



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

May 2015

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## 5 REASONS TO HONOR MARY THIS MAY

*By Marge Fenelon*

It's been a long-standing Catholic tradition to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May. In most Catholic churches (and even in many Catholic homes), a "May Altar" is erected with a statue or picture of Mary, flowers, and perhaps candles. The altar stands from May 1-31 as a reminder of Mary's importance in the life of the Church and in our own lives as well.

Additionally, many Catholic churches and families hold a "May Crowning," presenting Mary with a crown made of blossoms or other hand-crafted materials to signify her queenship as the mother of Christ, the King. I've even seen some crowns made of glistening metal and synthetic jewels.



### WHY IS THE ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY GIVEN TO THE HONORING OF MARY?

The tradition dates all the way back to the ancient Greeks who dedicated the month of

May to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. Romans also claimed May to honor Flora, the goddess of bloom or blossoms. They celebrated "floral games" at the end of April and petitioned Flora's intercession for all that blooms. In medieval times, a tradition arose of expelling winter at this time of year, since May 1 was considered the start of new growth.

It was during the Middle Ages (eleventh century) that the idea of giving the month of May to Mary began with an old tradition, the "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary", which was originally held August 15-September 14. During the month, special devotions to Mary were organized, and this custom, which began in Italy eventually spread elsewhere.

Although we don't see Mary as a goddess of any sort – Catholics do not worship Mary, we honor, or venerate, her as Jesus' mother – we've adapted the early Greek and Roman customs of honoring important women in their religions by honoring the most important woman in our religion: Mary.

Fine. That's why Catholics in general honor Mary during May, but why should you honor her?

*Continued on Page 6*

# OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

The month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. The first 24 days fall within the liturgical season of Easter, which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remainder of the month (beginning the Monday after Pentecost) is in 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.

## A TIME OF GRACE

The world is resplendent with Spring's increased light and new growth. It is Mary's month in the Easter season and all of nature rejoices with the Queen of heaven at the Resurrection of the Son she was worthy to bear. During the remainder of Easter time, let us endeavor through the prayers of the Holy Liturgy and the Holy Rosary to deepen our gratitude for the mystery of our Baptismal rebirth in Christ.

*Continued on Page 6*

## FEASTS FOR MAY

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

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1  | Joseph the Worker, Opt. Mem.   | 24 | Pentecost; Whitsunday, Solemnity                                    |
| 2  | Athanasius, Memorial   | 25 | Bede the Venerable; Gregory VII; Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, Opt. Mem. |
| 3  | Fifth Sunday of Easter, Sunday   | 26 | Philip Neri, Memorial   |
| 10 | Sixth Sunday of Easter, Sunday   | 27 | Augustine of Canterbury, Opt. Mem.                                  |
| 13 | Our Lady of Fatima, Opt. Mem.  | 31 | Trinity Sunday, Solemnity   |
| 14 | Ascension or Matthias, Feast   |    |   |
| 15 | Isidore the Farmer (USA), Opt. Mem.  |    |   |
| 17 | Ascension or the Seventh Sunday of Easter, Solemnity                         |    |   |
| 18 | John I, Opt. Mem.  |    |   |
| 20 | Bernardine of Siena, Opt. Mem.   |    |   |
| 21 | Christopher Magallanes and companions; Eugene de Mazenod (Canada), Opt. Mem. |    |   |
| 22 | Rita of Cascia, Opt. Mem.  |    |   |
- The feasts of Sts. Philip and James (May 3), St. Damian the Leper (May 10) and the Visitation (May 31) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. The Solemnity of the Ascension (May 14) is celebrated on May 17 (Sunday) in most dioceses in the United States. ☐

### OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

#### **There Are Seasons for Everything and Request for Prayers**

Eccl 3:1-16

2 Thes 3:1

#### **Focusing On the Positive**

Luke 15:20

Psalm 37:3-4

Deut 33:14-16

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

## HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER

*In conquering death Jesus has conquered fear of all the terrible consequences we imagine unfolding if we don't get life quite right.*

*By Tim Muldoon*

The account of Jesus' ascent into heaven in the book of the Acts of the Apostles is sparse, but provides the basic story upon which this article of the creed is based.

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. (1:6-9)

In commenting on this story, the author of the Letter to the Ephesians articulates the basic credal pattern: "The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things" (4:10). Jesus came from on high; he pitched his tent among us (cf. Jn. 1:1-14); he returned to the Father (cf. Jn. 20:17).

The language of the credal statement, as well as the texts upon which it is based, are decidedly regal. Obviously "the right hand of the Father" refers to the preeminent place that the Son holds in creation, the one "through whom all things were made," the one who "for us and our salvation came down from heaven." The king's son sits at the king's right hand; the Son of God sits at the right hand of God the Father.

Yet the kind of king referred to in scripture and the creed is different from those of the ancient Near East or Greece. Luke addresses this difference head-on in the lines above from the book of Acts, even though he has already dedicated an entire gospel to telling the story of Jesus'

ministry. Like a good author of a two-part series, he does not assume that his readers have all seen part one, so he hits the key plot point right away. Will Jesus restore the kingdom of David, a kingdom which God gave grudgingly to Israel (cf. 1 Sam. 8)? Of course not, Jesus replies; the Father is not interested in political structures, which are always contrivances to deal with greed. What Jesus tells them to expect upon his ascent is not a political solution to the world's problems, but rather the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that they might be witnesses throughout the earth.

The ascent to heaven is necessary because Jesus has already died and risen from the dead with a glorified body. In conquering death he has conquered fear of all the terrible consequences we imagine unfolding if we don't get life quite right. Freedom from this fear amounts to freedom from temporal ultimatums—that is, the belief that salvation can happen within the world. The great temptation both in ancient Israel and in our contemporary world is to believe that we can truly solve the world's problems—perhaps with the next great invention, or the next great economic structure, or the next great medical discovery. Those things are great, and relieving human suffering is no small matter. But Jesus' ascension into heaven without solving the world's problems is a reminder that only God can truly save the world. Jesus does not commission the disciples to spread democracy, or distribute income more equally, or lobby for human rights: he ascends to heaven and tells them simply to witness. The fruits of that witness will come later. □

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Tim Muldoon holds a Ph.D. in Catholic systematic theology and is an award-winning author and Catholic theologian of the new evangelization.

## THE CALL TO HOLY SURPRISE: REFLECTIONS ON PENTECOST

*The story of Pentecost asks us a question: How do I let my expectations and cynicism close my heart to the new voice rising like a fierce wind?*

*By Christine Valters Paintner*

What is serious to men is often very trivial in the sight of God. What in God might appear to us as "play" is perhaps what He Himself takes most seriously. At any rate the Lord plays and diverts Himself in the garden of His creation, and if we could let go of our own obsession with what we think is the meaning of it all, we might be able to hear His call and follow Him in His mysterious, cosmic dance. ~ Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*

We live in the midst of chaotic times as we witness the meltdown of financial markets and the escalating effects of global warming. As crises continue to build, we may find ourselves confused or fearful. We may want to gather in the upper room of our lives with our closest friends and close the door on a troubled world. Yet chaos always calls for creative response, it always beckons us to open to holy surprise.

This coming Sunday is the feast of Pentecost, that glorious final day of the season of resurrection. The apostles were together experiencing bewilderment over how to move forward when the Holy Spirit flows among them and breathes courage into their hearts.

It says that those who witnessed this event were "amazed and perplexed." Some were confused, others cynical. Peter reminds the crowds of the words the prophet Joel declared, that all will be called to dreams and visions, all will need to be attentive to signs and wonders.

The story of Pentecost asks us a question: How do I let my expectations and cynicism close my heart to the new voice rising like a fierce wind?

The start of Lent probably feels like long ago. We began that journey marked with ashes, reminded of our earthiness and our limitations. Hopefully we laid aside some of what weighs us down so that as we moved from the cross into resurrection, we could be more spacious and open to possibility. Pentecost immerses us in the brilliance of fire and the power of wind, calling us to trust in something bigger than we are, to remember that our imagining is always smaller than the divine reality.

In Benedictine tradition, conversion is a central spiritual practice. Conversion for me essentially means making a commitment to always be surprised by God. Conversion is the recognition that we are all on a journey and always changing. God is always offering us something new within us. Conversion is a commitment to total inner transformation and a free response to the ways God is calling us and to new images of God. Eugene Peterson describes it this way: "What we must never be encouraged to do, although all of us are guilty of it over and over, is to force Scripture to fit our experience. Our experience is too small; it's like trying to put the ocean into a thimble. What we want is to fit into the world revealed by Scripture, to swim in its vast ocean."

Several years ago I was going through an intense period of discernment. I had finished graduate school and found that my desires were no longer in alignment with the path I had initially imagined for myself. I spent long periods of time in silence and solitude, engaging all of the essential techniques for discernment I had learned in my studies and previous practice. I was taking this very seriously because this was my life path I was pondering. Then one night I had a dream about koala bears trying to get a map out of my hands so they could play with me. In my reflection time that followed I discovered a playful God who was calling me to take myself and my discernment far less seriously than I had been. I love to laugh but in my longing to discover the next path, I had forgotten what Merton reminds us in the opening quote: how playfulness is woven into the heart of the universe, how

sometimes what God takes most seriously is what we easily dismiss.

Pentecost demands that we listen with a willing heart, and that we open ourselves to ongoing radical transformation. Soul work is always challenging and calls us beyond our comfort zone. Prayer isn't about baptizing the status quo, but entering into dynamic relationship with the God who always makes things new. Scripture challenges our ingrained patterns of belief, our habitual attitudes and behavior. Conversion is about maintaining what the Buddhists call "Beginner's Mind." St. Benedict speaks to this in his Rule when he says, "always begin again."

To be fully human and alive is to know the tension of our dustiness, our mortality, to be called to a profoundly healthy humility where we acknowledge that we can know very little of the magnificence of the divine Source of all. Once we have journeyed through the desert and stripped away the vestiges of our hubris, we can dance into the new life awaiting us.

The Spirit descends on those gathered together in a small room and breaks the doors wide open. We are reminded that practicing resurrection is not for ourselves alone, but on behalf of a wider community. Not only for those with whom we attend church services, but beyond to the ones who sit at the furthest margins of our awareness. Pentecost is a story of the courage that comes from breaking established boundaries.

We may limit our vision through cynicism, but equally through certainty or cleverness. Sometimes we fear doubt so much that we allow it to make our thoughts rigid, we choose certainties and then never make space for the Spirit to break those open or apart. The things we feel sure that God does not care about may be precisely the source of healing for a broken world.

Life isn't about knowing with more and more certainty. Life is about moving more deeply into the mystery of things. I find that the older I get, the less sure I am about anything and the richer my life becomes as I make space for unknowing, expansiveness, and possibilities far beyond my capacity for imagining. If when Pentecost arrives you do not find yourself perplexed or amazed, consider releasing the tight grip of your certain thoughts and make space for holy surprise.

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Christine Valters Paintner, Ph.D., is a Benedictine Oblate and the online Abbess of Abbey of the Arts, a virtual monastery without walls offering online classes in contemplative practice and creative expression and pilgrimages to Ireland, Germany, and Austria. She is the author of eight books on monasticism and creativity including *The Artist's Rule: Nurturing Your Creative Soul with Monastic Wisdom* (Ave Maria Press) and her forthcoming book *The Soul of a Pilgrim: Eight Practices for the Inner Journey* (Spring 2015, Ave Maria Press). Christine lives as a monk in the world in Galway, Ireland with her husband of twenty years.

# GOD TOUCHED ME

*Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth,  
saying, See, I place my words in your mouth! (Jeremiah 1:9)*

*By Fed*

Crazy about Facebook? Spending so much time checking it out? What do you know - God has touched me when I was on FB. How?

I came across a video posted by a friend on FB. Curious, I played it and listened to the homily of Archbishop Socrates Villegas delivered on the 2015 Summer Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag. His homily has educated us about our blessed Mother. What a suitable way to kick off my merry month of May.

Some stood aghast by it - how can something so sacred be posted on FB? Well, my dear friends, by posting it, somebody might be touched by God. It happened to me!!!

I would like to share what I have learned from his homily which has greatly touched me and has made me understand more about our Blessed Mother.

1. Mary is queen and is our mother because her Son, Jesus Christ, is King, risen from the dead. (Additional information which is not his homily: Jesus, before He died, has given Mary, to be our mother.)
2. We crown her with gems and with flowers, but her real crown is HUMILITY because she is queen of all virtues. Her humility carries its own luster, its own radiance. Yes, pride has luster, but it is a kind of luster that fades, just like cheap costume jewelry.
3. The edge of her garment is purposely longer than her statue. Why? So that the edge/border/margin of society and church can reach the edge of her garment.
4. Her garment is sewn to make the lower portion loose so that it looks like a triangle. This space in the lower portion is where our faith takes us into her maternal care
5. When we ask questions about the events in our life, Mother Mary tells us, "In my life, I did not ask "why," I only asked "how" or "how can this be?" And by her example, she has shown us that the only answer to all our questions is our FAITH.



Now, how do I know that God has touched me? God touches us in different ways through different people. In this particular case, God has touched me through the Archbishop's homily. God's physical touch is felt when God draws us closer and we feel so comforted and loved. He draws us back to the joy of His presence. It is one of the most comforting feeling I have ever experienced. To be able to touch and experience our God is a special gift and glory to the human person and is something that must be shared, not hidden.

In the name of Jesus Christ I beg you to let Christ touch you, let Him lay hands on you to absolve you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, let His outstretched hands feed you with his Body and Blood in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, let Him touch you as you feel the love, receive the good deeds and hear the kind words of people around you. . Do not block your blessings, do not stay far from His presence. Let the Lord touch you, not just spiritually, but physically, too. The touch and presence of Christ that we experience when we pray and when in commune with Him, is real. Jesus is here right now. And He is here waiting for you all the time. He HAS to touch us, because if he does not, we are in trouble. We

should not allow ourselves to be cut off from the Vine. And we need a savior, a savior who knows our trouble and can draw us out of the mighty waters with His strong hands and outstretched arms.

Open your heart, let God touch you and hold you close to Him. Then, share it! ☐

***If you have any personal articles  
on 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:  
[evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org](mailto:evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org)  
[alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org](mailto:alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org)  
(702) 274-4315 and/or (213) 385-7798.***

## 5 REASONS TO HONOR MARY THIS MAY

### HERE ARE TEN REASONS WHY IT MAKES SENSE FOR YOU TO HONOR MARY THIS MONTH.

1. Mary is Jesus' mother. She is the instrument of the Incarnation and her yes, or fiat, made it possible for our Lord to become the God-Man who was Crucified for our salvation.

2. She is the first and most perfect disciple. Mary was the first to hear the Good News, and the first to follow Christ. Her entire life was devoted to him and assisting him, in whatever way she could, to carry on his mission. Unaffected by Original Sin, she was able to perfectly open herself to God's will.

3. She's your mom. No, really. She is. To put it simply, she's our mother because we are all members of the Body of Christ. Since she gave birth to that Body, then she's our mother, too. At the moment she gave her fiat, she became our mother in the order of grace. She may not have given birth to us physically, but she certainly has given birth to us spiritually. (Check out CCC #964)

4. She loves you more than you can ever imagine. If she didn't, would she have endured the horror of seeing her Son tortured, scourged, crowned with thorns, carry the Cross to Calvary, and die a gruesome death on it? She did it for you, for all of us, because she understood that Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion was the only way to your (our) salvation. She loves you like no human mother ever could.

5. Not only is she Mother, but she also is Advocate, Helper, Benefactress and Mediatrix (CCC #969). Her job, so to speak, began at the moment she conceived Jesus in her womb and continues until this day. What's more, it will continue for all eternity. As the first and most perfect disciple, she is devoted to accompanying him and continuing her saving office by interceding for us so that we may receive the gifts of eternal salvation. She's at work 24/7/365/forever, for whatever we need, whenever we need it.

For all these reasons and more, Mary deserves honor, not only during the month of May, but always.

What will you do for her this May? ☐

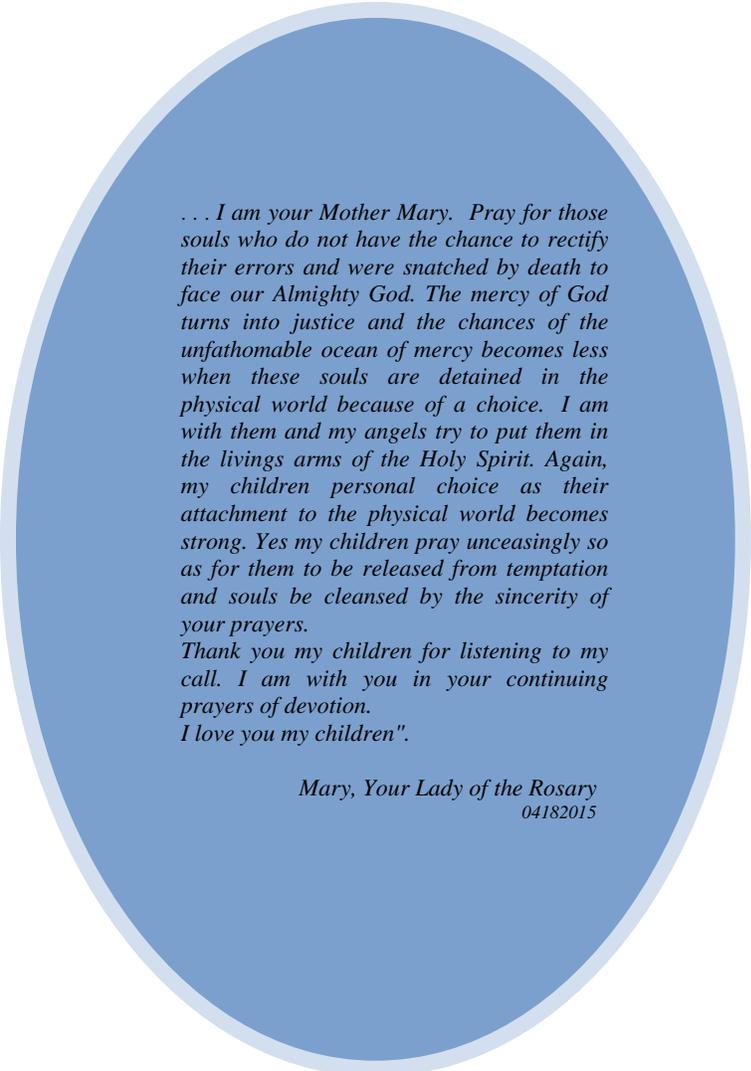
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Marge Fenelon is a wife, mother, journalist, author, and speaker. She writes recurrently for Our Sunday Visitor, National Catholic Register, Catholic New Service, and Aleteia.org, The Catholic Answer and Catholic Digest. She's a regular part of Relevant Radio's Morning Air and appear frequently on EWTN Radio's Son Rise Morning Show.

## A TIME OF GRACE

"The month of May, with its profusion of blooms was adopted by the Church in the eighteenth century as a celebration of the flowering of Mary's maidenly spirituality...With its origins in Isaiah's prophecy of the Virgin birth of the Messiah under the figure of the Blossoming Rod or Root of Jesse, the flower symbolism of Mary was extended by the Church Fathers, and in the liturgy, by applying to her the flower figures of the Sapiential Books-Canticles, Wisdom, Proverbs and Sirach.

"In the medieval period, the rose was adopted as the flower symbol of the Virgin Birth, as expressed in Dante's phrase, 'The Rose wherein the Divine Word was made flesh,' and depicted in the central rose windows of the great gothic cathedrals-from which came the Christmas carol, 'Lo, How a Rose 'ere Blooming.' Also, in the medieval period, when monasteries were the centers of horticultural and agricultural knowledge, and with the spread of the Franciscan love of nature, the actual flowers themselves, of the fields, waysides and gardens, came to be seen as symbols of Mary..." – John S. Stokes ☐



*... I am your Mother Mary. Pray for those souls who do not have the chance to rectify their errors and were snatched by death to face our Almighty God. The mercy of God turns into justice and the chances of the unfathomable ocean of mercy becomes less when these souls are detained in the physical world because of a choice. I am with them and my angels try to put them in the livings arms of the Holy Spirit. Again, my children personal choice as their attachment to the physical world becomes strong. Yes my children pray unceasingly so as for them to be released from temptation and souls be cleansed by the sincerity of your prayers.*

*Thank you my children for listening to my call. I am with you in your continuing prayers of devotion.*

*I love you my children".*

*Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary  
04182015*

# SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

## THE ARMY CELEBRATES DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Spiritual Army of God the Father Ministry celebrated the Feast of the Divine Mercy at the Monastery of the Angels in Los Angeles and at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 12. Divine Mercy devotees from other parishes were also in attendance.

At both churches, the celebration opened with a procession of the pictures of God the Father; Jesus, the Divine Mercy; St. Faustina and Saint Pope John Paul II. These pictures were placed on the right side of the main altar. Then, the people offered red and white flowers signifying blood and water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus. Divine Mercy prayers and the Chaplet preceded the Holy Mass in Los Angeles. In Las Vegas, the Divine Mercy hour and meditation, led by Joyce Ulmer, took place after the 11:30 AM Mass.

Devotees enjoyed an hour of fellowship partaking on sumptuous turkey croissant sandwiches, chips, mini-chocolate muffins and other snacks graciously provided by generous devotees.



Please visit our website at [www.spiritualarmyofgod.org](http://www.spiritualarmyofgod.org) for more photos of our Divine Mercy celebration. ☐

## WE ARE BLESSED BY GOD THROUGH US

*"... Bring forth the tithes and donations in my storehouse. See if I won't open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessings."*

*Malachi 3:10*

The Spiritual Army of God the Father Ministry has thus far distributed around 30 instant care packs during winter time. Also, plans to mimic the project this summer is underway. Each pack will include toothpaste and toothbrush (courtesy of Carlota J. Cruz DMD, Inc.), small bar soap, face towel, God the Father Consecration Card, small bottled water and a \$5 bill. These items will be helpful to homeless individuals who need immediate personal hygiene.

For informational purposes, our Financial report for year ending 2014 shows a positive donation of around \$2,200 going to the Ministry's account. This happened for the first time in years. The amount includes considerable donations from four of the strong devotees with \$500 - \$600 each. These generous hearts prefer to remain anonymous.

Our expenses, on the other hand, include \$5,400 to the Institute of Christ the King, \$4,000 Stipend for our priests, \$7,500 for Sister Disciples of Divine Master, lastly around \$7,200 for other expenses that include Sto. Nino, Divine Mercy, May Crowning and God the Father celebrations. Our financial statements are available upon request for the active members of the Ministry.

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to all devotees and may the blessings of our Lord be with you as you continue to share your graces with others.. ☐

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TOY DRIVE FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
[ONGOING]**

**JOURNEY TO HOLY SITES IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

ST. JOSEPH'S MIRACULOUS STAIRCASE  
SANTUARIO DE CHIMAYO -- THE LOURDES OF AMERICA

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2015

DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER INFORMATION

AVAILABLE AT [WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG](http://WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG)

# SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

## A FEW LESSONS FOR LIVING

*Saint John Paul II: Lessons for Living from Lessons for Living by Saint John Paul II,  
edited by Joseph Durepos*

The words of John Paul II have long inspired Christians throughout the world. People of faith often turn to his wisdom in trying or difficult times.

In his gentle yet unflinching manner, the pope offered wisdom on such topics as the importance of forgiveness, how to respond to suffering in a Christian way, the necessity of unity in the Christian family, and the responsibilities of living as a Christian in this world. Below is a small sampling of inspirational lessons that encourage us to draw closer to God, helping us to live as faithful Christians in a sometimes challenging world.

### **THE GIFT OF PEACE**

Become friends to those who have no friends. Become family to those who have no family. Become community to those who have no community. If we want peace, we must reach out to the poor. May the rich and poor of the world recognize that we are all brothers and sisters. May we all share what we have with one another as children of the one God, who loves everyone and who offers to everyone the gift of peace.

### **SUFFERING AS OFFERING**

A basic principle of our Christian faith is the fruitfulness of suffering and, hence, the call of all those who suffer to unite themselves with Christ's redemptive sacrifice. Suffering thus becomes an offering, an oblation; this has happened and still does in so many holy souls...In [Jesus] they find the strength to accept pain with holy abandon and trusting obedience to the Father's will. And they feel, rising from within their hearts, the prayer of Gethsemane: "But let it be as you would have it, Father, not as I."

### **EVERY LIFE IS A GIFT**

Stand up for the life of the aged and the handicapped; stand up against attempts to promote assisted suicide and euthanasia. Stand up for marriage and family life. Stand up for purity. Resist the pressures and temptations of a world that too often tries to ignore a more fundamental truth: that every life is a gift from God our Creator and that we must give an account to God of how we use it, either for good or evil.

### **FAITH IS DEMANDING**

How can we profess faith in God's Word, and then refuse to let it inspire and direct our thinking, our activity, our decisions, and our responsibilities toward one another? Faith is always demanding because faith leads us beyond

ourselves. Faith imparts a vision of life's purpose and stimulates us to action.

### **THE CENTER**

Prayer is not one occupation among many, but is at the center of our life in Christ. It turns our attention away from ourselves and directs it to the Lord. Prayer fills the mind with truth and gives hope to the heart.

### **LIFE IS A TALENT**

Life is a talent entrusted to us so that we can transform it and increase it, making it a gift to others. No person is an iceberg drifting on the ocean of history. Each one of us belongs to a great family, in which we can have our own place and our own role to play.

### **THE TRUE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus says to us: "I am sending you to your families, to your parishes, to your movements and associations, to your countries, to ancient cultures and modern civilization, so that you will proclaim the dignity of every human being, as revealed by me, the Son of Man." If you defend the inalienable dignity of every human being, you will be revealing to the world the true face of Jesus Christ, who is one with every man, every woman, and every child, no matter how poor, no matter how weak or handicapped.

### **MAY OUR FAITH BE STRONG**

May our faith be strong; may it not hesitate, not waver, before the doubts, the uncertainties that philosophical systems or fashionable movements would like to suggest to us. May our faith be certain. May it be founded on the Word of God; on deep knowledge of the Gospel message, and especially of the life, person, and work of Christ; and also on the interior witness of the Holy Spirit.

### **EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES**

There cannot be two parallel lives in the existence of the faithful: on the one hand, our so-called spiritual life, with its values and demands; and on the other, our so-called secular life, that is, life in a family, at work, in social relationships, in the responsibilities of public life, and in culture. Every area of our lives, as different as they are, enters into the plan of God, who desires that these very areas be the places where the love of Christ is revealed and realized for both the glory of the Father and service of others. □

# THANK YOU

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

*Psalm 106:2*

## 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous May 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

Debbie Lorenzo  
Laddie & Gertrude Regalado  
Robert & Evelyn Pua

### Los Angeles, California

Marilyn Batino | Linda Fajardo  
Andressa Johnson | Loreto Melo  
Ruth Mercado | Alice Ng

## 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.

*Laddie & family thank God and all those who have prayed for him.  
He has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home.  
They ask everyone to continue praying for him.*

*Laddie Regalado*

*Thank you, my Lord and my God, for allowing me  
to reach this point in my life and  
still have the strength to serve You and my "neighbors."*

*Evelyn Pua*

*Thank you God  
for bringing us comfort and strength in our time of sorrow.  
Thank you all for your sentiments of sympathy  
and precious prayers for the eternal repose of my Kuya Toto.  
We are grateful for the depth of your kindness.*

*Alice Araneta*

# DEVOTION SCHEDULE



## THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

### IN LOS ANGELES:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> 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. | 1<sup>st</sup> 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  
12:30 P.M. - Rosary to the Father | 1:15 P.M. - Holy Mass  
2:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

#### 2000 Hail Mary Devotion – May 23, 2015

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:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – May 16, 2015

*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:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> 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.