



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

In this Issue

IF THE PROPHET HAD TOLD YOU TO DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY, WOULD YOU NOT HAVE DONE IT?	1
FEASTS FOR APRIL THANK YOU OUR CENACLE CORNER	2
GOD TOUCHED ME	3
SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED UPCOMING EVENTS	6

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IF THE PROPHET HAD TOLD YOU TO DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY, WOULD YOU NOT HAVE DONE IT? (2 KINGS 5:13)

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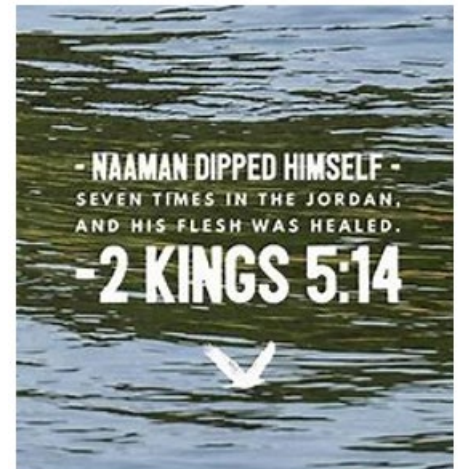
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF THE "KISS" PRINCIPLE: KEEP IT SIMPLE, SWEETHEART! (THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE SEEN OTHER VARIATIONS FOR THE FINAL "S"!) THAT PRINCIPLE MIGHT BE A GOOD WAY TO UNDERSTAND 2 KINGS 5:1-15.

NAAMAN WAS A SUCCESSFUL LEADER IN A CULTURE KNOWN FOR ITS ELABORATE CUSTOMS AND STRICT HIERARCHY. SO BEING AFFLICTED WITH LEPROSY THREATENED NOT JUST HIS HEALTH BUT HIS SOCIAL STATUS AS WELL. SURELY, HE HAD TRIED COMPLICATED CURES AND RIGOROUS REMEDIES, BUT NONE HAD WORKED. WHAT WOULD THIS ISRAELITE PROPHET RECOMMEND?

NAAMAN HAD PROBABLY PICTURED HOW THIS TRANSACTION SHOULD PLAY OUT. THERE WOULD BE FORMAL GREETINGS AND AN EXCHANGE OF GIFTS BEFITTING A FOREIGN DIGNITARY. BUT INSTEAD, ELISHA SNUBS HIM BY NOT EVEN COMING TO THE DOOR.

COMPOUNDING THE INSULT, THE HOLY MAN TELLS HIM TO WASH IN THE LESS-THAN-IMPRESSIVE JORDAN RIVER. HE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR THIS! WHERE WAS THE ELABORATE RITUAL? THE EXOTIC OINTMENT? THE SACRIFICE OF PURIFICATION? IT WAS INSULTINGLY SIMPLE!

LENT IS A TIME FOR US TO SEEK A DEEPER, STRONGER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED. PERHAPS WE ATTACK ASH WEDNESDAY WITH A HEROIC REGIMEN OF PRAYER, FASTING, AND ALMSGIVING. WE SENSE THAT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN IT, BUT WE TRY TO KEEP IT UP ANYWAY, HOPING IT WILL BEAR AWESOME FRUIT. WE MAY EVEN HAVE A LIST OF IDEAS OF HOW THE LORD SHOULD REWARD OUR PIETY.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FEASTS FOR APRIL

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

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|---|---|
| 2 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD | 26 WEDNESDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY |
| 5 HOLY WEDNESDAY [ST. VINCENT FERRER] | 27 THURSDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY |
| 6 HOLY THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | 28 FRIDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY [SAINT PETER CHANEL, PRIEST AND MARTYR; SAINT LOUIS GRIGNION DE MONTFORT, PRIEST] |
| 7 GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD | 29 SATURDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY [SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENNA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH MEMORIAL] |
| 8 HOLY SATURDAY; EASTER VIGIL | 30 SUNDAY, FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER |
| 9 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD | |
| 10 MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | |
| 11 TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | |
| 12 WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | |
| 13 THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | |
| 14 FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | |
| 15 SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER | |
| 16 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY) | |
| 17 MONDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY | |
| 18 TUESDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY | |
| 19 WEDNESDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY | |
| 20 THURSDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY | |
| 21 FRIDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY | |
| 22 SATURDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY | |
| 23 SUNDAY, THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER | |
| 24 MONDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY | |
| 25 TUESDAY, EASTER WEEKDAY [SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST] | |

THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY OFFERS US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN AGAIN AS THOUGH WE WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED. THE UNFATHOMABLE MERCY OF GOD IS MADE MANIFEST TODAY IF WE BUT ACCEPT HIS MOST GRACIOUS OFFER.

EASTER IS THE FEAST OF FEASTS, THE UNALLOYED JOY AND GLADNESS OF ALL CHRISTIANS. THIS TRULY IS "THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE." FROM SUNDAY TO SUNDAY, FROM YEAR TO YEAR, THE EASTERS OF THIS EARTH WILL LEAD US TO THAT BLESSED DAY ON WHICH CHRIST HAS PROMISED THAT HE WILL COME AGAIN WITH GLORY TO TAKE US WITH HIM INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS FATHER. □

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

DEAR FATHER GOD, YOU KNOW I HOW I HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH A MOST DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIP FOR THE LONGEST TIME. I KNOW THAT THE PAST IS A "PLACE OF REFERENCE, NOT A PLACE OF RESIDENCE" – BUT YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME TRUTHS OF THE PAST THAT HAS SHATTERED MY BEING. FORGIVE ME FOR EACH AND EVERY TIME THAT I FAILED YOU, HURTING OTHERS IN THE PROCESS. I DO NOT LIKE THE PERSON I HAVE BECOME. PLEASE HELP TO UPLIFT MY SPIRIT.

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE WATCHING OVER ME AND WILL LEAD ME TO THE FUTURE YOU WANT ME TO TREAD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNCONDITIONAL, UNFAILING LOVE! I PRAY YOU WILL HELP ME BE FAITHFUL TO YOU – BECAUSE I CANNOT DO IT ON MY OWN.

- Y.G.D., A DEVOTEE

GOD TOUCHED ME

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

AHHHH ... MARRIAGE

*A wife of noble character is her husband's crown,
but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones. - Proverbs 12:4*

By Katekist, a devotee

YOU FALL IN LOVE AND YOUR WORLD TURNS UPSIDE DOWN. YOU CAN'T EAT, YOU CAN'T SLEEP, ALWAYS WANTING TO SPEND ALL YOUR DAYS AND TIME WITH THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE. THEN YOU GOT MARRIED, RAISED A FAMILY AND AFTER A WHILE YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE ALREADY EMPTY NESTERS. WHAT A JOURNEY – FROM PULSATING LOVE AT THE BEGINNING, THEN COMES THE STRUGGLES AND JOY IN THE JOURNEY OF LOVE. ALL MARRIAGES, THEY SAY, HAVE FOUR RINGS: ENGAGEMENT RING, WEDDING RING, SUFFERING, AND ENDURING. COME TO THINK OF IT WE ALL GO THROUGH THIS RING PROCESS – THERE IS THIS ROLLERCOASTER OF DESOLATION AND CONSOLATION IN THE PROCESS. SO MUCH HAS TRANSPIRED FROM THE TIME OF FALLING IN LOVE AND NOW AT OUR STAGE OF ENDURING LOVE. DIVORCES OCCUR IN THE SUFFERING STAGE, WHEN RECONCILIATION IS NOT EASY, COMPROMISE IS NOT AT HAND, AND BASICALLY WHEN THERE IS TOO MUCH PAIN. IF WE WITHSTOOD THE STORMS IN THE MARRIAGE, ENDURING LOVE COMES. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE REMAINDER OF OUR JOURNEY BECOMES EASY BUT IT JUST BECOME TOLERABLE AS THIS WHOLE BUSINESS OF MARRIAGE HAS MADE US GROW IN THE PROCESS

I AM A FIRM BELIEVER THAT GOD MATCHES US TO OUR SPOUSE SO WE CAN SAY THAT OUR SPOUSE IS GOD'S GIFT TO US. SELDOM WILL YOU MEET A COUPLE WHO ARE BOTH OBJECTIVE, OTHERWISE COMPETITION WILL ALWAYS BE THE NAME OF THE GAME. NOR DO YOU MEET COUPLES WHO ARE BOTH OPTIMISTIC, OTHERWISE YOU WILL LIVE IN A DREAM WORLD. AND IF YOU ARE BOTH PESSIMISTIC THEN MARRIED LIFE BECOMES A DRUDGERY. THERE MUST BE A BALANCE IN A MARRIAGE AND SO IN ALL STORIES THAT I HEARD FROM THE PEOPLE THAT I MET, THE PREDOMINANT RELATIONSHIP EXPRESSES THIS SYMBIOTIC PAIRING: AN OPTIMIST MARRIED TO A PESSIMIST, AN OBJECTIVE PERSON MARRIED TO AN INTUITIVE ONE, AN EXTROVERT MARRIED TO AN INTROVERT, A SPENDER MARRIED TO A SPENDTHRIFT ETC., ETC. DO NOT GET ME WRONG - MARRIAGE COUNSELORS

HAVE ALWAYS ADVISED US TO MARRY SOMEONE WHO AT LEAST COME FROM THE SAME EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, FINANCIAL STATUS, BELIEFS OR CULTURE – IDEAL IN MY OPINION – BUT STILL, IT IS PERMEATED BY THE SYMBIOTIC DYNAMICS THAT I JUST MENTIONED. I SUSPECT IT WILL BE BORING TO MARRY SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOUR OWN PERSONALITY. SO THEN, I GUESS, MARRIAGE AT ITS BEST IS A COMPROMISE – A BALANCING ACT OF LOVE. SINCE WE ARE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE - THE TENSION, INDIFFERENCE, AND INTOLERANCE ARE NORMAL OCCURRENCES IN A LONG MARRIAGE. BUT IF YOU LOOK PAST THESE THEN YOU ALSO SEE HOW OUR MARRIAGE HAS BUILT TRUST, CARE, COMPASSION, AND THUS ENDURING LOVE. WHEN INTOLERANCE PREVAILS IN MARRIED LIFE IT BREEDS ANGER AND HATRED. THE LONGER YOU NURTURE THE ANGER THE HARDER TO FEEL FREE AS ANGER SUFFOCATES. IT IS DURING THESE TIMES WHEN WE NEED TO RELY ON GOD'S GRACE SO AS TO NOT TO FALL INTO THESE PITFALLS. IT IS DURING THESE TIMES THAT WE NEED TO PRAY MORE – PRAY THAT WE SEE OUR SPOUSE IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT. RECOGNIZE THE LITTLIST THING THAT OUR SPOUSE DOES WHAT WILL MAKE US APPRECIATE HIM/HER. AND GOD WILL NEVER FAIL TO HELP US SEE OUR SPOUSE IN A BETTER PERSPECTIVE.

A PRIEST FRIEND OF MINE ONCE SAID TO SURVIVE A DIFFICULT MARRIAGE, ONE MUST SEE THE SPOUSE AS YOUR MINISTRY IN PRACTICING THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY. I INVITE YOU TO VISIT THESE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY AND DISCOVER HOW APTLY IT APPLIES TO US, MARRIED PEOPLE. HOW APPLICABLE TO OUR OWN SITUATIONS. CHRIST SACRIFICED AND DIED ON THE CROSS FOR US, SO WE TOO, CAN EMBRACE OUR CROSS IN OUR MARRIAGE.

WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF OUR LIVES – WE ARE DELUSIONAL IF YOU THINK WE ARE. GOD IS IN THE DRIVER SEAT OF OUR LIVES; ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS ENJOY THE RIDE. WE LOOK FORWARD, WITH GOD. WHY DO YOU THINK THE WINDSHIELD IS BIGGER THAN THE REARVIEW MIRROR IN

THE CAR? AS GOD IS OUR DRIVER, HE WANTS US TO LOOK FORWARD, TO HOPE AND TO HOLD ON TO HIM. THE REARVIEW MIRROR IS SO SMALL IN COMPARISON, SO GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO LOOK BACK. LEAVE THE HATE AND ANGER IN THE PAST. EASY TO SAY BUT WE ARE GIVEN THE GRACE TO ENDURE.

ABOUT 12 YEARS AGO, MY HUSBAND HAD A MID-LIFE CRISIS AND THIS CRISIS IMPACTED OUR MARRIAGE, IT WAS TRULY A HARROWING JOURNEY FOR BOTH OF US. IT WAS A PAINFUL TIME – EVERYTHING WAS BLEAK AND BLACK FOR ME. I ENDURED THE PAIN FOR THE SAKE OF KEEPING THE FAMILY TOGETHER. WITH THE HELP OF TWO PRIESTS, A THERAPIST, AND THREE LOVING FRIENDS WE WERE ABLE TO ENDURE THE PAINFUL PROCESS OF HEALING. IT TOOK 3 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL THERAPY ON MY END TO BE ABLE TO MOVE ON PAST THE HURT AND PAIN. I WAS TOLD THAT GOD DOES NOT WRITE IN STRAIGHT LINES AND NO MATTER HOW CROOKED THE LINE IS, GOD IS THERE IN THE CROOKEDNESS OF OUR MARRIAGE. AND TRUE ENOUGH, HE IS PRESENT IN THE CROOKEDNESS OF LIFE. WE WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE MAJOR STORM IN OUR MARRIED LIFE. IT WAS NOT EASY BUT WITH GOD’S GRACE IT BECAME BEARABLE. HEALING FOLLOWED, GOD HEALS IN HIS OWN TIME. ULTIMATELY, GOD IS THE TAPESTRY WEAVER OF OUR LIFE – WEAVING OF OUR LIVES CONTINUES IN DIFFERENT COLORS BUT WE DO NOT SEE THE END PRODUCT. ONLY GOD KNOWS HOW THE TAPESTRY WILL BE COMPLETED BUT I AM PRETTY CONVINCED THAT AT THE END OF THE WEAVING IT WOULD TURN TO SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MASTERPIECE. AND SO IS TRUE IN MARRIAGE. TRUST IN GOD. PRAY TO GOD FOR HIS GRACE. □



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IF THE PROPHET HAD TOLD YOU ...

BUT GOD’S GRACE IS SO ACCESSIBLE THAT WE JUST HAVE TO ASK FOR IT. OUR ELABORATE PRAYERS DON’T CHANGE GOD. IT’S QUITE THE OPPOSITE. WHEN WE COME TO HIM WITH HUMILITY AND SIMPLICITY, HE CHANGES US. MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, JESUS IS LOOKING FOR HEARTS THAT ARE OPEN AND READY TO RECEIVE HIS WORD AND ACT ON IT. HE IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO TRANSFORM THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES SIMPLY BY WELCOMING HIM TO BE A PART OF THEM.

SO SET ASIDE THE COMPLEXITIES ON THIS LENTEN JOURNEY. SET ASIDE TIME TO SIMPLY BE WITH JESUS. HE JUST WANTS TO BE NEAR YOU.

“JESUS, LET ME SIMPLY FOLLOW YOU TODAY!”

*“My children, I am your Mother Mary.
Pray unceasingly for peace . The time has come
where the forces of evil have enveloped the world.
Darkness will come and the situation will be
unimaginable than you have ever thought.*

*I have warned this in Garabandal,
La Salette and Fatima .*

*My children prepare the blessed candles and
blessed grapes. The time of this pestilence is
only known to Eternal Father,
but it will be sooner than you think,
my children.*

*Signs will come. Movements of earth and waters
overflowing everywhere. Arm yourselves with
prayers of my beads. If you are inside a chapel,
do Eucharistic Adoration and speak to God
through the body of my Son Jesus. Invoke the
Divine Mercy prayer which will penetrate
the very heart of our Merciful Father.*

*BELIEVE, PENANCE AND PRAYERS,
MY CHILDREN”*

*Mary, Your Lady of Peace
03282023*

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

ANGELS TO STRENGTHEN US

BY VICTOR ARANETA

... "AND THERE APPEARED AN ANGEL UNTO HIM FROM HEAVEN, STRENGTHENING HIM" - LUKE 22:43

JUST A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE JESUS HAD SAID "I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD" AND YET THERE WAS A NEED FOR SPECIAL STRENGTH, AND HIS FATHER SENT AN ANGEL TO STRENGTHEN HIM.



THIS HAS BEEN A WORD OF PEACE TO US. WE ACCEPT OUR FATHER'S WILL AND KNOW THAT HE HAS GIVEN US THE VICTORY OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE DO NEED SPECIAL STRENGTH IF WE ARE NOT TO BREAK DOWN BEFORE THE END. OUR FATHER KNOWS THIS; HE DOES NOT SAY YOU ACCEPTED ALL AT THE BEGINNING. THE HARDSHIP THAT TRIES OUR SPIRIT IN TRIBULATION MUST BE ENDURED WITH ACCEPTANCE AND HOPE.

GOD'S LOVE UNDERSTANDS AND HE SENDS AN ANGEL TO STRENGTHEN YOU AND ENDURE YOUR OWN AGONY AND

PASSION IN LIFE .

PRAYER: LORD GOD I KNOW SOMETIMES I HAVE TO ACCEPT THE CHALICE OF MY OWN PASSION BUT I KNOW MY LORD YOU'RE READY TO SEND AN ANGEL TO CUSHION THE IMPACT OF THIS AGONY. I PRAY THAT THIS ANGEL WILL COMFORT ME IN TIMES OF HOPELESSNESS AND ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR DIVINE WILL, IN JESUS NAME I PRAY. AMEN. ☐



Upcoming Events

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

APRIL 1, 2023

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

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM
MASS AT 9:45 AM
CENACLE AT 10:15 AM

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

APRIL 2, 2023

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

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 10:30 AM
MASS & BENEDICTION AT 11:30 AM

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

APRIL 7, 2023

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

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
AT 9:30 PM

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 16, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS:
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH
DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
1:00 PM

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

APRIL 22, 2023

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 8:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
MASS AT 9:00 AM