



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

April 2019

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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.

THE "LOOK" OF JESUS

*Monsignor Charles Pope**

Looking on Christ, and allowing him to look on you is a powerful moment of conversion.

I have a large Icon of Christ in my room. What icons from the Eastern tradition do best is to capture "the Look." No matter where I move in the room Christ is looking right at me. His look is intense, though not severe. In the Eastern spirituality, Icons are windows into heaven. Hence this icon is no mere portrait that reminds one of Christ, it is an image which



mediates his presence. When I look upon him, I experience that he knows me. It is a knowing look and a comprehensive look.

The Book of Hebrews says of Jesus, No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account. (Heb 4:13). But his look in the Icon is not fearsome, it is serene and confident. Hence the text from Hebrews goes on to say, Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. (Heb 4:14-16)

Particularly in Mark's Gospel there is great emphasis on the eyes and the look of Jesus. A frequent expression in that Gospel is "And looking at them He said..." Such a phrase or version like it occurs over 25 times in Mark's Gospel referring to Jesus. Looking on Christ, and allowing him to look on you is a powerful moment of conversion. Jesus himself said, For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (Jn 6:40) and the First Letter of John says, What we shall later be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is (1 Jn 3:2).

Keep looking to the Lord in this Easter season, especially in the Most Blessed Sacrament and also in the art that most moves you. Look at him and let him look at you. □

*Pastor of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian parish and popular blogger for the Archdiocese of Washington, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Pastoral Constitution "Gaudium et Spes" and the pastoral letter "Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan" written by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

FEASTS FOR APRIL

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

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 2 Francis of Paola, Opt. Mem. | 28 Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy), Solemnity |
| 4 St. Isidore, Opt. Mem. | 29 Catherine of Siena, Memorial |
| 5 Vincent Ferrer, Opt. Mem. | 30 Pius V; Bl. Marie de l'Incarnacion (Can), Memorial |
| 7 Fifth Sunday of Lent, Sunday | |

11 Stanislaus of Cracow, Memorial
13 Martin I, Opt. Mem.
14 Palm Sunday, Sunday
18 Holy Thursday, Triduum
19 Good Friday, Triduum
20 Holy Saturday, Triduum
21 Easter Sunday, Solemnity

The feast of St. John Baptist de la Salle (April 7) falls on Sunday so is superseded the Sunday liturgy. The feasts of St. Anselm (April 21), St. George and St. Adalbert (April 23), St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (April 24), St. Mark (April 25), Our Lady of Good Counsel (April 26) and St. Louis Mary de Montfort and St. Peter Chanel (April 28) are superseded by the Easter Week liturgy. ☐

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION SPONSORS

<p><u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u> 800 Our Father Devotion April 13, 2019 Maria Luisa Sheets</p>	<p><u>Los Angeles, California</u> 800 Our Father Devotion April 13, 2019 Adriana Arguello Sylvia Melendez</p>
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OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS
SUPERSEDES THE CENACLE CORNER

GOD TOUCHED ME

SPIRITUALLY ENHANCED BY THE CALL

by Mildred Maramag, a devotee

*But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our
Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory now and to eternity.
2 Peter 3:18*

It was a chilly December 27, 2017 Simbang Gabi (Filipino for "Night Mass" is a devotional nine-day series of Masses practiced by Roman Catholics and Aglipayans in the Philippines in anticipation of Christmas). Mass was very early at 5 o'clock in the morning. I never attended such celebration since we arrived here in America in November 2010 but this particular day was different. I wanted to experience how it is celebrated here and more so because that evening we will be flying to the Philippines to celebrate Christmas with my son and his family, with my siblings and my husband's parents and his siblings, too.

After the Mass, parishioners were treated to a Filipino breakfast. The hall was packed so we settled on the railings steps as our table. Beside me was a Filipina. We greeted each other Merry Christmas. I don't usually engage in conversation with strangers but she talked similarly with my beloved sister. Our topic went further to telling her about my 45 days of cancer treatment. She then invited me to attend a prayer ministry which initially brought negative thoughts – prayer group or gossip group? a group riddled with discord, rivalry and maybe not a congregation to be in?

Upon my arrival here in US after a month long vacation, I called her immediately to take on her invitation to attend her group's 1st Saturday Devotion. When I first went, I couldn't enter the Convent as the main door was locked. I called her phone but got no answer. I was already thinking of leaving when a man appeared behind me telling me he was already late for the Mass and has been a non-practicing Catholic for years. I don't know how the door unlocked but we were quickly both able to come in then.

It was a 1st Saturday and also the Feast of Saint Blaise. I thought how lucky and fortunate I was to be there for the blessing of the throat because I have another esophagus issue. I was a bit apprehensive during this initial encounter but the devotees were all welcoming and accommodating. And from then on, I always make sure to attend all the group's devotions -- 1st Saturday, 1st Sunday, 2000 Hail Mary and 800 Our Father devotions. I committed myself not to work on these days. My family very well knows not to schedule bonding activities on these days.

Joining The Spiritual Army of God the Father ministry has changed my life to be a better person. I used to pray a lot but became even more prayerful now. I have learned to be forgiving and understanding, and to think positively. Consequently, I am humbled as my relationship with God continues to be enhanced by the teachings and discussions at each monthly Cenacle of this group of devotees.

In retrospect, my thoughts goes to this man whom I entered the chapel with during my first visit. He was an "angel" sent to ensure that God's plans for me isn't diverted by the forces of the evil one. It was only on the 1st Saturday of April that I found out that the doors at the Convent are left open from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM Monday through Saturday.

God touches us in so many ways – and yet oftentimes we are oblivious! I am so grateful and thankful I was touched through a new friend who I hold close to my heart. Thank you Norma Fuentes for waking me up from a deep slumber!☐

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

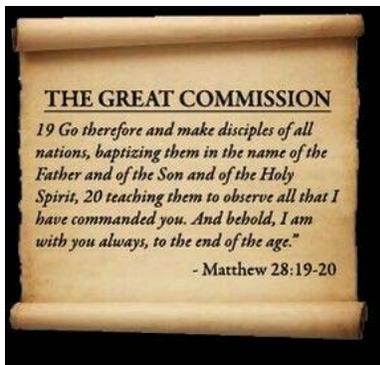
SEEKING INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THROUGH THE BIBLE

GIVE IT AWAY

By Victor Araneta

God never gives us anything to keep for ourselves. Whether it is money, insight, or truth, it has to be shared. Jesus very clearly let His disciples know that the truth He had taught them during the past three years was not to be kept in a personal reservoir of knowledge. They were to give away everything they had received.

In our acts of discipleship, we ask the Lord to make us not bunkers of truth and graces but dispensers of His blessed examples that will show others His face through our loving words and actions. ☐



UPCOMING EVENTS

TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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

THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER
MASS IS AT 8:30 AM

IN LAS VEGAS:
SPONSORED BY MARIA LUISA SHEETS
PLEASE SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS.

DIVINE MERCY FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
1977 CARMEN AVENUE ON GOWER

IN LAS VEGAS:
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH
1111 MICHAEL WAY

MAY CROWNING MAY 4, 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 @ 1:00 PM
8455 WEST SAHARA AVE. #172

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

“The words I have given you on the cross are Gospels of life not in parables but reality of human sufferings.”

Jesus of Nazareth
03022019

“I am your Mother Mary.

Prepare my children and pray unceasingly for your society and for the way people think when they are influenced by the evil one.

The day is coming when you will be forced to adopt ways against the laws of God.

March as the army of God armed with prayers and my beads that will resist and defeat the forces of evil. Prayers and fasting are the best shields from the evil forces.

Spend more time in Adoration, the best way to be with my son Jesus and God”.

Mary, Your Lady Of the Rosary
03162019
