and religious, who by coldness, indifference, carelessness, selfishness, infidelity, at or around the altar, would betray His Heart of love.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart did not begin with the private revelations of Sr. Margaret Mary. It is rooted in Sacred Scripture and Tradition beginning with the early Fathers as Pius XII outlined in *Haurietis Aquas*. It was through the revelation to Sr. Margaret Mary that the true meaning of the devotion was established and distinguished from other forms of piety by the special qualities of love.

Christ's Priests

It was Christ's infinite love that instituted the Eucharist; and at the same moment came into being the priesthood, essentially and inseparably connected to the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. To His priests, chosen by Himself, Jesus confided the task of spreading abroad the Gospel in every age and place. To them He has given a participation in His power -- to offer sacrifice, to preach the Word, to absolve, to console. In His priests, Christ perpetuates Himself, living through them unceasingly His life of love for all mankind. To render them capable of this awesome mission, Jesus has opened to them the treasure of His unending love.

It is especially to priests already consecrated to God, and called to profound holiness thereby, that the Sacred Heart wishes to manifest His love so they can communicate it to the world. Through the Sacred Heart a priest should enter into intimate knowledge and love of Jesus, giving all of his poor self to Him. That Sacred Heart is like a door leading into the very soul of Christ, towards complete conformity to Him. Priests, more than others, are called to progressive identification with Christ and so to the giving of their all in the work of spreading Christ's kingdom, as *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, as Vatican II's document on the

"Life and Ministry of Priests" puts it. Indeed, the only measure of love is to love without measure.

Gift of Entire Self

True devotion to the Sacred Heart is full of human and supernatural meaning. Do not confuse it with displays of useless and sugary piety devoid of doctrine. Sacred Scripture, the Liturgy, the writings of the Fathers and the saints, the teachings of the popes, are the basis of a true piety such as St. Paul presents to us in his letter to the Ephesians (3:14–19), a program of knowledge and love, prayer and life, all beginning with devotion to the Heart of Jesus, the root and foundation of all love. Sacred Scripture means by "heart," not a fleeting sentiment of joy and tears but the personality directing the whole being, soul and body, to its good. Jesus told us, "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also."

When devotion to the Sacred Heart is recommended, what is being recommended to us is the gift of our entire self to Jesus, soul and body, thoughts, feelings, words, actions, joys, and sorrows. Jesus came to light a fire on earth. Fire purifies, gives light, communicates, unites. Such is the blaze of divine love devotion to the Sacred Heart enkindles in our hearts. The Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament feeds the flame of our love for the Lord, burning from us the dross of self. Thus afire, we thirst for souls as He does, becoming His dedicated emissaries among the men and women of our day, so many of whom neither know Him nor love Him.

Adapted from the June 1988 issue of Lay Witness.

Article printed from Catholics United for the Faith – Catholics United for the Faith is an international lay apostolate founded to help the faithful learn what the Catholic Church teaches.: <http://www.cuf.org>

Continued from Page 5

St. Norbert of Xanten

When Norbert died in Magdeburg on June 6, 1134, both the canons at the cathedral and the canons at St. Mary's Abbey claimed the body. The two parties resorted to Lothair III who decreed the body should be buried in the Norbertine Abbey. In 1524, Martin Luther preached in the city and, as a result, Magdeburg became a Protestant city. Numerous attempts were made over the centuries by the Abbey of Strahov in Prague to retrieve the saint's body. Only after several military defeats at the hand of Emperor Ferdinand II was the abbot of Strahov able to claim the body. On May 2, 1627, the body was finally brought to Prague where it remains to this day, displayed as an auto-ikon in a glass-fronted tomb.

Saint Norbert was canonized by Pope Gregory XIII in the year 1582, and his statue appears above the Piazza colonnade of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. □

I am your Mother Mary.

This day of my beads offer all your prayers to all lukewarm souls. These souls are the ones that hurt most in the bleeding heart of my son Jesus and the center of all mercy from God. They cause God's wrath and compassion at the same time. Many would use their pride to make things convenient for them. The passion and death of my son Jesus have become the actual light for these souls to open the gate of God's loving mercy. Pray intently and with all your love for many of these souls are trapped in the realm of spiritual desolation. They are confused and wandering.

Be with my children and stay.

*Mary, Your Lady
of the Rosary*

051714

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

- You are enjoined to practice Eucharistic Adoration at least an hour a week. Let us render God adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition. Kindly check with your respective parishes for schedules. Some churches are open 24-hours for Eucharistic Adoration.
- Pray at least one rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary daily.
- Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 3:00 PM and at 9:00 PM daily.
- Pray the Angelus at 6:00 PM daily.
- Pray the Pro-Life Scriptural Rosary [www.rosaryoftheunborn.com] to make reparation for the crime of abortion.
- Think of ways to make reparation to Mary for the sins committed against Jesus and Mary. A very good one is to join the **First Saturday devotion**; another is the **2000 Hail Mary devotion**.
- June 15 is Father's Day. Honor not only your father, but all men who have acted as a father figure in your life - whether as Stepfathers, Uncles, Grandfathers, or "Big Brothers." and let them know what place they have in your life and how they influence you.
- Recite the Novena to the Holy Spirit starting on May 30 and ending on 1st Saturday, June 7. ☐

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

Thank you, Eternal Father, for Your Will that transformed our sorrow into joy, our tears of anguish into tears of thanksgiving. Our physical and spiritual re-creation, through Your Healing Hands, kept us enclosed and revived in our hope for renewed lives as we look up to the heavens praising You, in Jesus' most Holy Name, through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and of the angels and saints.

Thank you for the past 9 years you have arranged for my participation in "The Spiritual Army of God the Father!"

- Joyce

On April 26, I felt blessed by the opportunity for a full day of prayer. I knew I was there to make reparation for transgression. God ever-so-gently and lovingly highlighted a particular one for me, while making sure I realized the gravity, which I hadn't before. As of May 20, 2014...and today (by the time the above were sent) I cannot remember the grave transgression highlighted through prayer! I hope that means that the effects are healing. I can't emphasize enough how much I appreciate the encouragement, companionship and avenues for prayer which our group provides.

*A Devotee who would like
to remain anonymous*

Jessica has conceived – acknowledging with thanks . . .

*I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I
asked of Him. [Samuel 1:27]*

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father and the 2000 Hail Mary Group of Northern California acknowledge with thanks our generous June sponsors of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of our Blessed Mother. The devotion continues to be a constant success.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Laddie & Gertrude Regalado

Robert & Evelyn Pua

Los Angeles, California

Jennifer DyReyes | Dorothy Ikeri

Sylvia Melendez | Alice Ng

JJ Ramos | Aida Tuason

SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

MOTHER MARY'S CROWNING

The Spiritual Army of God the Father honored the Blessed Virgin Mary with May crowning events in Los Angeles, CA and in Las Vegas, NV on May 3, 2014, the 1st Saturday of the month.

The annual May Crowning is a tradition within the Catholic Church, which has dedicated the month of May to Mary, mother of Jesus. The tradition holds that early in May, a statue of the Virgin is crowned with a wreath of roses, and more flowers are offered at her feet. To some, May crownings may be considered out of date, or passé, but The Spiritual Army of God the Father would like to keep this wonderful devotion smoldering and what better way to bring us closer to Jesus, by honoring His mother.

Yes, May Crownings still happen within The Spiritual Army of God the Father!!!

In Los Angeles, the celebration started with a procession of Our Lady of Fatima statue in her special carriage bedecked with blooming white roses.

Devotees each took turns offering their flowers and petitions to the Blessed Mother, as they sang "Bring Flowers of the Rarest" and other Marian songs.

The flower offering was followed by a Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Vincent Hughes with Deacon Abbe Joel Joseph Estrada delivering the Homily, touching many hearts. Toddlers and children [Kayla, Reece, Noah, Ethan and Brooklyn] of The Spiritual Army's younger devotees lead the Offertory with Sisters Joanne and Nimfa trailing with the bread and wine. The older children [Joshua, Mia, Hannah, Bella and Hannah] were given the task of the day's readings and the Prayers of the Faithful. The children were such an enlivening sight with the girls wearing white dresses with matching white feather headbands and the boys wearing either white Barong Tagalog or long-sleeve shirt and black pants.



The climax of the celebration was the moment when Denise Gier and Marie Nguyen, placed a circlet of flowers and a crown on Mother Mary's head, as devotees sang the familiar song, "O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today". Denise, a police officer, and Marie, a recent Catholic convert are fairly new to The Spiritual Army. Both of them have recently departed loved ones, whose devotion to Mother Mary, had brought them closer to God. Denise lost her friend, Rowena; and Marie, her son, Eric.

In Las Vegas, May Crowning included the walk in procession of the Blessed Virgin Mary statue towards the side altar by Guadalupe Eugenio while the rest of the devotees sang "On This day O Beautiful Mother." Mass followed and offerings were brought to the altar as follows: bread - Laddie Regalado, wine - Gertrude Regalado, grapes - Maria Theresa Muego, basket of fruits - Betty Ayasao, floral arrangement - Angeline Muego, Cross - Rosalind Van Heel; and Rosary - Debbie Lorenzo. In the homily, Fr. Ric stated that more and more Christians who are non-Catholics honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus. The words in The Magnificat, "From this day, all generations shall call me blessed" has come to fruition.

After the mass, the May crowning service followed. Frank Brown carried the crown which was a wreath of mini white roses, and his wife, Rosario Brown, reverently crowned the Blessed Virgin Mary. Flowers were offered by all the devotees as "Bring Flowers of the Rarest" was sung. A poem for Mary written by a little girl was recited by Betty Ayasao. The mass and crowning service was led by Joyce Ulmer. Various Marian hymns were sung throughout the whole service, with the final hymn of "Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above" capping the whole event. Devotees were teary eyed during the May crowning service because of their overwhelming love for Mother Mary as they joyfully honored her.

Finally, on this May crowning event, we give thanks to Mary for giving her "Yes" to God so she can bring Jesus, our Savior into the world. Let us remember that before Jesus died on the cross, He gave us His Mother to be our Mother. So let us invite the Blessed Virgin Mary to guide us along the path that will lead us to her Son, Jesus. Let Mary be our beacon in our journey to the arms of our loving Father. ☐

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TOY DRIVE FOR THE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
[ONGOING]**

**FEAST OF THE FATHER
OF ALL MANKIND**
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2014
MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
1977 CARMEN AVENUE
ON GOWER
LOS ANGELES, CA 90068
STARTING AT 11:30 AM

**ORDINATION OF
ABBE' JOEL JOSEPH ESTRADA**
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES ORATORY
2653 OHIO AVENUE
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63118

**PILGRIMAGE TO MOTHER
MARY'S APPARITION SHRINES
PORTUGAL | SPAIN | FRANCE**
DECEMBER 4-21, 2014
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER
INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

\$400 GUARANTEES YOUR
RESERVATION AND YOU HAVE UNTIL
OCTOBER 3, 2014 TO PAY
PILGRIMAGE COST

DEVOTION SCHEDULE



THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

IN LOS ANGELES:

1st Saturday Devotion

The Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | 501 N. Beaudry Avenue | (213) 250-7962
Holy Mass starts at 8:30 A.M. | 1st Saturday Devotional Prayers follow.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the Month

The Monastery of the Angels | 1977 Carmen Avenue on Gower | (323) 466-2186

11:20 A.M. - Rosary to the Father | 11:50 A.M. - Holy Mass

1:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confession ongoing from 11:20 A.M. to 11:45 P.M.

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – June 14, 2014

at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | starting at 8:30 a.m.

Please call Victor at (213) 385-7798 if you wish to become a Sponsor of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion.

IN LAS VEGAS:

1st Saturday Devotion

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117 at 1:00 PM
Cenacle will be at 10:00 AM before the devotional prayers.

Please call Evelyn at (702)274-4315 for entry to The Enclave or for more information.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M.

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – June 21, 2014

*Please call (702) 255-9616 or (702) 274-4315 for
dates and venues for the coming months or for more information or if you wish to Sponsor the Devotion.*

IN LAUGHLIN, NEVADA:

1st Saturday Devotion

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church | 3055 El Mirage Way

Holy Mass starts at 8:00 A.M. Devotional prayers follow.

IN SAN DIEGO

Rosary to the Father

Monday – Saturday after the 8:00 A.M. Mass [Look for Iris Haj]

St. Mary's Church | 1160 S. Broadway | Escondido, CA 92025

IN THE PHILIPPINES

2000 Hail Mary Devotion - Metro Manila Area

Letty Rollan has organized the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion in various areas of Metro Manila through the members of the "Mother Butler." Please call her U.S. Vonage phone (510) 779-6652, text her at Manila #916-384-9300, and/or call her Manila landline 939-4677. Mention Mila Lumba's name to be recognized