



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

March 2019

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## COME INTO THE DESERT

*By Joe Difato, Publisher The Word Among Us  
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Have you ever noticed how quickly we take control of our lives when things are going well, but when a crisis arises we quickly and instinctively turn to God? It seems to be an all-too-human response.

Being lost in a desert for forty days with no way out would certainly qualify as a crisis. You would have to live without the normal conveniences of life: cars, grocery stores, air conditioning, or cell phones. You would have to ration your food and water so that you don't run out. With all of that, as well as the unrelenting heat beating down on you every day, you'd be miserable. It would be hard not to turn to God and ask for help!

This is why the Church has a Lenten season. During Lent we take a step back from our day-to-day activities so that we can spend more time with Jesus. We also back away a bit from our comfort so that we will feel moved to seek God's help.

Self-denial and deprivation are central to the season of Lent. Experience tells us that we don't have much room for God when we are too busy or when we are feeling satisfied. And so denying ourselves helps us create the space we need for the Lord to come into our hearts a little more deeply.

Emptied and Exalted. Jesus "emptied himself" when he came to earth (Philippians 2:7). He emptied himself of his glory. He emptied himself of his comfort. He even emptied himself of his human life when he died on the cross. Because of Jesus' humility and self-emptying, God rewarded him greatly. Jesus was exalted above everything because of the way he chose to live.

The same thing can happen to us as we empty ourselves in order to make room for Jesus. We'll be drawn closer to him. We'll be more joyful. We'll be more lighthearted. As Jesus promised, "Whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).



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# FEASTS FOR MARCH

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

- 3 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
- 4 Casimir of Poland, Opt. Mem.
- 7 Perpetua and Felicity, Memorial
- 8 John of God, Opt. Mem.
- 9 Frances of Rome, Opt. Mem.
- 10 First Sunday of Lent, Sunday
- 17 Second Sunday of Lent, Sunday
- 18 Cyril of Jerusalem, Opt. Mem.
- 19 Joseph, husband of Mary, Solemnity

- 23 Turibio de Mogrovejo, Opt. Mem.
- 24 Third Sunday of Lent, Sunday
- 25 Annunciation of the Lord
- 31 Fourth Sunday of Lent, Sunday

The feast of St. Katharine Drexel (March 3), is superseded by the Sunday liturgy. ☐

## THANK YOU

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

*Psalm 106:2*

## DEVOTION SPONSORS

<p><u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u></p> <p>2000 Hail Mary Devotion March 23, 2019</p> <p>Ines Carrington   Guada Eugenio Mila Lumba   Evelyn Pua Nicet Santos</p>	<p><u>Los Angeles, California</u></p> <p>2000 Hail Mary Devotion March 16, 2019</p> <p>Nona Alapag   Miles &amp; Edith Avanzado Marilyn Batino   Gladys Makabenta Josie Manaois   Alice Ng</p>
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### OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

### THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

# GOD TOUCHED ME

## GOD'S HEALING HANDS

by Emilie Agcaoili

*Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved,  
for you are the one I praise.*

*Jeremiah 17:14*

I have not joined any of the prayer devotions of The Spiritual Army of God the Father not because I did not want to, but because I work on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. However, I have been in contact with Evelyn Pua, twice on the phone, and the rest through my colleague, Debbie Lorenzo. This is a story of my son's physical healing journey.

A year ago, my son and I went to the Philippines to visit my other children and other relatives. Months before we left, my son had an open wound on his leg. Although he was diabetic, we have not connected this wound with his illness.

During our visit in the Philippines, his wound got worst until he was hospitalized. He was very ill and was comatose. Since my vacation time was almost over, I had to leave him under the care of his siblings because he was not fit to travel. When I got back to work, I told my co-

workers about his predicament. Debbie immediately called Evelyn and requested for prayers for my son. Several weeks after, my son woke up from the coma, and after a while was able to walk around and finally discharged from the hospital.



While recuperating at our ancestral home, his siblings would take him to the different religious sites and to church to pray for healing. All these prayers helped boost his hope and after half a year, he was fit to come back to Las Vegas. Fortunately, with God's grace, he was accepted to go back to work with the same employer.

We thank everyone for all the prayers asking for mercy for my son, Lawrence Agcaoili. Not only was this a miracle of physical healing but also a miracle of spiritual healing as we became closer to God during this time. We pray that we continue to maintain, or even become better with our spiritual relationship. ☐

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*I am your Mother Mary. Pray for the unborn fetuses and babies in their mothers' wombs. Selection and elimination of gender will soon be introduced by Satan's minions to humanity. Pray my children. God's anger is exploding into wrath. I'll pray for you and humanity before my Son Jesus.*

*Mary, the Lady in Blue 02012019*

*I am your Mother Mary. This is the crucial time that you have now. Pray for all priests and religious. Satan is focusing his attacks on them. More are falling into destruct. Pray for all priests. The burden is unbearable from start and everywhere even in their thinking of the rights of the unborn. Pray my children. Pray, pray, pray intently.*

*Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary 02162019*

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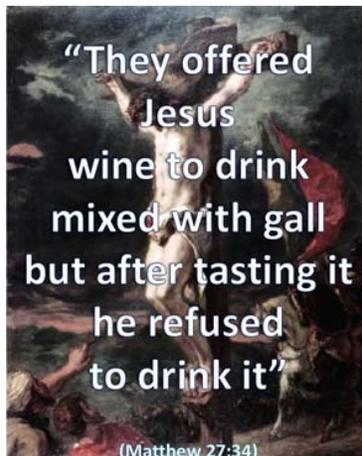
# SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

## SEEKING INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THROUGH THE BIBLE

### GOD UNDERSTANDS OUR SUFFERINGS

By Victor Araneta

Before the nail was pounded, a drink was offered. St. Mark says the wine was mixed with gall. Both myrrh and gall contain sedative properties that numb the senses. But Jesus refused them. He refused to be affected by the drugs, opting instead to feel the full force of His suffering. Why? Why did he endure all these feelings? Because He knew salvation must be lasting through example, and that He would like us to feel that too in our own lives, even if it's just a fraction of what He had endured. God knew at the very start we will face pain, we will be grief-stricken, stressed and hungry. If not the pain of the body, the pain of the soul . . . pain too intense for any drug. But we will endure, if this pain is covered with our love for Him and our endurance is always in harmony with Christ's passion and example.



*Continued from Page 1*

### COME TO THE DESERT

Of course, we are not talking about an actual forty-day trip into a desert. We are talking about making ourselves hungry for God over the next forty days. This may involve choosing to eat less food or watch less television. It may involve giving up our free time to serve the poor, prisoners, or the elderly.

Whatever you choose to do during your time in the desert, remember that Lent is not only about emptying ourselves. It's also about filling our time with things that will draw us closer to God: prayer and Scripture reading, meditation and reflection, Mass and Confession, or anything else that opens us up to God's grace.

I'd like to ask all of us to go into the desert together by choosing the way of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Let's put aside the comforts of the world and our own sense of self-reliance for the next forty days so that we can draw closer to God.

May God bless you and your loved ones this Lent. ☐

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAYS AT THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER

### THE 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019  
IN LOS ANGELES:  
THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER  
MASS IS AT 8:30 AM

IN LAS VEGAS:  
THE CENACLE HOUSE  
8455 WEST SAHARA AVENUE #172,  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89117

### THE APPARITION JOURNEY WITH THE BLESSED ONE

[IN IRELAND, BELGIUM, GERMANY, & AUSTRIA]

DECEMBER 8 – 17, 2019  
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG](http://WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG)