



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

June 2015

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## THE MUSIC OF MARRIAGE

By Dr. Adrian Rogers

The Song of Solomon is a love poem of deep intimacy between Solomon and a Shulamite girl, whom he has married. It is a wonderful model for communication in a marriage. Sometimes we blush when we read it. But God knew we would need a record of godly marriage communication, so He gave us this book by divine inspiration. Let's see what we can discover about their intimate communication.



### PLENTIFUL WORDS

Notice how plentiful the conversation is between these two lovers. Nearly 60 percent of the verses in The Song of Solomon are spoken between the lovers. And it's obvious that when they are separated, they miss the sound of each other's voice. Each gives words freely, without embarrassment. Each receives words freely, without resentment.

A common protest of wives is that their husbands talked a lot when they were dating but stopped talking after the wedding. There's a reason for this problem, built into the different traits of men and women.

Men are goal oriented. During dating and courtship, the woman is his highest goal. So he pursues her fervently. After the wedding, he moves on to other goals. And so, he suddenly stops talking. But women are security oriented. So she craves communication and conversation. She has an ever-deepening need for affirmation within the relationship; he has an ever deepening need for achievement outside the relationship.

The solution to this is given in the Song of Solomon. And the first part of that is to talk, talk, talk. Men most of all need to hear — and follow — this message.

### PERSONAL WORDS

These two lovers say some very intimate things to each other: "I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with drops of the night" (Song of Solomon 5:2).

She has a name for him: "my beloved." He has pet names for her: "my love" and "my dove." Words are personal. Pet names stem from free intimacy. Are you married? Do you have pet names for your spouse? Pet names are a way of saying to your spouse, "You're unique. You're special. You're one of a kind. Nobody deserves this name other than you. I don't use it for anybody else."

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# OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

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

The month of June is dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus. This month falls within the liturgical season of 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.

Ordinary Time is the hour to "go out to all the world and tell the good news." The feasts of June highlight this expansion of the Church. At least ten times, the Church

vests in the red of the martyrs whose blood is the very seed of her growth. She also celebrates the feasts of the apostles Peter and Paul, and the birth of St. John the Baptist, proto-disciple and prophet.

We too are called to be witnesses like the apostles and martyrs. May the Heart of Jesus inflame our hearts so that we may be worthy of our Baptismal call to holiness. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us. ☐

## FEASTS FOR JUNE

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Justin, Memorial                                      | 22 Paulinus of Nola; John Fisher and Thomas More, Opt. Mem.  |
| 2 Marcellinus and Peter, Opt. Mem.                      | 24 Nativity of John the Baptist, Solemnity   |
| 3 Charles Lwanga and Companions, Memorial               | 26 Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, Opt. Mem.  |
| 5 Boniface, Memorial                                    | 27 Cyril of Alexandria, Opt. Mem.  |
| 6 Norbert, Opt. Mem.                                    | 28 Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Sunday  |
| 7 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Solemnity         | 29 Peter and Paul, Solemnity   |
| 9 Ephrem, Opt. Mem.                                     | 30 First Martyrs of the Church of Rome, Opt. Mem.  |
| 11 Barnabas, Memorial                                   |  |
| 12 Sacred Heart of Jesus, Solemnity                     | The feasts of, St. Aloysius Gonzaga (June 21) and St. Irenaeus (June 28) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. ☐ |
| 13 Immaculate Heart of Mary; Anthony of Padua, Memorial |  |
| 14 Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday             |  |
| 19 Romuald, Opt. Mem.                                   |  |
| 21 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday              |  |

### OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

#### Praying for Others and Intercession

Job 42:10  
1 Timothy 2:11  
Ephesians 6:18  
Matthew 5: 43-45

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

## UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

*Rodney Kissinger, S.J.*

Before the beginning of time, before creation, God existed all alone. The love of God was the only love there was then. The love of God is the only love there is now. And the love of God is the only love there will ever be. We are not creators we are only receivers and transmitters of the love of God. And we can transmit only as much as we receive. To tell us of His love, God sent his only Son. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus is the greatest expression of the love of God for us and the greatest expression of the human response to that love.

Jesus was divine, the Son of God. He was also human, the son of Mary. He spoke with divine authority but he spoke in human language. He spoke in the simple language of ordinary people of his day about the things

they were most familiar with: the birds of the air, the lilies of the field, the sower and the seed, the vine and the branches. When he wanted to tell his apostles how important they were he said that they were the "light of the world" and the "salt of the earth." And when he wanted to

tell us of God's love for us he used the heart, the human symbol of love. He told us that we should learn of him that he was meek and humble of heart and we would find rest for our souls.

The contemporaries of Jesus knew this meek and humble heart of Jesus and they knew that it beat with unconditional love for them. Rough, simple fishermen leave their boats and nets to follow him. Learned doctors sit at his feet to hear his wisdom. A tax collector leaves his money table to become his disciple. Multitudes follow him for days, so captivated that they forget to provide food to eat. The sick fight their way through the crowds just to touch the hem of his garment. And they all found peace and rest for their souls.

Never before has the unconditional love of the Sacred Heart been as relevant as it is today. We live in the information-centered society of the World Wide Web and the Internet. There is a lust for knowledge. This "info mania" has produced an unbelievable amount of information and data all of which can be stored on a small

silicon chip and called forth at will. We can no longer see the forest for the trees. The sheer volume of all of this information has made this the age of the digest, the logo and the symbol.

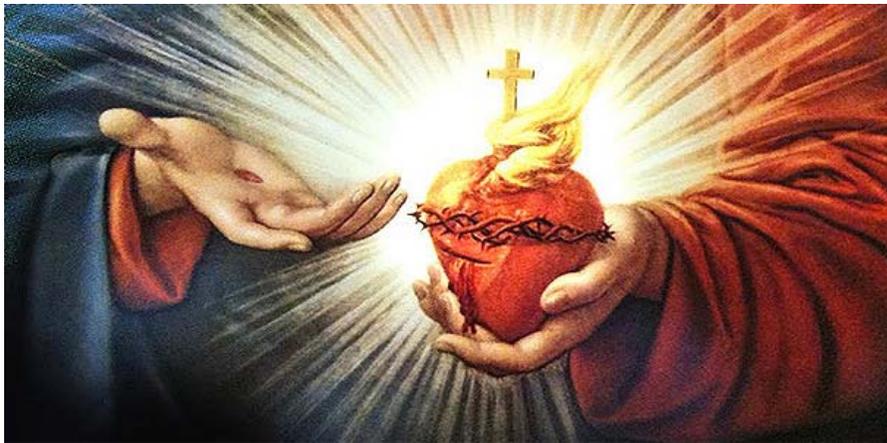
Theologians are saying that amid the chaos it is necessary to capture the transcendent in a symbol that is relevant for you; in other words to capture the unconditional love of God in a symbol that is relevant for me. Jesus has already done this for us in his Sacred Heart. "Learn of me that I am meek and humble of heart and you will find rest for your soul."

The Sacred Heart is the symbol of the fidelity of the love of God. It reminds us that God loves us unconditionally with a love we cannot earn or ever be worthy of. And he

loves us for ourselves, not as we should be, or possibly could be, but as we are with all of the physical warts, psychological quirks and spiritual infidelities.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is most relevant today because not only is this the

information-centered society, but it is also an age of anxiety, fear, insecurity and despair. Every year more than a million and a half Americans suffer heart attacks. Heart failure is the leading cause of death in America today. Heart failure is also the most avoidable cause of death because long before the patient is rushed to the emergency room trouble has been going on in the heart: in the fearful heart, the anxious heart, the discouraged heart, the lonely heart, the rejected heart, the angry heart and the sinful heart. The root cause of all of this heart trouble is the failure to know and trust the meek and humble Sacred Heart of Jesus. □



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Fr. Rodney Kissinger, S.J. has been a Jesuit for over 71 years and a priest for over 60 years. His seasoned spirituality is the fruit of more than 60 years of making and giving the Spiritual Exercises in all of its formats to priests, religious and laity. It is presented not in the jargon of academia but in a language that everyone can understand. He is neither "old breed" nor "new breed," he is just "half breed." Having studied both the old theology and the new theology he is convinced that the continuity is so great that you cannot understand the new until you have mastered the old.

## THE IMMACULATE HEART

[www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie)

How well the Church chose these inspired words of Isaiah to describe Mary, the mother of Jesus and the favoured handmaid of the Lord: "He has clothed me with the garments of salvation and covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

This feast celebrates her wonderful purity of heart, or what we might today call her personal integrity.

Historically, devotion to the Heart of Mary grew up in parallel, but at a lesser pitch than that of devotion to the Heart of Jesus, only starting to become more prominent during the time of St. John Eudes. Only after the 1830 Apparitions at Rue du Bac in Paris to Catherine Labouré, and the establishment in 1836 of a society dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the Parisian Church of Our Lady of Victories, did this particular devotion take root. It got added impetus through the apparitions of our Lady at Fatima, central Portugal, in May 1917, to three devout young Portuguese children, Lucia Santos and her two cousins: Francisco and Jacinta Marto. Since then devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary has gradually spread through the whole Church, greatly helped by its warm espousal by Pope John Paul II.

The main difference between it and the devotion to the Heart of Jesus is that the latter emphasizes the Sacred Heart as being full of love for mankind, while devotion to Mary's heart is focused on the love that her heart has for Jesus, her Son, and through him, for the Eternal Father. The Marian devotion is not an end in itself, since the love of her heart is meant as a paradigm for the way we should love God. So as in all of Mariology, she leads us

closer to God, rather than becoming an alternative object of devotion, still less an obstacle to our worship of God. The focus on her heart as immaculate or sinless means that she is uniquely able to really love God the way God should be adored. Honouring Mary's Immaculate Heart is another way of honouring her as the one chosen to be

the Mother of Christ, recognizing her extraordinary holiness and the immense love she had for Jesus as his mother, drawing her to share and co-operate in his redemptive sufferings.

The focus of this devotion is to unite mankind to God through Mary's heart, through a process of consecration and reparation. We may consecrate ourselves to Mary's Immaculate Heart as a way of being completely devoted to God, with Mary as our intermediary in this process of consecration. Because of the analogy between Jesus and Mary, consecration to Mary's Immaculate Heart is linked to consecration to Jesus' Sacred Heart, to which it remains subordinate and dependent.

The theme of repentance from sin, prominent in the Fatima apparitions, has been central to the preaching of Christianity from the time of the Apostles: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 3:2). The idea of reparation for our own sins and, because of a common membership of the mystical body of Christ, for those of others, is an extension of early Christian mysticism. As St Paul said: "I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, the church ..." (Col 1:24). □



# GOD TOUCHED ME

## A FRIEND'S LEGACY, A GREAT ACT OF CHARITY

*By Denise Gier, a devotee*

*"To beg God earnestly for the release of Souls who find themselves in expiatory flames or to come to their help by pious alms as well as by various other means, is to exercise the highest charity." Bl. Papczyński.*

I'll just get straight to the point . . . How is your prayer life? As I sit and write this article, I can't help but reflect on how my life has changed within the last two years. The church just ended its Easter celebration culminating at Pentecost, where Jesus Christ promised we would not be alone and that He will always be with us. He promised that God the Father would send the Holy Spirit to guide us. Then in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Jesus Christ appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and requested that the Feast of the Sacred Heart be celebrated on the Friday following the octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi, in reparation for the ingratitude of men for the sacrifice that Christ had made for them. Fast forward to present day . . . I sit here now, ever so grateful for God's grace that I finally heeded the Holy Spirit's call in June 2013.

On Friday, June 12, 2015, our "First Friday Sacred Heart Devotional Group for Departed Souls" (in Chino Hills, California) will be celebrating the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. We invite you to join us on June 12<sup>th</sup> for just one hour, as we pray for the souls in Purgatory, the sick and the dying, spiritual guidance, as well as other intentions. This humble group of prayer warriors began its devotion following the passing of our beloved Rowena Ylagan Ramos on June 27, 2013. I was unable to make it to the first day of the novena that Thursday at the Mercado home, but on Day 2, I arrived at the Ylagan residence, joining other family members and friends of Rowena in prayer. Little did I know how much that one evening would change the rest of my life.

Upon finishing the rosary and novena, everyone would usually stay and grab a bite, and to also sit and talk, sharing stories, etc. I stayed for a little bit and sat and watched the different people all around me. I was still in a bit of a state of shock from Rowena's passing, feeling a great sadness and emptiness inside. I sat with a dear friend of mine, Samantha, as we both spoke of how we needed to get back into our faith. I prayed here and there, and didn't attend Mass as much as I should. I was ashamed of how much I let go of my faith compared to where I was before. I had not prayed a daily rosary since I was a little girl, praying with my Lola (grandmother).

As I was getting ready to leave, I noticed JJ [Rowena's widower] speaking intently with a gentleman who I did not recognize. After a few moments, JJ stood up and saw that Samantha and I were getting ready to leave. As he walked us out I asked him, "Who's the guy?" He looked at me with eyes wide open and said, "Oh . . . that's Tito Vic. I'll tell you about him tomorrow." I drove home that

night, remembering my conversation with Samantha. I had been gone for too long. I felt guilty for being so blessed and not giving the proper praise and thanksgiving to God. I had to make a change in my life!

On Day 3 of the novena, again I finished my plate, and noticed JJ speaking with this "Tito Vic." As I watched their interaction, I noticed people would slowly gather around them, one by one, listening and joining in the conversation. My interest was piqued, so naturally, I had to join in too!

As I sat at the dining table, he was talking about guardian angels and the theme of 40 days within the Bible and how it applied to our spiritual lives as well. At first it seemed nothing new to me because these were teachings I remember learning about during my childhood catechesis. But as I listened more, I realized he was not just talking textbook. He spoke about how we needed to pray to our guardian angels daily because they will be alongside us when we ourselves pass and begin our journey in the spiritual realm. He also emphasized praying the rosary daily for our spiritual well-being. The more he spoke, the more I wanted to learn. Something 'clicked' and everything just made sense. First Saturday was coming up for July, so a group of Rowena's friends and I decided to attend the Spiritual Army of God' the Father's First Saturday devotion for Mama Mary. (Spoiler alert: The Holy Spirit was about to take the little ember in my heart and spark it into a flame that hasn't stopped since!)

My first "First Saturday" hit me like a ton of bricks! It was like everything Tito Vic was talking about, was directly meant for me! How could this be? How did he know? I was learning so much and couldn't wait to learn more!

Tito Vic said praying is how we "talk" to God. I had a lot of repenting to do, so I did not waste any time starting my daily rosary. At first, I was apprehensive because I remember as a child thinking the 20 minutes we took to pray the rosary felt more like an hour. (Of course, I learned that was the evil one, just trying to put doubt in my mind and prevent me from getting closer to God.) But in reality, praying my daily rosary brings me peace and helps me unwind after a hectic day at work. Plus it was just a "bonus" that I got to talk to the Lord and share with Him all my trials and tribulations, repent for all my past wrongdoings, as well as praise and thanksgiving for all the wonderful things in my life!

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# SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

## THE SPIRITUAL ARMY HONORS MARY AT MAY CROWNING

On Saturday, May 16, the Chapel at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master was standing room only as devotees, family members, and friends of The Spiritual Army of God the Father Ministry celebrated its most favored Marian celebration, the May Crowning, the feast that recognizes Mary as queen of heaven and earth! This year, the honor of crowning went to Carolina Pineda and Marilyn Batino.

Fr. Vincent Hughes, Associate Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Community celebrated the Mass and officiated the Crowning Ceremony. In his homily, he encouraged the devotees to strive to imitate Mary as a model of virtue, prayer, fidelity to God and tender love. Such fidelity and tender love were witnessed by the devotees as Fr. Vincent bestowed wedding anniversary prayers and blessings to lovely couples Ruth & Bon Mercado, celebrating 11 years, and Denise & Gerrard Gier, celebrating 9 years!



The Crowning Ceremony was poignant – the symbolisms of the flower offerings, the crown of flowers and the gold crown were recited by the faithful as each gift was presented and capped on Mother Mary's head. Marian songs playing in the background sprinkled some heavenly and magical feature to it. The children's sweet devotional gesture of presenting their gifts of arts and craft -- their very own [and maybe with some help from Mom and Dad] labor of love for Mother Mary created a surge of emotion in most, if not all mothers!

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## THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER LAUNCHES THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

July 2015 will be the official date of the first devotional prayer that will give sole praise and petition to ETERNAL FATHER through the launching of the 800 Our Father devotion. The devotion will focus on the Lord's Prayer, 800 of them and some God the Father prayers and acclamations we have during our 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday devotional prayers. The Ministry selected number "8" as it symbolizes the infinitesimal character of our God Almighty. Some of those prayers are taken from the devotional collection of Elizabetta Ravasio, a Servant of Eternal Father revealing Himself in the 1930's.

The Ministry invites all to this launching in Los Angeles at Sister Disciples of Divine Master and in Las Vegas at The Cenacle house on July 18, 2015.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

#### LA'S 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION IN JULY IS ON JUNE 27, 2015

THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY IN JULY  
FALLS ON JULY 4, A HOLIDAY.  
THE CONVENT OF THE  
SISTER DISCIPLES OF THE  
DIVINE MASTER  
WILL BE CLOSED.

#### THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015  
THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES  
OF THE DIVINE MASTER  
BEGINNING WITH A  
MASS IS AT 8:30 AM

#### TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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

#### 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

## WHO ME? . . . PRAY WITH HER? DOWN TO EARTH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT PRAYING AS A COUPLE

*By Jim & Susan Vogt*

### WHY BOTHER?

- As you probably know, 46-48% of marriages end in divorce (even among Catholics)
- But did you also know that: For couples who worship together each Sunday only about 20% divorce
- For couples who also regularly pray together at home marital stability is even greater.

OK, so praying together can be divorce insurance but it sounds kind of awkward to me. Sure it's fine for priests and nuns or really holy people, but we're just a normal married couple.

- But we go to Mass on Sunday and say grace before meals. Isn't that enough?
- That's great! Of course these prayer times are important and valuable, but they are different from couple prayer. There is a certain intimacy and vulnerability that comes from opening your heart to God in the presence of your spouse.

OK, we might give it a try, but where do we start? There is no wrong way to pray and the desire to try is prayer in itself. First some preliminary decisions:

### DECIDE A TIME

Presumably both of you are very busy. Isn't everyone these days? So finding an agreeable, semi-reliable time is essential. After experimenting with several times of day my husband and I agreed on first thing in the morning (about 15-20 minutes before the first child is expected to awake.) Since Jim is a morning person and I'm not, his job is to wake me and say it's time.

### DECIDE A PLACE

Anywhere will do, but it's nice to have a bible or whatever reading you plan to use handy. If clutter is endemic to your home at least find a place where you can cover it or turn your back on it. Personally, I like to have a window that I can look out of and see the sky. If it's dark, lighting a candle can be inspiring.

### DECIDE HOW OFTEN

Ideally, daily is the way to go since there is a rhythm and regularity to it. In our own marriage, however, we have made peace with a less than ideal but workable goal. We commit to weekdays since that's more predictable than the weekends. We figure Mass takes care of Sunday. We also make exceptions for illness, being out of town,

pregnancy (when almost any time felt nauseous), or unexpected interruptions like crying babies. It's not perfect, but we feel we're doing OK if we meet our bottom line of "doing it more often than not". God wants our attention not our guilt.

### SO WHAT DO WE DO ONCE WE'RE SITTING TOGETHER?

There are many ways to pray depending on your style and preferences. Here are a few:

- \_\_\_ Memorized prayers
- \_\_\_ Reflection on today or tomorrow
- \_\_\_ Reading scripture
- \_\_\_ Guided meditation (from a book)
- \_\_\_ Writing in a journal
- \_\_\_ Reading an inspirational book
- \_\_\_ Rosary or devotions
- \_\_\_ Meditation on a spiritual theme
- \_\_\_ Liturgy of the Hours
- \_\_\_ Your own creation

Rank the above styles from 1 to 10 and find the ways that appeal to both of you.

### HEY, WE'RE NOT THEOLOGIAN. WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE?

Keep it simple. After trying to be creative and experimenting with a variety of styles my husband and I found that for regular couple prayer to work for us it had to be very simple. Eventually we settled on the following format:

### ONE MODEL – 5 EASY STEPS

1. Jim finds the scripture reading of the day (since he's more awake than I am)
2. One of us opens the prayer with a phrase like "Lord, we come before you at the start of our day."
3. One of us reads the scripture out loud.
4. We sit in silence for a while. (We may think about the scripture, the upcoming day and how we will live it out, or perhaps put some thoughts in a journal). Inevitably for me, some time is spent daydreaming. I'm not proud of this, but I would do you no favor to suggest that you fail when not fully concentrating. Sometimes I just offer up the distraction and figure I'm honoring God by the effort I made just to show up.

5. At the appointed ending time, each of us makes a petition flowing from our silent prayer.

**CAN YOU SIMPLIFY "SIMPLE"?**

How about after the alarm goes off (before you get out of bed) hold hands and offer a prayer for a good day, help with a particular problem, or thanksgiving. Likewise, at night, after turning off the light, hold hands and offer a prayer of thanks for anything that day.

**WHAT IF MY SPOUSE JUST ISN'T INTO COUPLE PRAYER?**

(S)he is a good person and we pray individually but we just aren't going to be able to do it together. Don't beat yourself up over this. Sure couple prayer is good and can bring you closer together, but God's love is bigger than any prayer form. Pray for each other in your own way. I know two women whose husbands did not want to join them in prayer so they called each other daily at an appointed time and prayed over the phone. Strange I suppose, but do what feeds you.

**HOW DO WE FIND THE SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY OR OTHER BOOKS, AFTER ALL WE DON'T LIVE IN A CHURCH?**

To find the scriptures of the day, check the Missalettes at church.

Meditation books:

Daily Meditations (with Scripture) for Busy Couples by Dave Fortier and Patricia Robertson. ACTA Publications, 1-800-397-2282

Vision (or Action or Mission) 2000, Praying Scripture in a Contemporary Way by Mark Link, S.J., Tabor Publishing, Allen, TX ☐

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Susan is a speaker and award winning author. For many years, she was the editor of the Journal of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers and content editor for the USCCB website on marriage. Susan has worked in family ministry for the Catholic Church for over 30 years designing and leading marriage, parenting, and leadership programs. A counselor by training, she has taught on the high school and university level.

Jim is national director of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative. Previously he was national administrator for the Parenting for Peace and Justice Network. His career has spanned working as an urban planner in Cincinnati to being a house husband. He has an MA in Urban Affairs from the University of Wisconsin and is also certified by Couples Communication and ACME in marriage enrichment. Jim is one of the authors of the Family Pledge of Nonviolence. Jim is also a lifelong Catholic and a vowed lay Marianist.

Susan and Jim have worked with ecumenical and social justice organizations including Parenting for Peace and Justice.

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**THE MUSIC OF MARRIAGE**

Personal words communicate that uniqueness. Using personal names for your spouse communicates that he or she is special. Whisper that name in your spouse's ear at the right time, and watch what happens!

**POSITIVE WORDS**

Solomon and his bride speak to each other in nothing but glowing terms. In fact, there isn't one word of criticism, complaint, or correction in this book. Solomon calls the woman "my undefiled." That literally means "my flawless one." Because she was human, I'm sure she wasn't flawless literally. But that's what Solomon calls her. He affirms her; he doesn't belittle her.

Paul said, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6). Speech that issues out of a grace driven nature will preserve a relationship between a husband and a wife. Nobody deserves the kind of speech, but everybody needs it.

Intimacy requires acceptance. Critical and negative speech communicates loud and clear that you have not accepted your spouse. And that stifles intimacy. But positive speech breeds trust. And people who trust each other know they have a place of emotional safety.

Praise has potent power. It will transform your marriage. The Shulamite woman said of her lover, "His mouth is most sweet..." (5:16). Solomon's words are sweetness personified. Learn to make your speech positive and not negative, and your communication will begin to flow.

**PASSIONATE WORDS**

Solomon and the Shulamite woman don't hold back. Some of their words will probably make you blush! It may come as a surprise to many Bible readers, but passionate speech is exactly what God intended for husbands and wives. Read Solomon 2:8-14.

Words of love may flow out of feeling, but not always. Most of the time, feeling flows from words. Now, if you don't believe that, don't deny it until you try it. Your words will sustain your marriage. Your words will repair hurt feelings. Your words will grow love.

If you speak to your spouse with plentiful, personal, positive, and passionate words, your marriage will be what God intended — a loving duet, rather than a lonely solo. Truly, you will make beautiful music together. ☐

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Adrian Rogers was one of the greatest preachers, respected Bible teachers, and Christian leaders of our time. For over fifty years, he consistently presented the Good News of Jesus Christ with strong conviction, compassion, and integrity. Dr. Rogers was the founder and Bible teacher of Love Worth Finding, an internationally syndicated television and radio ministry. Dr. Rogers preached overseas crusades in Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Russia, Romania, and in Central and South America. In November 2005, God called Adrian Rogers home. Since that time, tributes have poured in testifying of his worldwide impact.

## A FRIEND'S LEGACY . . .

We were still continuing our nine-day novena for Rowena, and I was excited and happy for being more prayerful again. I drove home each night thanking Rowena for bringing me back and thanking God for having Rowena and JJ in my life.

At some point after finishing the nine-day novena, JJ got the call from Tito Vic if we could pray even more so for Rowena. The more we prayed for her, the better off her soul would be upon meeting the Lord for her particular judgment. Our small group of prayer warriors had gotten used to seeing each other each night for our daily rosary, and was even feeling withdrawal from our "group bonding" time. Not only was it helping Rowena's soul, I believe it was also therapeutic for us as well. So naturally, we were happy to answer the call and gladly joined in for a daily rosary continuing for the rest of the 40 days.

On Rowena's 40th day (back in August 2013), we all spoke of how we would miss praying together. Talk of possibly meeting once a month began and we were all excited of the possibilities. We wanted to continue Rowena's mission of evangelizing, bringing lukewarm souls back to the faith, and praying for the holy souls in Purgatory. What better way of not just helping other souls, but also honoring her memory?

After a short break and much preparation, we were happy to have our inaugural devotion for the "*First Friday Sacred Heart Devotional Group for Departed Souls*" on Friday, September 6, 2013. Needless to say, I'm still here as the prayer coordinator two years later, with the flame of the Holy Spirit burning as bright as ever! Even now, whenever I'm driving in my car, all I listen to is the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM on satellite radio! I recently bought a Catholic Bible Dictionary and have been watching the mini-series "*A.D. – The Bible Continues*" on NBC every Sunday evening, which tell the story from the Book of Acts. How providential it is that this past Sunday showed the moment of Saul's conversion. How he was blind for three days and upon regaining his sight, was baptized and became Paul, who would go on and boldly proclaim the Word of the Lord.

All I want to do is to please my God! I want to be His instrument in bringing others closer to Him as well! I was blind too, but now I can see! Making the decision to lead a more prayerful life (daily) has only given me countless graces and blessings beyond my imagination. I understand what it means now when it comes to the salvation of souls. I want to please my Lord and bring the greatest glory to His name! **And prayer is where it**

**all begins.** One day, I heard one of the commentators on the Catholic Channel (Matthew S. Leonard from [www.matthewsleonard.com](http://www.matthewsleonard.com)) say it best:

*". . . you don't become 'buddy-buddy' with somebody overnight. What if we were strolling down the street and I told you to walk up to a stranger and ask him to help you find a new job, or a new house, or even lend a hand in raising your kids. You'd say 'Take a hike Matt! I don't even know that guy!' True enough. So why do we think we can do it with God? Why do we think we can just ask Him for something out of the blue after not talking to Him for weeks . . . or maybe even years? We need to develop a relationship with our Lord in order to expect an adequate and appropriate response from Him. Intimacy with God doesn't just happen. Like between humans, it's a relationship that's built over time, but meant to last for an eternity."*

I encourage you to begin your daily rosary, the Divine Mercy, and whatever other prayers you need. The world of being a Catholic is such a wondrous place! No matter what your current situation is, you have an ocean of choices on who you can pray in asking for their intercession! Pick a saint! Any saint! Each one has their own story which you can relate to! There's our dear Mama Mary, spiritual mother of all, ready to listen and intercede on our behalf. Whenever I need guidance, I pray to the Holy Spirit to fill me with the right words and actions. I pray to Jesus and thank Him for His ultimate sacrifice. And I pray to God the Father to forgive me for all my sins, and to offer myself and my family to whatever will be for the greatest glory of His name. I want to bring others closer to Him so that they can see the wonder and awe of looking at life through a different lens.

Please come and join us for one hour in prayer every first Friday, and see what fruits can come from the seeds of prayer that you sow! ☐

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**Editor's Note:** For more information on the "First Friday Sacred Heart Devotional Group for Departed Souls" please contact the Spiritual Army of God or you can email the prayer coordinator at: [denise.g@spiritualarmyofgod.org](mailto:denise.g@spiritualarmyofgod.org).

*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.*

## THE SPIRITUAL ARMY HONORS MARY AT MAY CROWNING

At the Potluck Brunch, a few more tables had to be added to accommodate the delectable dishes prepared by devotees and friends of The Spiritual Army for the feast. The Cenacle on scripture readings on *Seasons for Everything*, *Requests for Prayers* and *Focusing on the Positive* were food for the soul. The celebration concluded with the scriptural meditation of the Four Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In Las Vegas, devotees held Mother Mary's Crowning on the First Saturday of May (May 2) and was officiated by Fr. Ric Salditos. The Rites of Crowning followed the Liturgy of the Mass. The statue of Mother Mary was walked in procession by Laddie Regalado. Bread, wine, grapes, crucifix and rosary were offered. The Blessed Mother was



crowned with flowers and with the gold crown by Vi Carlos and Ann Silva, respectively. Bouquets of flowers were offered to the Blessed Mother, Infant Jesus and the Eternal Father by Guada Eugenio, Isabelita Adina and Betty Ayasao. A simple, yet special poem, was recited by Joyce Ulmer as an offering to Mother Mary. The First Saturday devotional prayers followed. Outpouring of love from the devotees to Mother Mary was overwhelming.



Please visit our website at [www.spiritualarmyofgod.org](http://www.spiritualarmyofgod.org) for more photos of the May Crowning.

Thank you all, once again, for sharing your time, talent and treasure. May God continue to multiply your generosity a thousand fold!!! ☐

*... I am your Mother Mary*

*This day I ask you to offer holy souls in purgatory. These souls are quenching to see God and His splendor. My mantle of white I ask you to give to individuals who are in physical and mental anguish. My children prepare yourselves to a more cleansing of heart. This physical and mental cleansing will be felt and seen by all people. There will be a sign that it seems to be a new order being taken by a new group of individuals who seek ancestral and religious revenge.*

*Pray unceasingly my children for unity among God's children. Thank you for adhering to my call. I love you my children."*

*Mary, Your Lady of Peace*

051615

# 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 June 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

Joyce Ulmer

### Los Angeles, California

Nona Alapag | April Araneta

Pat Dinoso | Dorothy Ikeri

Alice Ng | Aida Tuason

## 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.

*My God, thank you for loving me unconditionally.*

- Evelyn

*My husband and I thank you for your prayers. He is on his last set of treatments and he is feeling better. I also thank God for giving me the courage to drive since my husband cannot drive around anymore.*

- Mila P.

*Thank you Spiritual Army of God the Father for your support, kindness and prayers during these past few months. After receiving my breast cancer diagnosis; I have found strength, guidance and new friendships. Thank You God for sharing this special gift with me, through this miracle I am now cancer-free!!*

- Marlou Mara

# DEVOTION SCHEDULE



## THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

### IN LOS ANGELES:

#### 1st 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 – June 20, 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 CHINO HILLS:

#### Sacred Heard Devotional Group for Departed Souls

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month | 16657 Tourmaline Street | Chino Hills, CA 91709  
Devotional Prayers start at 8:30 P.M.

### 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 – June 13, 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.