



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

May 2019

In this Issue

Why You Should Visit A Shrine Dedicated to Mary This Month

1

Feasts for May Thank You

2

God Touched Me

3

Spiritual Enrichment Recommended Upcoming Events

4

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WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT A SHRINE DEDICATED TO MARY THIS MONTH

by Philip Koloski

The pious custom goes back centuries and has inspired numerous saints over the years. Honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary in the month of May is an ancient tradition, going back hundreds of years. Among the numerous devotions that developed over time was the custom of visiting a Marian shrine, church or grotto.

The pious tradition has inspired numerous saints over the centuries and deepened their affection for the Blessed Mother. For example, St Josemaria Escriva after one such pilgrimage was inspired by the event and made it a part of his growing spiritual movement.

Having decided to go to [the Shrine of Our Lady of Sonsoles], I wanted to celebrate Holy Mass before setting...During the Mass...I asked our Lord Jesus to increase in us...our love for Mary...When we were on the train, my thoughts kept spontaneously returning to the same idea: that our Lady is no doubt pleased with our affection, crystallized as it is in substantial Marian devotions...But in the month of May, something more was needed. Then I thought of the 'May Pilgrimage' as a custom that must be incorporated.

Consequently, Marian shrines around the world receive a flock of pilgrims each year during this month characterized by beautiful weather. In particular, the shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal is one of the most popular during May, coinciding with the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 13, 1917.

In general, pilgrimages are excellent ways to revitalize our faith. They remind us of the journey we are all on towards Heaven and reconnect us to the true, good and beautiful. The Catechism highly regards this practice as a way to boost prayer life.

Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer. For pilgrims seeking living water, shrines are special places for living the forms of Christian prayer "in Church." (CCC 2691)

Pilgrimages take us outside of our normal surroundings and are meant to be different and unfamiliar. Often we need to be jolted out of our everyday humdrum to experience something "other" than ourselves.

May Pilgrimages don't have to be extraordinary or involve traveling around the world. It could be as simple as traveling to the nearest church dedicated to Mary or finding a local shrine, however small, to visit. The goal is to make it a deliberate event by which you honor Mary in some way.

In a month when we celebrate Mother's Day, shouldn't we try something different and make an extra effort to honor our spiritual mother?□

FEASTS FOR MAY

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

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| 1 Joseph the Worker, Opt. Mem. | 21 Christopher Magallanes and companions; Eugene de Mazenod (Canada), Opt. Mem. |
| 2 Athanasius, Memorial | 22 Rita of Cascia, Opt. Mem. |
| 3 Philip and James, Feast | 25 Optional Memorial of St. Bede the Venerable, priest and doctor; St. Gregory VII, pope; St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, virgin, Opt. Mem. |
| 5 Third Sunday of Easter, Sunday | 26 Sixth Sunday of Easter, Sunday |
| 10 Damien de Veuster, priest; John of Avila (some places), Opt. Mem. | 27 Augustine of Canterbury, Opt. Mem. |
| 12 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), Sunday | 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Feast |
| 13 Our Lady of Fatima, Opt. Mem. | |
| 14 Matthias, Feast | |
| 15 Isidore the Farmer (USA), Opt. Mem. | |
| 18 John I, Opt. Mem. | |
| 19 Fifth Sunday of Easter, Sunday | |
| 20 Bernardine of Siena, Opt. Mem. | |

The following feast days are superceded by the Sunday Liturgy: St. Pancras (May 12) and St. Philip Neri (May 26). □

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION SPONSORS

<u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u> 2000 Hail Mary Devotion May 11, 2019 Mila Lumba Ines Carrington Guada Eugenio Nicet Santos Maria Luisa Sheets	<u>Los Angeles, California</u> 800 Our Father Devotion May 25, 2019 Miles & Edith Avanzado Marilyn Batino Marinella DeLeon Ruth Mercado Alice Ng Aida Terashima
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OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

SCARS OF FAITH

GOD TOUCHED ME

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS IS NEVER TOO LATE

by Clara Velasquez

*Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1*

I grew up in a Catholic family and we used to pray the rosary together. The relationship with God was beautiful. At home God was always present, participation in church was part of my family life. My parents always made sure for us to get all the Holy Sacraments accordingly. Whatever our goals in life were, everything had to be in the name of God.

When I came to the United States of America I totally forgot everything, no more church, no more praying, and I would go to church – but only once in a while -- in spite of my parents' reminder. Every time I called my parents they always reminded me that God has to be first in my life. I used to answer them that I was praying every day to stop them from talking about God. I didn't stop believing in God, nevertheless I abandoned Him. I just was kind of angry at Him, for the bad choices I had made and because I didn't get what I thought I deserved. Also because I was thinking that going to church and dedicating time to God was not that important. I didn't realize how important it was to have God in my life until I couldn't handle all the problems I encounter by myself.

Now I regret all those times I wasted away without Him. He never abandoned me. It was I who strayed from the path He prepared for me and I finally realized that without Him nothing is possible.

Fortunately all that darkness was left behind. I started attending the Saturday prayers with the Spiritual Army of God the Father nine years ago where I learned about the Santo Nino devotion. My relationship with Santo Nino started growing more and more, when I met Him in



Prague. That was the most incredible experience I ever had. I have never imagined how deep this relationship would be. I started trusting Him so much, that I always ask Him to help me even with the simplest things because I have faith that it will be granted.

Since I surrendered to God, I recovered my freedom, my trust, and now I have all I need. I see life differently. Just now I am able to fully understand, why the things I wanted before were not good for me. Now I know that God has prevented me to be hurt even more. I can't believe how blind and stubborn I was trying to pursue unworthy things. I have a better relationship with God and it is a beautiful feeling to know that He only grants me the things that make me happiest.

I understand that there will always be difficulties in life that will make me wonder, but since I have commended my life in God's hands, I know for sure that no matter how hard those obstacles are, I will overcome them because I am no longer alone.

I am very thankful to God for those challenges because they made me a stronger person. They gave me the opportunity to recognize that I was wrong. God sent me the invitation to be His friend again. I really am very grateful to my parents for teaching me to put God before anything else; to my friend Letty who introduced me to the Spiritual Army, to all the members of this group for welcoming me and for all the emotional support I was given when I needed it the most -- you are my family in Christ now. And most especially to Brother Victor and his lovely family who always welcome everybody. It is reassuring to know that we are always there for each other!

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

SEEKING INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THROUGH THE BIBLE

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

by Victor H. Araneta

If we want to be considered as a brother of Jesus, we must do what He does - giving prayer a time of contemplation with GOD. What He did and spoke to man was first spoken and lived through with the Father. In communion with Jesus, the anointing with Holy Spirit must be renewed each day. He who would be like Him must simply begin with Jesus in His solitude with God the Father. We must be in complete acquiescence with what Jesus does not in a minute, but period of communication with God, with closed door, or in the solitude of the wilderness. If Christ needed it, how much more we! □

He Withdrew About A
Stone's Throw Beyond
Them, Knelt Down And
Prayed,
Luke 22:41

BibleWordLines.com

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

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP FEAST DAY CELEBRATION JUNE 15, 2019 AT 5:00 PM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

1111 MICHAEL WAY
LAS VEGAS, NV

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

I am your Mother Mary. Focus your prayers on the life of my Son Jesus. His death is the start of human salvation. My children, your lives here on earth must be the pathway towards eternal life and glory in the presence of God Almighty.

Mary, Your Lady of Peace
04072019
