



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

MARCH 2024

## LENT: THE GRACE TO BE MERCIFUL

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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1<sup>ST</sup> 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.

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GROWING UP IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, DURING HURRICANE SEASON, OUR CHURCH WOULD RECITE A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION AGAINST STORMS. AFTER A DECADE-LONG HIATUS FROM THE PRAYER, TO MY SURPRISE, THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER I HAVE FOUND MYSELF MENTALLY RECITING IT:

"GOD OUR FATHER, CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE AND LORD OVER ALL CREATION, WE HUMBLY STAND BEFORE YOU AS YOUR CHILDREN AND ASK THAT YOU KEEP US SAFE FROM ALL STORMS WHICH MAY THREATEN US. PROTECT US FROM ALL FEAR AND ANXIETY OF STORMS, AND GIVE US AN ARDENT TRUST AND HOPE IN YOUR

LOVE AND MERCY. YOU ALONE HAVE THE POWER TO COMMAND THE SEA, THE WIND AND THE RAIN. YOU ALONE BRING PEACE, CALM AND SAFETY. FATHER, WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE, FOR YOU ARE OUR ONLY REFUGE. WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, GOD FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN."

THE PRAYER SHOWCASES THAT GOD, WHO CREATED AND HAS POWER OVER THE OCEAN WAVES THAT CAN ENGULF THE BEACH AND POUND THE SHORELINE, IS ALMIGHTY. RECOGNIZING THAT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD, WE GROW IN FAITH AND BELIEVE THAT, AS WE READ IN THE GOSPEL TODAY, GOD HAS THE POWER TO ADMINISTER OR WITHHOLD JUDGMENT AND CONDEMNATION, TO FORGIVE AND TO MEASURE OUT GIFTS.



*CONTINUED ON PAGE 5*

## FEASTS FOR MARCH

THE FEASTS ON THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH ARE:

- 3 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, SUNDAY
- 4 CASIMIR OF POLAND, OPT. MEM.
- 7 PERPETUA AND FELICITY, OPT. MEM.
- 8 JOHN OF GOD, OPT. MEM.
- 9 FRANCES OF ROME, OPT. MEM.
- 10 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, SUNDAY
- 17 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, SUNDAY
- 18 CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, OPT. MEM.
- 19 JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF MARY, SOLEMNITY
- 23 TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, OPT. MEM.
- 24 PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION, HOLY WEEK
- 25 MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK, HOLY WEEK
- 26 TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, HOLY WEEK
- 27 WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, HOLY WEEK

- 28 HOLY THURSDAY, TRIDUUM
- 29 GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION, TRIDUUM
- 30 HOLY SATURDAY, TRIDUUM
- 31 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, TRIDUUM

THE FEAST OF ST. PATRICK (MARCH 17), IS SUPERSEDED BY THE LENTEN SUNDAY LITURGY.

THIS YEAR THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION WILL BE CELEBRATED ON APRIL 8 SINCE THE 25TH FALLS ON GOOD FRIDAY, AND WILL, THEREFORE, BE SUPERSEDED BY THE HOLY WEEK LITURGY. □

## OUR CENACLE CORNER

SEEKING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD  
THROUGH MEDITATION OF PASSAGES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

*Trust God*

# GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.  
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

## **HOW ST. JOSEPH INSPIRED ONE WOMAN TO DITCH HER DESK JOB AND BECOME A CANDLEMAKER**

*By Theresa Civantos Barber*

*I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in [a]authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and [b]dignity. 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

WHEN SHE PRAYED TO FIND CREATIVE WORK SHE COULD DO FROM HOME, GOD LED HER DOWN A PATH SHE NEVER IMAGINED.

MANY PEOPLE SUFFER THROUGH AN UNFULFILLING CAREER, BUT ANNA CAMACHO TURNED TO PRAYER. FOR OVER SIX YEARS, SHE ASKED GOD TO HELP HER FIND CREATIVE WORK SHE COULD DO AT HOME. THE WAY HER PRAYER WAS ANSWERED REVEALED THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL IN ALL THINGS.

SHE HAD TRIED A VARIETY OF JOBS, INCLUDING WORKING AT A SEMINARY, VOLUNTEERING IN A PRISON, NANNYING, RUNNING THE FRONT DESK OF A DOG KENNEL, AND FREELANCE WRITING. FINALLY, SHE WAS WORKING AS MANAGING EDITOR OF A THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL. IT WAS "AN AMAZING ORGANIZATION WITH FANTASTIC PEOPLE," SHE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ALETEIA, BUT "I WAS REALLY UNHAPPY AT MY JOB."

YET THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF HER CAREER ALL SERVED A GREATER PURPOSE. "I LOOK BACK AND SEE HOW PROVIDENCE LED ME THROUGH THOSE VARIOUS JOBS AND PREPARED ME FOR THE MANY HATS I WEAR NOW AS A BUSINESS OWNER."

CAMACHO LEARNED THAT ST. JOSEPH IS THE PATRON SAINT OF WORKERS AND THOSE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, SO SHE BEGAN ASKING FOR HIS INTERCESSION. HER HOPE WAS TO WORK WITH HER HANDS AND DO SOMETHING CREATIVE WHILE WORKING FROM HOME, BUT IT SEEMED LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.

"I WENT TO ST. JOSEPH WITH THIS INTENTION OVER AND OVER AGAIN, FOR SIX YEARS!" SHE RECALLED.

THEN, ONE DAY DURING MASS, EVERYTHING CHANGED IN A FLASH OF INSPIRATION. SHE FINALLY HEARD AN ANSWER TO THE PRAYER SHE HAD HELD FOR YEARS.

"WHILE MEDITATING ON JOSEPH'S LIFE, I WAS SUDDENLY GIVEN THE IDEA TO MAKE CATHOLIC CANDLES WITH SCENTS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE LIVES OF DIFFERENT SAINTS. AND IN THAT SAME MOMENT, I HAD IDEAS FOR FOUR SAINT-INSPIRED SCENTS!"

SHE CALLED IT CORDA, THE LATIN WORD FOR "HEARTS," FROM THE MASS WHEN THE PRIEST SAYS, "LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS" OR "SURSUM CORDA." NOW SHE KNEW WHAT SHE HAD TO DO, BUT FIGURING OUT HOW TO DO IT WAS ANOTHER THING ALTOGETHER. SHE WAS WORKING FULL-TIME, SO SHE HAD TO DO ALL HER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ODD HOURS BEFORE AND AFTER WORK, ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.

BESIDES CREATING CUSTOM SAINT SCENTS, CAMACHO WAS ALSO CREATING A NEW WAX BLEND, DESIGNING CANDLE PACKAGING, BUILDING HER BUSINESS'S WEBSITE, AND DOING "ALL THE MILLIONS OF OTHER THINGS NEEDED TO START A NEW BUSINESS AND LAUNCH NEW PRODUCTS." IT WAS A CRAZY TIME, BUT SHE FOUND PEACE IN HER CERTAINTY THAT THIS WAS WHAT GOD WAS CALLING HER TO DO.

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***Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.  
(Leviticus 19:2)***

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WHEN WE HEAR THIS COMMANDMENT, TWO QUESTIONS COME TO MIND: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HOLY? AND HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET THERE?

THE HEBREW WORD FOR “HOLY” IS KODESH, WHICH MEANS TO BE “SET APART.” WHEN GOD DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS HOLY, HE IS SAYING THAT HE IS DIFFERENT, OR SET APART FROM, ANY CREATURE OR CREATED THING. HE IS TRANSCENDENT, AND IN HIS PERFECT PURITY, HE LACKS NOTHING. GOD’S HOLINESS ISN’T AN ACTION HE DOES; IT IS SIMPLY WHO HE IS. AND INCREDIBLY, IT IS HIS DEEPEST DESIRE TO SHARE THIS HOLINESS WITH US.

SO FOR US TO “BE HOLY” (LEVITICUS 19:2), WE HAVE TO SET OURSELVES APART AND MAKE TIME FOR THE ONE WHO IS ALL HOLY. THAT’S HOW WE OPEN OURSELVES UP TO GOD’S WORK OF TRANSFORMATION IN US. BEFORE BECOMING POPE BENEDICT XVI, THEN CARDINAL JOSEPH RATZINGER POINTED OUT THAT “BEING HOLY DOES NOT MEAN BEING SUPERIOR TO OTHERS; THE SAINT CAN BE VERY WEAK, WITH MANY MISTAKES IN HIS LIFE.” INSTEAD, IT HAS FAR MORE TO DO WITH MAINTAINING A STEADY RHYTHM OF “PROFOUND CONTACT WITH GOD, BEING A FRIEND OF GOD” (OCTOBER 6, 2002, L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO).

JUST AS GOD’S HOLINESS IS A MATTER OF WHO HE IS AND NOT WHAT HE DOES, THE SAME IS TRUE FOR US. THROUGH OUR TIME SPENT WITH THE LORD, HE MAKES US INTO A NEW CREATION. THIS TRANSFORMATION ISN’T THE RESULT OF OUR OWN MORAL FORTITUDE OR STRENGTH OF WILL; IT CAN ONLY COME ABOUT THROUGH A DEEP AND ABIDING FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD. HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRULY HEAL OUR HEARTS AND FILL US WITH HIS OWN GOODNESS AND MERCY.

AS WITH ALL RELATIONSHIPS, GROWING AS A FRIEND OF GOD TAKES HUMILITY AND TIME. IT REQUIRES COMMITMENT ON OUR PART—WE NEED TO SET OURSELVES APART FROM THE WORLD EACH DAY TO BE WITH HIM. IT ALSO MEANS ACCEPTING THAT WE WILL MAKE MISTAKES ALONG THE WAY.

BUT THANKFULLY, WE DO NOT JUST PURSUE FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD; HE IS PURSUING FRIENDSHIP WITH US. BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE, HIS DEEPEST DESIRE IS TO BE WITH US. IN THAT COMMUNION OF LOVE, HE CAN DO WHAT WE COULD NEVER DO ON OUR OWN: HE CAN MAKE US HOLY AS HE IS HOLY.

**“GOD, GIVE ME THE GRACE TO LOOK MORE LIKE YOU EVERY DAY.”**



*“When you bring good things to my devotees, it should be with love, truth and honesty, and this Ministry will last forever. Your force will come from me. Healing and freedom to all will come from me, your God. As you are the witness, the lasting existence will be your legacy to the Ministry of my God the Father, my God, your God, and God of everyone and everything. Do the things you were instructed as I dictated this in your heart.*

*My child, obedience and faith I ask always.*

*Jesus of Nazareth”  
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## LENT: THE GRACE TO BE MERCIFUL

AS WE REFLECT ON JESUS' TEACHINGS ABOUT JUDGING OTHERS, WHICH FOLLOW HIS COMMANDS TO "LOVE YOUR ENEMIES", "DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU" AND "PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU", WE MUST NOT ONLY RECOGNIZE THAT GOD IS ALMIGHTY, BUT WE MUST ALSO REFLECT ON THE MERCY OF GOD, WHICH TEACHES US TO TRUST THAT THROUGH GOD'S COMMANDS, GOD DESIRES OUR GREATEST GOOD.

WHEN I READ THIS PASSAGE, WHERE JESUS CHALLENGES US TO TREAT OUR ENEMIES WITH MERCY, I LIKE TO REFLECT ON JOHN 11:33-35 (RIGHT BEFORE JESUS RAISES HIS FRIEND LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD): "WHEN JESUS SAW HER WEeping AND THE JEWS WHO HAD COME WITH HER WEeping, HE BECAME PERTURBED AND DEEPLY TROUBLED, AND SAID, 'WHERE HAVE YOU LAID HIM?' THEY SAID TO HIM, 'SIR, COME AND SEE.' AND JESUS WEPT."

JESUS SEES OUR SUFFERING AND PAIN; OUR SINS AND FAILINGS; AND OUR HURTS AND THE SLIGHTS DONE AGAINST US. IN HIS MERCY, JESUS IS THERE WITH US, AND HE WEEPS. THEN, LIKE RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, GOD DESIRES FOR US TO FORGIVE AND TO REFRAIN FROM JUDGMENT AND CONDEMNATION THROUGH THE HELP OF GOD'S GRACE.

IN THIS LENTEN SEASON, LET US PRAY FOR THE GRACE TO BE MERCIFUL, JUST AS OUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL. □

## HOW ST. JOSEPH INSPIRED ...

"DURING THOSE YEARS OF ASKING FOR ST. JOSEPH'S INTERCESSION, I HAD A LOT OF IDEAS FOR CREATIVE BUSINESSES," SHE EXPLAINED. EACH TIME SHE WOULD RUN THE NUMBERS AND TALK IT OVER WITH HER HUSBAND, MICHAEL, TO SEE IF THE IDEA WAS VIABLE. BUT NONE ULTIMATELY MADE SENSE TO PURSUE.

"CORDA WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING THERE WAS A SURENESS THAT THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT I HAD BEEN PRAYING FOR. AND THERE WAS ALSO AN INCREDIBLE CONSOLATION WHEN I SHARED THIS NEW IDEA WITH MICHAEL. HIS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WAS THAT THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO!"

DESPITE THE MANY HARD MOMENTS SINCE THEN, SHE'S NEVER HAD A DOUBT THAT THIS IS WHERE SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE. "I STRUGGLE WITH FEAR, ANXIETY, AND DOUBT IN OTHER AREAS OF THE BUSINESS," SHE SAID, BUT "I'VE ALWAYS HAD A TREMENDOUS SENSE OF PEACE ABOUT CORDA ITSELF."

RECENTLY HER HUSBAND JOINED CORDA FULL-TIME, AND AGAIN, THE CAMACHOS FELT PEACE IN THAT DECISION. "WE'RE LEARNING AS WE GO, BOTH HOW TO RUN THE BUSINESS TOGETHER AND HOW TO KEEP TRUSTING IN WHERE WE BELIEVE GOD HAS CALLED US."

SHE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT CANDLEMAKING, BUT CHOSE TO FOLLOW GOD'S CALL INTO SOMETHING UNFAMILIAR. AND IN MANY WAYS, THAT'S A MICROCOSM OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE. "EVERY DAY WE'RE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES, BIG AND SMALL, TO CHOOSE TO TRUST GOD WHEN THE WAY IN FRONT OF US IS UNCLEAR." □

THERESA CIVANTOS BARBER IS AN ASSISTANT EDITOR FOR ALETEIA. SHE HAS WORKED AS AN EDITOR FOR REGNERY PUBLISHING, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO AND MIDWEST THEOLOGICAL FORUM. □

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

### TRUST ME

BY VICTOR ARANETA

ALL OF JESUS' WORDS CAN BE REDUCED INTO TWO : TRUST ME . LET US NOT BE TROUBLED BY THE RETURN OF CHRIST. DO NOT BE WEARY ABOUT THINGS YOU CANNOT COMPREHEND. ISSUES LIKE THE MILLENNIUM AND THE ANTICHRIST ARE MADE TO CHALLENGE AND STRETCH US, BUT NOT OVERWHELM AND CERTAINLY NOT TO DIVIDE US . FOR THE CHRISTIAN, THE RETURN OF CHRIST IS NOT A RIDDLE TO BE SOLVED OR A CODE TO DECIPHER, BUT RATHER A DAY TO BE ANTICIPATED.



JESUS WANTS US TO TRUST HIM. HE DOES NOT WANT US TO BE TROUBLED, SO HE REASSURED US WITH THESE TRUTHS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN HE WILL COME FOR US. AND, WE REALLY DO NOT CARE OR EVEN KNOW WHY HE WOULD COME FOR US. WE HAVE OUR IDEAS AND OPINIONS. BUT MOST OF ALL, WHAT WE HAVE IS FAITH - FAITH THAT HE HAS AMPLE SPACE FOR US. WHERE HE IS, THERE WE WILL BE!

**PRAYER:** WITH ALL THE THINGS HAPPENING AROUND US, INTERPRETING EVERY WORD IN THE BIBLE REGARDING YOUR SECOND COMING, THE ANXIETY THAT BRINGS TO SOME PEOPLE IS ENORMOUS. LORD GOD, STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH AND RESOLVE THAT THINGS WILL HAPPEN AT YOUR TIME-FRAME NOT ON WHAT IS INTERPRETED BY ANY BIBLE SCHOLARS. AND WHEN THIS TIME COMES, WHETHER IT'S CHASTISEMENT, RAPTURE OR THE THREE DAY OF DARKNESS, WE ARE PREPARED IN FAITH AND IN LOVE TO SEE YOU FACE TO FACE, IN JESUS NAME, WE PRAY, AMEN. ☐

## Upcoming Events

### 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY DEVOTION

MARCH 1, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS:  
THE CENACLE HOUSE  
AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM  
AT 8:30 PM  
VIA ZOOM

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

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

MARCH 2, 2024

IN LOS ANGELES:  
ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL  
ST. ANNE FAMILY SERVICES  
155 N. OCCIDENTAL BL.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM  
MASS AT 9:30 AM

IN LAS VEGAS:  
THE CENACLE HOUSE  
AT 1:00 PM

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

IN LAS VEGAS:  
MARCH 3, 2024  
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

### 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

MARCH 16, 2024  
IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE  
AT 8:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM  
MASS AT 9:30 AM

### FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY

APRIL 7, 2024

DETAILS TO FOLLOW