



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

July 2014

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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

IS IT TOO LATE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Adrian Rogers

Some people still believe that sooner or later we will make this world a safe place, there will be peace on earth, and we will do it by human ingenuity. Some Christians may think the preaching of the Gospel will do that. However, that is not the job given to the Gospel! Now, I don't want to disillusion you, but I don't want you to have illusions, either.

The Gospel was never given to save civilization from wreckage.

The Gospel was given to save men from the wreckage of civilization.

I hope you are both encouraged by the freedom we have in Jesus Christ and challenged by the responsibility we carry. Every believer sensitive to spiritual matters knows our nation is in serious trouble.

Many feel that history as we know it is coming to a climax. Some say we're seeing foreshocks of Armageddon. There's no question we're in a moral free fall. Soon we will hit bottom and there will be no repair. America will become a moldy crust in history's landfill if something radical and dramatic is not done quickly.

Does this bring fear to your heart? It shouldn't, for we can rest knowing God is the Author of hope, and we can stand surefooted on His unshaken sovereignty, His Word, and His Kingdom! America's first line of defense is not the government nor the military, but God Himself.

Concerned Christians are rightly asking, **what should we be doing to help bring our nation back to God?**

First, let me say it's not too late. Turn to Psalm 80 and read the entire psalm prayerfully. God is speaking about the nation Israel. Psalm 80 is the prayer of a patriot, praying for national revival. Note especially verse 14:

"Return, we beseech Thee, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine [Israel]; And the vineyard which Thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that Thou madest strong for Thyself."

Our hope lies solely in God's mercy.

We Must Look Up

"Turn us again, O Lord God of Hosts, cause Thy face to shine; and we shall be saved." Psalm 80:19.

We need to look to God with fasting, praying and weeping, an old-fashioned revival in the heart of our nation. God doesn't route revival through Washington. Revival must come from within every individual heart.

We Need to 'Fess Up'

"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles :14

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OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

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The month of July is dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus. The entire 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.

The Blood that coursed through the veins of Christ was a part of that Sacred Humanity made possible by the maternity of Mary, whose parents, St. Joachim and St. Anne are honored this month. (July 26). Our Lord's blood poured out on the Cross purchased our salvation, washed clean the robes of the martyrs, and gave birth to the Church as it flowed from his wounded side. The Precious Blood of Christ — now pulsing through his Mystical Body — continues its salvific work, preserving and purifying, repairing and providing nourishment for regeneration and renewal of its members.

July's longer and warmer days also provide us with the opportunity for renewal, both interior and exterior. Schedules relax and pressures ease, inviting travel. But, whether we travel or not, like the missionary, Bl. Junipero Serra (July 1), we preach to others — by our conduct, our speech, even the clothes we wear. May we be modest in everything we do, imitating St. Maria Goretti, the young martyr for purity (July 6), and "preaching" Christ to everyone we meet. □

FEASTS FOR JULY

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

- 1 Bl. Junipero Serra (USA); St. Oliver Plunket, Opt. Mem.
- 3 Thomas the Apostle, Feast
- 4 Independence Day (USA), Opt. Mem.
- 5 Anthony Mary of Zaccaria; Elizabeth of Portugal, Opt. Mem.
- 6 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
- 9 Augustine Zhao Rong and companions, Opt. Mem.
- 11 Benedict, Memorial
- 13 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
- 14 Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha (USA), Memorial
- 15 Bonaventure, Memorial
- 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Opt. Mem.
- 18 Camillus de Lellis (USA), Opt. Mem.
- 20 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
- 21 Lawrence of Brindisi, Opt. Mem.
- 22 Mary Magdalene, Memorial
- 23 Bridget, Opt. Mem.
- 24 Sharbel (Charbel) Makhloof, Opt. Mem.
- 25 James, Feast
- 26 Joachim and Anne, Memorial
- 27 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
- 29 Martha, Memorial
- 30 Peter Chrysologus, Opt. Mem.
- 31 Ignatius of Loyola, Memorial

The feasts of St. Maria Goretti, (July 6) and St. Henry (July 13) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. □

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

Evangelization – Part 2

For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him. (John 3:34-36)

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (Matthew 9:37).

This is what the Lord Almighty says:

"Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:16)

Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?... (Matthew 7:15)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DEVOTION TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

*Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.
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Devotion to the Precious Blood is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation, and that not only for priests, but for every follower of Christ. I really believe, and I hesitate even saying this, but I really believe that one of the symptoms of modern society (and I would even include, sadly, modern Catholic society) one of the symptoms of a growing, gnawing secularism is the lessening and the weakening of devotion to the Precious Blood. Devotion, as we know, is a composite of three elements: It is first - veneration, it is secondly- invocation, and it is thirdly - imitation. In other words, devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain, is first of all to be veneration on our part, which is a composite of knowledge, love and adoration. We are to study to come to a deeper understanding of what those two - I am afraid for many people - casual words, Precious Blood, really mean.

I found this passage in the oldest document, outside of sacred scripture, from the first century of the Christian era - to be exact, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D. Says Pope Clement:

"Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious It is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world."

To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must (otherwise the mystery will be lost on us), we must get some comprehension of the gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God, because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. We are living in an age in which to sin has become fashionable. But we believe that we are here for only a very short time. We further believe that Christ when He told us the way that leads to damnation is broad and many there are who walk that way, that the way that leads to eternal life is narrow and there are few who walk that way. I am watching every syllable I am saying. The Church has never pronounced infallibly on the number lost and the number saved, but she has canonized St. John of the Cross and made him a Doctor of the Church. Says John of the Cross: "I believe that the majority of the human race will be lost."

This veneration of the Precious Blood, which is the first element in our devotion to the Precious Blood means that we have a deep sensitivity to the awfulness of sin. Sin must be terrible. It must be awful. It must be the most dreadful thing in the universe. Why? Because it cost the living God in human form the shedding of His Blood.

Devotion to the Precious Blood means - beyond veneration which means understanding, grasping and

loving, loving Jesus Christ in the shedding of His Blood - it further means that we invoke Christ under the attribute of His Precious Blood. I really wonder, I do. Suppose I picked a thousand Catholics at random, I mean, believing, Churchgoing Catholics and would ask them: What litanies has the Church approved for the universal recitation by the faithful? I honestly doubt if very many out of a thousand would know that one of those litanies is the Litany of the Precious Blood. I thought I would read a few invocations:

**"Blood of Christ,
Only-Begotten Son of the Eternal Father."**

What are we saying? Are we saying that that Blood was the Only Begotten Son of the Eternal Father? Frankly, yes. Because we know that term, Precious Blood, is not just a symbol, not just a title. It identifies that quality of the Only-Begotten Son of the Eternal Father which Christ wants us to constantly have in mind, namely, that the Only-Begotten Son of the Eternal Father suffered. Suffered for us.

**"Blood of Christ
falling upon the earth in the Agony."**

In the Middle Ages when the faith was stronger than in modern times, even the errors, shall I say, were more respectable? There were those who speculated (talk about a believing age!) those who speculated that maybe, just maybe, when Christ shed His Blood either in the Agony in the Garden or on Calvary, that once the Blood left the Body It was just ordinary blood. In the age of faith, believers speculated about, what was that blood separated from the Body? And the Church infallibly defined: Every drop of Christ's Blood in the Agony in the Garden, every drop He shed on Calvary, every drop was united hypostatically with the Second Person of the Trinity. Every drop of that Blood was adorable.

"Blood of Christ, Price of our salvation."

The more I lecture, the more I teach, the more people I deal with, the more I have come to identify two words: love and pain. If one person claims to love someone else, the one who claims to love, infallibly - if there is genuine love - is not only resigned to enduring pain -- pain is the proof of love, pain is the price of love. That's why God became Man: that He might be able to endure pain, especially the pain of draining His Blood out of love for us. May I recommend to all of you to promote the recitation of the litany of the Precious Blood?

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CHOOSING THE "BETTER PART" -- LET NOTHING DISTRACT YOU FROM JESUS

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ST. MARTHA, MEMORIAL – JULY 29

Has any saint received more negative press than Martha? All she did was ask Jesus to tell her sister to help her with the chores, and she ended up being branded as spiritually dull, overly anxious, or even worse, spiteful. After all, Jesus rejected Martha's request and even told her that her own priorities were out of order.

What was wrong with Martha's behavior? Why did she receive this unexpected rebuke from Jesus? Was it sinful for her to have wanted everything to be perfect for such an important guest as Jesus? Was it sinful to clean and cook? Don't we all act this way when family or close friends come to visit our home?

In fact, Jesus was probably pleased by the way Martha tried to make everything just right. He probably felt honored by her desire to serve him so graciously. So why did Jesus say what he said? Because he wanted Martha - and all of us - to know that there is a point where our tasks consume us, rob us of our peace, and separate us from God.

We are all guilty of being distracted. We are all guilty of working on the things we consider vital and important - only at the expense of our relationship with Jesus. Let's try to put ourselves in Martha's shoes and look at the way our responsibilities in the world can distract us and block us from receiving Jesus and all that he wants to give us.

Active and Contemplative. In a sense, we can say that Martha represents all of the members of the church who feel led to spend their lives on the active work of the church. Those of us in this category want to serve Jesus and his people with our whole heart. On the other hand, Martha's sister Mary represents those of us who tend toward the contemplative side of Christianity. Those of us in this category place a high value on being with Jesus, talking with him, and listening for his still, small voice.

Of course, very few of us are 100 percent active or 100 percent contemplative. Most of us who tend toward the active category do spend time in prayer. It wouldn't be too hard to imagine even Martha on her knees at different times. Similarly, most of us who tend toward the contemplative category do spend some time in active service. We really can't assume that Mary failed to carry some share of work around the house or in the neighborhood. So to be accurate, we should be clear that we are talking about degrees of activity and service versus degrees of contemplation and prayer.

What was at the heart of Jesus' rebuke to Martha? It was the way she became distracted from the Lord and his words, not her heartfelt desire to serve, that he sought to correct. Martha was immersed in the preparations. The demands of service overwhelmed her and made her anxious and judgmental toward her sister. As a result,

Martha sank into a pool of self-pity and self-righteousness, prompting Jesus' response. We can just imagine, after this episode, Jesus telling her, "Don't lose your peace, Martha. Don't go overboard and let your desire to serve me overshadow all the ways that I want to serve you."

Isn't it amazing? From our earliest days, we are taught to give and give and give. It's as if the service is in our blood. That's probably why Martha felt justified in her request to Jesus. The problem was that she didn't grasp Jesus' teaching that it is more critical for him to serve us than for us to serve him. In truth, we really cannot "outgive" Jesus.

Two Levels of Distractions. As the story of Mary and Martha demonstrates, being distracted from the Lord means being preoccupied with someone or something to such an extent that we experience a degree of separation from Jesus. Sometimes these distractions come from evil temptations, while at other times they come from our own motivations and mind-sets.

Clearly, not all distractions are alike. On one level, there are times when the sinful lures of the world distract us and turn our attention away from Jesus. But on a deeper level, we can also be distracted by our own good intentions, as Martha was. On this level, even our work, our families, and our service to the church have the potential to distract us from Jesus.

At the lower level, it's temptations toward immorality, gossip, deceit, and the like that distract us from the Lord. These temptations tell us that we need to do this certain action to feel fulfilled, or that we have a right to do it, even though we know that it may well be opposed to the way Jesus wants us to think and act. Whether they come from the devil or from our own fallen nature, these temptations deceive us by encouraging us to focus only on the supposed benefits of the temptation. Then, when we have given in to them, they prey upon our consciences, often leading to a bitter aftertaste filled with guilt and shame.

Generally, the "lower-level" distractions are not too hard to spot. By contrast, the "higher-level" ones - the ones that are rooted mostly in good intentions - are more murky. At this level, we can become distracted from the Lord when we allow our responsibilities, our goals, and the normal demands of life to dominate our minds and preoccupy us. This was why Jesus rejected Martha's request. If she had prepared a simpler meal, if she had held on to her peace and found the time to sit with Jesus as Mary did, it's likely that Jesus would not have chided her.

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KNOWING OUR SAINTS

ST. LAWRENCE BRINDISI, APOSTOLIC DOCTOR

FEAST DAY: JULY 21

*By Pietro Labruzzi
Capuchin Provincia di Toscana*

One of the jobs of the 'Doctors of the Church' is to explain to the faithful the place of Jesus and of Mary, His Mother, in Catholic Doctrine.

St. Lawrence of Brindisi held many roles in his life from missionary to diplomat. He was described as a fiery orator and he was known to have performed at least one exorcism which proved completely successful.

Miracles followed him wherever he would go, and this along with his uncanny ability to preach the Word caused him to be an effective teacher of the faith, thus earning him the title of Apostolic Doctor.

Born in Naples, Italy on July 22, 1529 and baptized Caesare de Rossi, St. Lawrence of Brindisi was given what was considered at the time to be a Conventional Franciscan education. He had an uncle who also helped in his education. At the age of 16, he joined the Capuchin Order of the Franciscans and then accepted his new name of Lawrence.

St. Lawrence was a Man of Great Learning

He began his preaching career in Northern Italy and quickly developed a reputation for being a powerful and effective homilist. Becoming Definitor General of the Capuchins in Rome, he was sent to combat Lutheranism in Germany where he founded many friaries, as well as in Prague, Vienna, Gorizia, Bohemia, Austria, Madrid and

Styria. After his ordination, St. Lawrence became a popular preacher and delivered many powerful homilies. Because he could speak Hebrew, he worked for the conversion of the Jews living in Rome. Owing to his wonderful memory he mastered not only the principal European languages, but also most of the Semitic

tongues. It was said he knew the entire original text of the Bible. Such a knowledge, in the eyes of many, could be accounted for only by supernatural assistance, and, during the process of beatification, the examiners of the saint's writings rendered the following judgment: "Vere inter sanctos Ecclesiae doctores adnumerari potest." (These are the words used when a saint's writings make him a Doctor of the Church.)

In 1596, he became a high-ranking superior in the order, and five years later was sent to Germany with Blessed Benedict of Urbino. They founded several priories throughout Europe. Lawrence also helped to raise an army

to combat the Turks in Hungary, where he won a battle against them by leading the troops into battle with only a crucifix to protect himself.

The Warrior Side of St. Lawrence of Brindisi

It might seem a little odd that a Capuchin Franciscan would aid in raising an army, but St. Lawrence of Brindisi did just that. When the Turks threatened to invade all of Hungary, he gathered all the men and actually led them into the battle. The victory was attributed by many to him. He spent many of his later years as a peacemaker in



his new role as Vicar General of the Capuchin Franciscans and Papal Nuncio. One of the many victories attributed to him included convincing French King Philip III to join the Catholic League and avoid another war. He prevented more than one. He averted an uprising in Spain due to his intervention with the Spanish Duke and Envoy.

In 1602, St. Lawrence became the master general of his order. He worked, preached and wrote to spread the Good News. He went on important peace missions to Munich, Germany, and Madrid, Spain. The rulers of those places listened to him and the missions were successful. But St. Lawrence became very ill. He had been tired out by the hard traveling and the strain of his tasks. He died on his birthday, July 22, in 1619. He was proclaimed a saint by Pope Leo XIII in 1881. He was honored as "apostolic doctor" by Pope John XXIII in 1959.

St. Lawrence was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1959 by Pope John XIII. He was the first Capuchin to be honored as a Doctor of the Church. Like his spiritual father, St. Francis of Assisi, he had an ardent devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God. He was the first to write on all aspects of theology that concern the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Lawrence of Brindisi's Personal Sanctification and Written Works

Amid so many various undertakings, he found time for the practices of personal sanctification. And it is perhaps the greatest marvel of his life to have combined with duties so manifold an unusually intense inner life. In the practice of the religious virtues, St. Lawrence equals the greatest saints. He had, to a high degree, the gift of contemplation, and very rarely celebrated Holy Mass without falling into ecstasies. After the Holy Sacrifice, his great devotion was the Rosary and the Office of the Blessed Virgin. As in the case of St. Francis of Assisi, there was something poetical about his piety, which often burst forth into canticles to the Blessed Virgin. It was in

Mary's name that he worked his miracles, and his favorite blessing was: "Nos cum prole pia benedicat Virgo Maria."

His written works included some controversial pieces against the Lutherans and a commentary on Genesis, but his main contributions are in the nine volumes of his sermons. His works are as follows:

Opera Omnia (Complete Works Consisting of Eighty Five Letters and St. Lawrence's Collected Sermons), The Hypotyposis of Martin Luther, The Hypotyposis of Lutheranism, The Hypotyposis of Polycarp Laiser, Lutheranismi Hypotyposis, Mariale (Consisting of 84 Sermons).

The Twenty Ninth Doctor of the Catholic Church

The Thirty First Doctor of the Catholic Church

"God is love, and all his operations proceed from love. Once he wills to manifest that goodness by sharing his love outside himself, then the Incarnation becomes the supreme manifestation of his goodness and love and glory. So, Christ was intended before all other creatures and for his own sake. For him all things were created and to him all things must be subject, and God loves all creatures in and because of Christ. Christ is the first-born of every creature, and the whole of humanity as well as the created world finds its foundation and meaning in him. Moreover, this would have been the case even if Adam had not sinned."

~ St. Lawrence of Brindisi ☐

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GOD TOUCHED ME

REMEMBERING RO - HER LEGACY

PART 2 OF 2

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

By LH and Friends of Ro

Rowena passed on but the group prayers continued. The Nine-Day Novena for the faithful departed down to the 40th day of prayers for the eternal repose of her soul was attended by even more people. Rowena's inspiring spiritual journey spread by word of mouth and through the homilies of Fathers Tom and Julius and Deacon Tony – who talked about the inspiring way she lived her life during the Sunday Masses at her parish. Rowena's death brought into her friends' consciousness the merits of praying for the souls of deceased relatives and friends that even their children caught on. Some parents at school overheard Brooklyn (Ruth and Bon's daughter and Rowena's Godchild) trying to explain to her group of second-graders how important going to Church is and how we should remember the poor souls in purgatory in our prayers for their speedy trip to Heaven. Mernie and Pam, on the other hand, have since then learned to conquer their fears of the spirit of those who have passed on as they continue praying for their eternal rest. Denise, shaken, not only of Rowena's passing but also of relatives and another close friend, didn't just pray but also started going back to Church gradually. She made a complete 180-degree turn in her life. Her priorities have changed since then, and she continues to seek to be better spiritually.

This same group of Rowena's prayer warriors, led by her husband JJ, founded the 1st Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the Poor Souls in Purgatory, Chino Hills, after Rowena's 40th Day of passing on. The group has faithfully offered prayers for the poor souls in purgatory every 1st Friday of the month, nearing its 1st year anniversary on September 6. The members and their young children continue to beautifully survive Friday night traffic to Chino Hills, arriving back home around midnight and getting ready for the 8:30 A.M. 1st Saturday devotion in Los Angeles which is 38.2 miles away.

It has been a year since then and Rowena's legacy lives on. At St. Paul the Apostle Church, Rya continues to be a Eucharistic Minister. Since that summer, she has been a CCD teacher and is pleasantly surprised how far God has taught her about the exercise of patience with children. Ruth and Bon, Jen and Jon, and Denise and Gerrard attended its Marriage Enrichment program in the Fall of 2013 in honor of Rowena. The following Spring (March 2014), these same couples actively assisted in and successfully encouraged several "older" couples in the Army to join the program.

Ruth is certain that nothing in this life is coincidence. Each and every one of them was placed by God where He

wanted them to be in Rowena's book of life. Rowena is living proof that what's most important in life is our own personal relationship with God – His purpose in each and every one of us. In Rowena's death, Pam's desire to go to Heaven when God calls was suddenly burning in her heart. Does she have a check mark on all the prerequisites for this ultimate trip? Vivien has come to realize that a relationship with God is much more than just praying and going to Church. It is living the moment and being really present in the lives of the people around you, just as God is always present and living in you! Mernie, on the other hand, has learned to love more through faith. Her relationship with her loved ones is closer now, she has chosen not to sweat the small stuff anymore, allowing into her circle, only those with positive influences in her life. She is currently assisting to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, is a volunteer and an athlete for Mommy & Me Cancer Foundation. Rya doesn't get frustrated as she used to. She is thankful for every day she spends with her family and makes each day special. Jen always thought that she was either too busy or wasn't ready to be spiritual but now confesses that Rowena's relationship with God has helped her through the hurdles and obstacles of life. She has learned to let go and let God – and saw for herself how everything turned out to be better than what she has wished for!

Marilyn continues to be faithful to what God has called her to do – to sing Him worship and praises. It doesn't matter how long choir practice takes or where it is taking place. She will be there. To me, she's the "magnet" to God's physically and spiritually sick children – she is aware of so many needing and wanting intercessory prayers. And how the little children are so drawn to her – it must be the "little child" in her. Her faith and her relationship with God is manifest in how she is always ready to be there for anyone who needs help. Ruth is indebted to Ro as God's instrument through whom He has made known that His beautiful, mysterious plan always has a purpose over and beyond our understanding. Her heart has now been opened wide to receive God's enormous love for us, His children, and allowing Him to be His instrument to bring His love to others.

In all these graces of transformation, these women are not alone. They take not only their husbands and parents, but also their young children, nieces and nephews as well. It is encouraging to know that they introduce God, Mother Mary and their guardian angels to them early on. Their participation in our special

celebrations – seeing them all dressed up, singing, dancing and taking on the readings and the prayer of the faithful is heartening. Our miraculous Infant Jesus must be very pleased to see future devotees in His age group!

These young families now pray more together – a daughter is tasked to wake Daddy up when it's time for prayers. Some wives are making some progress in encouraging their husbands to attend Mass on Sundays. A family now prays the Rosary a little more regularly than before.

The exact date of Rowena's 1st year anniversary of death is June 27 – the Friday this year 2014 that the Catholic faithful celebrates the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus! Is this our Lord's way of telling the group He is pleased with their works of love and that He is present in their hearts all the time or is it just mere coincidence?

All throughout her journey, Rowena's faith is not just believing in her head and in her heart. It is believing in her life that God has willed for her – she demonstrated her faith in her action, words and influence. She was bold about her faith, which is now likewise evident in the people she touched with her life. Her dear and near ones, who just like her, God wants to re-create as His willing instruments. As God declares: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

Praise and thank God for these young families that He has brought into His Army!

Father God, please ignite us all to a higher calling and a bigger vision of what You want to do with us. Use us in our families and friends, in our respective parishes, in our workplaces, in our communities and beyond, to do the work of Jesus and use us in ways that we don't even think is possible. Most of all, dear Father, let Your plan manifest through us to lead others to believe and have faith in You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. •□

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

Intense heat will be felt all over the world much higher than normal and some parts will be all water rising abnormally. Movements of earth will intensify. The light that shines will be the sign that will start the tribulation of humanity that God Almighty renders the cleansing of unrighteous from righteous! This will be series of occurrences and events my children. So prepare spiritually and physically!

*- Blessed Mother
061714*

.... I am your Mother Mary.

This is the day of offering yourself and also the day that you think of others. God is pleased when you forget yourselves and just allow our love for others to prevail.

Even in petitions you would like to be fulfilled, think of others than yourself. This is a good sign of relinquishing from the bondage of pride. The Lord God becomes even more pleased on souls who foresee the needs of their neighbors. Stay with me my children on this day when praises are heard by God from sincere hearts who acclaim them.

I love you my children and thank you for adhering to this call.

*- Mary, Your Lady of Grace
061414*

Is it Too Late to Make a Difference?

Did you know that prayer from unrepentant people is an insult to Almighty God? Religion without righteousness is repugnant. In May we held a day of prayer where even Washington politicians gathered to pray. Yet the cesspools of iniquity are full and running over. We spend six days a week sowing wild oats and Sunday praying for crop failure. So much of our praying is "God bless us. Just bless us, anyhow." But God is not going to do that. We must confess and turn from our wicked ways.

We Must Speak Up

"Let Thy hand be upon the man of Thy right hand, upon the Son of Man whom Thou madest strong for Thyself" Psalm 80:17

Clearly and strongly, in the name of Jesus, we must speak up. Some would say, "Sounds like you're trying to mix politics and religion." No. The church is not the master of the state, nor is the church the servant of the state. The church is the conscience of the state. We need to speak up and say what God's Word says. Satan's strategy is to keep good people silent in evil times.

We Must Stand Up

Finally, we must stand up bravely.

"So will not we go back from Thee: quicken us, and we will call upon Thy name." Psalm 80:18 "One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the Lord your God, He it is that fighteth for you, as He hath promised you." Joshua 23:10

When they tell us to go back under a rock, we must reply, "Never! We stand on The Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ!" We don't have to have great numbers. Our Savior began His ministry when He was just thirty years old with twelve men. It's time God's people were filled with an unshakeable resolve.

It's time we said, "Oh God, give us deliverance!" We have the Word, our weapon for battle. We have Jesus, our commander. The Holy Spirit is our ally. Victory is ours through the Man of God's right hand, Jesus Christ. □

Continued from Page 3

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Finally, devotion means imitation. In other words, if Christ showed His love for us by the shedding of His Blood, we are to show our love for Him - I mean everything I am saying - we are to show our love for Him by the shedding of our blood. That is what the Church means when she has us say that when Christ offers Himself daily on the altar in the Sacrifice of the Mass, we are told to identify that as our sacrifice - His and ours. He, the Head of the Mystical Body, can no longer suffer, but thank God, we can!

This shedding of blood, I have not tired of repeating since my ordination, that we are living in the most heroic age of martyrs in the history of Christianity. I mean it. Countless millions of Christians who believe in the Precious Blood are proving their love for Him by their sufferings. Many by now in our century have shed and are shedding their blood physically. What a privilege! What a privilege if we were called to shed our blood physically in the Name of, and out of love for Christ!

And I don't hesitate recommending praying for the gift of martyrdom. But even if it is not God's Will that we shed our blood for Christ, to manifest our love for Him physically, let's make sure, absolutely sure, that we let no opportunity go by without shedding our blood spiritually. And that, my friends, no matter what our state of life, no matter what our vocation may be, if we are Christians, we are meant to shed our blood! □

Continued from Page 4

Choosing the "Better Part"

Facing Our Distractions with Hope. If we want to grow closer to Jesus, then we need to address both the lower-level distractions and the higher-level ones. Jesus told the adulterous woman to go and sin no more (John 8:11). He told the man at the pool of Bethesda to avoid further sin (5:14). He even told the apostles to stop fighting among themselves and to concentrate on serving each other instead (Luke 22:24-26). In the same way, Jesus wants us to examine ourselves and see if we are being distracted by any of these lower-level lures.

At the same time, we need to be on guard against the "good" distractions, such as our work, our financial responsibilities, our marriages, and our families. As important as these activities and responsibilities may be, they too have the power to turn our attention away from Jesus by offering us a false sense of security or fulfillment.

It sounds like a lot of hard work, doesn't it? But before you lose hope and conclude that you can't manage all the distractions in your life, consider this: Jesus was tempted by one empty promise after another. He knows firsthand how difficult it is to resist temptation. He also knows how much we are tempted every day. Just think: Jesus knew all of this when he spoke to Martha, and still he called her to change. Evidently, Jesus believed that Martha could change. And what's even more encouraging, we can bet that Jesus was ready to help Martha overcome her distractions - just as he stands ready even today to give us the grace we need to overcome. □

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**.
- Much has been written and said about Thomas' weakness of faith. St. Gregory the Great saw

God's providential ways: The unbelief of Thomas has benefited us more than the faith of Magdalene. Should we not then reflect on our own failings? So often do we make the firmest resolutions to avoid this or that fault, and yet how easily we repeat it. Give some thought to God's ultimate purpose in permitting your faults and to how valuable for our soul's progress is the realization of our weakness and wretchedness.

- If you have not already done so, have a priest enroll you in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, or popularly known as the "Brown Scapular" and begin wearing it as a sign of your love for Our Lady. A priest enrolls people in the Brown Scapular only once. The Scapular can then be replaced afterwards by other scapulars.
- Remember your grandparents on July 26, the Feast Day of Jesus' Grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne. □

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 Lord for my good health! Thank you Mother Mary for your loving intercession through your Rosary Novena!

Cora Publico

We thank God for all graduates, especially Marian Lumba, and we pray that they may never forget to look back and be grateful to all who have touched their lives; may the Holy Spirit enlighten their hearts and minds and guide their endeavors as they embark on a journey to build a better future.

Mila Lumba

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 July 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

Guada Eugenio | Mila Lumba | Evelyn Pua
Nicet Santos | Gertrude Regalado

Los Angeles, California

Tessie Almero | Regina Asuncion
Dorothy Ikeri | Carmen Mora
Marivic Punzalan | Lilia Tuazon

Coordinators

Tessie Almero | Lilia Tuazon

SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

FEAST DAY OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND

Every 1st Sunday of August, The Spiritual Army of God the Father celebrates the Feast of the Father of All Mankind. This particular Sunday is also the day to pray the 8th day of the Holy Octave of Consecration to God the Father. This Holy Octave prayers start on the Sunday before the said Feast day. Therefore, this year, the Holy Octave Consecration prayers will start on July 27 and the Feast day will be on August 3.

On July 1, 1932, The Eternal Father told Mother Eugenia Elisabetta Ravasio "I desire only this: that one day, or at least a Sunday, be dedicated to me under the title of Father of All Mankind." Since August is the 8th month of the year, the 1st Sunday of August has been set aside as the Feast of the Father of All Mankind. The Spiritual Army of God the Father celebrates this occasion in Los Angeles and Las Vegas (please see Upcoming Events for more details). And every 1st Sunday of the month we have the Devotion to the Eternal Father.

This Devotion to God the Father is not an organization but a DEVOTION initiated by people who share a common goal of making the 1st Sunday of August the Official Feast of God the Father under the title Father of All Mankind.

With that said, we ask you to join us on August 3, 2014 for the celebration of the Eternal Father Feast Day.

In addition, please join us every 1st Sunday of the Month for devotional prayers to the Eternal Father in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and San Diego. Please see our Devotion Schedule for more details.

All these we do for the Glory of God Our Father and for the Salvation of all. God Bless us all!

ORDINATION OF ABBE' JOEL JOSEPH ESTRADA

The Spiritual Army of God the Father announces with great joy the ordination of its very own Reverend Deacon Abbe' Joel Joseph Estrada on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, Feast of Our Lady of the Snows, at St. Francis de Sales Oratory in Saint Louis, Missouri. The Mass of Priestly Ordination will be celebrated by His Eminence, Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, Prefect of Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura.

The First Mass of the newly ordained Reverend Cannon Joel Estrada will be offered on Wednesday, August 6.

Please pray that he may be always faithful as an ordained son of Christ the King Sovereign Priest at the service of Holy Mother Church and for the good of souls. And pray that Almighty God will send us many more holy young men to carry out our apostolate of bringing the Mercy of God to All.

Devotees Thelma Zamora and family, Denise Dizon-Gier, Victor, Alice & April Araneta, together with the Estrada clan will travel to Missouri to witness this Holy Event.

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

AND

ST. BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH
220 N. 14TH STREET
LAS VEGAS NV 89101.

CELEBRATION STARTS
AT 11:00 AM

MASS AT 11:30 AM

AND HOLY OCTAVE PRAYERS TO FOLLOW AFTER THE LITURGICAL CELEBRATION.

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 – July 19, 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 – July 12, 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