



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

June 2017

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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

NOTHING IS MORE PRECIOUS

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON THE BEAUTY OF MARRIED LOVE

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When the bishops of the United States released their 2009 Pastoral Letter entitled "Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan," they put forth a blueprint for marriage that sought to encourage and inspire couples at every stage of their lives. One of the major themes that flowed through this document was the call for every family to become a mini-church, a place where each family member experiences Jesus' love and strives to treat each other with that love.

St. John Chrysostom, a fourth-century archbishop of Constantinople, preached extensively about marriage and family life. In his time as a priest and a bishop, he saw the everyday joys and challenges of families from every walk of life. He used these observations, as well as his deep



knowledge and love of Scripture, to draw out some fundamental principles for marriage. Let's take a look at some of his teachings to see how we can build our homes into mini-churches.

Married Love: A Precious Gift. For John, everything begins with God's plan of salvation. He held marriage in very high esteem because he saw it as the arena in which most people would take up the call to holiness -- and do it in a way that led their spouse and children to holiness as well. And central to that plan was the gift of married love, a gift "that no possession can equal; for nothing, nothing whatever, is more precious than to be loved by a wife and to love her" (Homily XLIX on Acts). Married love, according to John, is not just romantic sentiment. It is filled with sacramental grace that raises a couple above the limitations of their fallen, human mindsets.

For John, this kind of boundless love is possible because of Jesus' promise: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). "And not only is Jesus present in marriage," John wrote, "but so, too, are many angels, archangels, and other heavenly powers."

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OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

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.

As we begin to feel the warmth of summer, we can reflect that we celebrate the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 23) and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

(June 24). God is Love and the Sacred Heart of Jesus -- present on earth in the Blessed Sacrament -- is the human manifestation of God's Love for men. Appropriately June is considered the month for weddings where human hearts join and cooperate with the Creator in bringing forth new life. The family they create is a human reflection of the Blessed Trinity. ☐

FEASTS FOR JUNE

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

- 1 Justin, Memorial
- 2 Marcellinus and Peter, Opt. Mem.
- 3 Charles Lwanga and Companions, Memorial
- 4 Pentecost; Whitsunday, Sunday
- 5 Boniface, Memorial
- 6 Norbert, Opt. Mem.
- 9 Ephrem, Opt. Mem.
- 11 Trinity Sunday, Solemnity
- 13 Anthony of Padua, Memorial
- 18 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Solemnity
- 19 Romuald, Opt. Mem.
- 21 Aloysius Gonzaga, Memorial
- 22 Paulinus of Nola; John Fisher and Thomas More, Opt. Mem.

- 23 Sacred Heart of Jesus, Solemnity
- 25 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
- 26 Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, Opt. Mem.
- 27 Cyril of Alexandria, Opt. Mem.
- 28 Irenaeus, Memorial
- 29 Peter and Paul, Solemnity
- 30 First Martyrs of the Church of Rome, Opt. Mem.

The feast of Saint Barnabas (June 11) is superseded by the Sunday liturgy. The feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (June 24) is superseded by the Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist. ☐

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

**THE BOOK OF DANIEL
AND
THE REVELATION PART 2**

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

PENTECOST, HOLY TRINITY, CORPUS CHRISTI

www.stjosephmalvern.org.au/wordpress

For these great feasts, which act as a bridge between Easter Season and our return to Ordinary Time, the first reading includes passages from the Acts of the Apostles plus two readings from the Pentateuch (the Jewish Torah or Law), namely from the book of Exodus and the book of Deuteronomy.

The first reading for each of the feasts reflects an aspect of God's revelation to humanity, either to the apostles and those to whom they preached the Word, or to the Israelites who followed Moses out of Egypt.

MAIN THEMES FOR THE FEASTS

We can think of these feasts as further aspects of the revelation of God among us, complementing what is already revealed to us in the feasts of Christmas, Epiphany, Holy Week and the Ascension. Here the focus is on the mission given to the disciples and the infant Church community, and the nature of God's continuing presence among those who follow Jesus and go out to be witnesses in his name. The feast of Pentecost is one of great drama and energy: the Spirit of God fills the universe and almost consumes the apostles, signifying the birth of the Church and the salvation for all in Jesus Christ.

We can see the Most Holy Trinity as the feast that celebrates the 'face' with which God is actually revealed to us; not God as remote or from heights far beyond us but God living amongst us. It is Jesus himself who revealed the Father to us and who promised us the Holy Spirit as a continuing support and advocate for each person who turns to God.

Like the feast of the Holy Trinity, the feast of The Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi, challenges us to understand the mystery of Jesus' living presence among us. In this feast we celebrate and give thanks that, through consuming the Eucharist, our own bodies become intimately connected to the risen Christ and can thus be lifted up with him to divine life.

Pentecost Sunday, Acts of the Apostles 2:1–11

When the Twelve met at Pentecost — i.e., on the Jewish feast of Weeks held 50 days after Passover and associated with the revelation of God and the giving of the Law on Sinai — Luke tells us that they were 'all filled with the Holy Spirit' and began to speak in tongues. After this, the 'marvels of God' were preached in many languages.

The Most Holy Trinity, Exodus 34:3b–6, 8–9

In the presence of God, signified by a cloud, Moses calls on the creator God, Yahweh—the one who causes things to be. It is the Lord who then offers us an intimate interpretation of the divine nature: 'a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger rich in kindness and faithfulness'. Moses asks forgiveness for when the people have fallen short in their response.

The Body and Blood of Christ, Deuteronomy 8:2–3, 14–16

Moses urges the people to remember what the Lord has done for them: rescued them from the Egyptians, led them in the wilderness, tested them, fed them, remained loyal to them even when they faltered, and taught them that they 'live on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord'. Above all, he says, 'do not forget the Lord your God' who saved you and fed you.

BACKGROUND TO THE READINGS

The Acts of the Apostles is regarded as the second volume of Luke's gospel, the story of the early Church that follows on from Luke's account of Jesus' ministry. Scholars believe it was written between 80 and 90 A.D. The author is unknown but scripture scholars believe he was neither Jewish nor Palestinian but an educated Greek-speaker who was not an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry. At least a third of Acts consists of speeches put on the lips of Paul, Peter and Stephen, probably reflecting early apostolic preaching. This was a common method of history writing in the Mediterranean world. The book's main themes are:



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SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

A FATHER'S LEGACY

By Greg Laurie

The greatest legacy we pass on as fathers is not our inheritance. It is not even our good name. It is the spiritual heritage that we give to our children, desiring them to walk in the way of the Lord.

When David was on his deathbed, he said to his son, "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever" (1 Chronicles 28:9 NKJV).

God has placed parents as the authorities in the life of the child. And in many ways, we as fathers represent God to our children.

A story I've often told about a little boy illustrates this well. The little boy was frightened one night by a very loud thunderstorm. He called to his father in the next room and said, "Daddy, I am scared."

His father called back from the next room, "Son, don't be scared. God is with you."

The boy paused for a moment and then said; "Yeah, but I want someone with skin on right now."

Fathers, in many ways, are like God with skin on to their children. I don't mean that literally, but I do mean that fathers are the representatives of God to that child.

Consider this: many of the attitudes a child will develop about God will be based on their relationship with their fathers. While I am not trying to lay a guilt trip on fathers, I do want to say that we fathers need to do everything we can to be a godly influence on our children. When our children see their mom or dad contradicting what they know is true, great damage can be done. Sadly, many children do not honor their parents simply because they are not very honorable. Many adults have never grown up themselves, so they abandon their responsibilities to their families to chase after their own interests.

That is why Andrew Murray said, "The secret of home rule is self-rule: first being ourselves what we want our children to be."

Our children must see the gospel lived as well as preached. We are not only to be witnesses to the world. We also need to be witnesses in our homes. Children pay attention to what really matters to us and how our Christianity affects us in day-to-day living.

You are an example. The question is, will you be a good one or a bad one?

We find an interesting insight in an often-quoted passage regarding parenting -- one that is usually quoted when children go astray. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" (NKJV).

This phrase, "in the way," could also be translated, "in his bent." The Amplified Bible translates it this way: "Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it."

We see in this a recognition that every child is different. I hope, as parents, that we realize this about our children. Every child has a unique and distinct personality. Just as no two snowflakes are exactly like, it is the same with children.

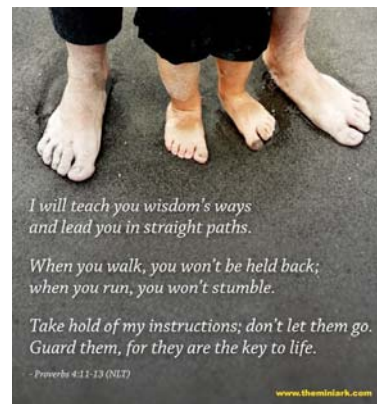
This is why we need to observe our children. We need to watch our children. Then we need to adapt our training accordingly.

This doesn't mean we turn away from the principles of Scripture, but that we adapt them to each child. For example, stern words get some children in line, while others need a different approach.

My point is that we need to recognize the unique characteristics in the lives of the little ones whom God has entrusted to our care. We want to do our best to point them in the right direction and train them in the way of the Lord.

How often we think, "I'm too busy for the kids!" Yet time goes by so fast. Treasure each moment with your children, and don't neglect them. Express your love to them.

To know that our children walk with the Lord -- that is our great hope. But we need to remember that they don't belong to us; they belong to God. Our responsibility is to point them to Him. □



Greg Laurie is an American author and pastor who serves as the senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, California and Harvest Orange County in Irvine, California.

GOD TOUCHED ME

WALKING THE WAY OF THE APOSTLES: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

*Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD
And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And
that we may walk in His paths " For from Zion will go forth the law,
Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

- Micah 4:2

By Evelyn Pua

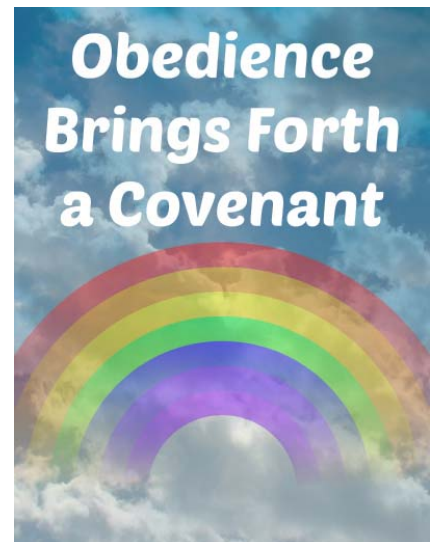
It was on December 5–15, 2017 when we did a pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan. It was a holy retreat in God's lands. This was my second pilgrimage to Israel, and first one to Jordan and it surpassed anything I had thought, hoped and dreamt of over the past months prior to our departure. To have had the privilege of joining fellow pilgrims from Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Louisiana and Cebu City in the Philippines, as well as our spiritual director, Fr. Edwin Limpiado from Atascadero, CA in this pilgrimage which has been planned through the guidance from our Lord God was already a great blessing. The meditation booklets prepared by our coordinators, the daily activities we had, Fr. Edwin's homilies, our prayer buddy all together unified our pilgrimage to be a truly spiritual experience. These contributed in making our Holy Land and Jordan experience become so real that I could feel I was a part of the history of Salvation. I could feel how "God can write straight in crooked lines." Up to this time of writing, my heart is still spinning from the images and memories of the pilgrimage and I would like to share with you, not the places I saw, but what my heart felt and how God has touched me.

As I touched the star which marked the site of Jesus' birth at the Basilica of the Nativity, as well as the Holy Sepulcher and the foot of the cross at the Basilica of the Sepulcher, I felt electric currents coursing from my hand to my upper arm. My head was spinning as we visited all the different sites. It felt surreal, dreamlike. I could not believe I was walking the same paths that Jesus and His Apostles trekked. Although the site visits were brief, they were very exhilarating.

The morning we were at Petra, Jordan, it was raining. Our tour director said we will wait for the rain to stop before we go down to the "city of the tombs." The night before, I was talking to the hotel receptionist and he said that it could be muddy, slippery and windy while during the summer, it could be very dusty and hot. We either would walk down or take the horse cart which could be a very rough ride. With my allergies and sensitivities, that scared me. At breakfast, I told Victor that I was not going. He offered to accompany me, told me everything will be all right and offered to pay for my horse cart ride. I thought of going with them but when

they were leaving, I backed out. When everyone came back from the trek, we left the hotel and went to the waters of Meribah where Moses disobeyed the Lord's instructions on what to do to get water from the rock, thus, he was not allowed to lead the people into Israel. We prayed there and everyone was touching the water. It was there that it dawned on me that I have disobeyed God myself. He was the one who planned our trip and He asked me through Victor to trust Him and go down to the "city of tombs." Because of this realization, I refused to touch the waters because it was the fruit of Moses' disobedience. We went back to the bus and prayed the rosary of the Blessed Mother and Our Fathers on the way. Lots of prayers were done while I was dozing off. When I finally woke up, all around us was desert and I saw a snake coming out of the hole. Then, I remembered my disobedience. I asked God to forgive me and promised him that I will not disobey Him anymore. Just then, Beth who was sitting across the bus aisle from me, called my attention and pointed the rainbow which she could clearly see from her side. So I tilted my head toward her side and saw the rainbow. I knew then that it was God's way of accepting my covenant with Him! I was very happy

The souvenirs I bought from there, reminds me that I have been to Israel and Jordan, but the memories in my mind and heart will sustain me and guide me, especially during the different Liturgical seasons such as Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Holy Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi, Advent and Christmas. I am certain that every time these Liturgical seasons will come around, it will have a very special meaning to me. ☐



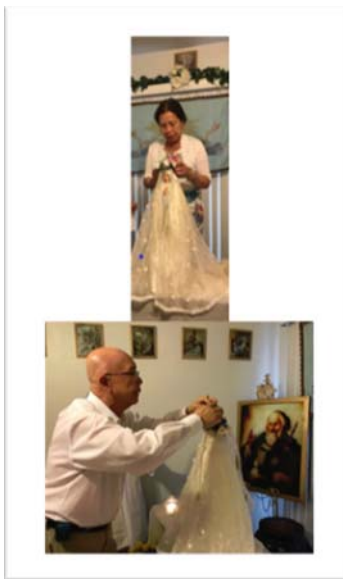
SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

MAY CROWNING

The official liturgical Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary [published in 1987 by the US Catholic Conference] states: The Coronation of Mary is a form of reverence frequently shown to images of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The popes not only endorsed this devout custom but "on many occasions, either personally or through bishop-delegates, carried out the coronation of Marian images." [Pius XII, Encyclical Ad Caeli Reginam, 11 Oct 1954]

In the 19th century, a rite was written for crowning images of Mary. The new Order of Crowning includes three types of coronation: The queen symbol was attributed to Mary because she is a perfect follower of Christ, who is the absolute 'crown' of creation. The maid of Nazareth consented to God's plan; she journeyed on the pilgrimage of faith; listened to God's word and kept it in her heart; she remained steadfastly in close union with her Son, all the way to the foot of the cross; she persevered in prayer with the Church. Thus in an eminent way, she won the "crown of righteousness," [2 Timothy 4:8] the "crown of life, [James 1:12; Rev 2:10] the "crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:4) that is promised to those who follow Christ.

In the US, a custom grew in popularity prior to the Vatican II council. In parishes, at Marian shrines and grottos, someone was chosen to place a wreath of flowers on Mary's image during May and often in the context of a Benediction, a special Rosary celebration, and sometimes at the closing of Mass. The practice continues in many US parishes. Many parishes have found innovative ways to express their reverence for the dignity of Mary, Mother of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.



The Order of Crowning states, "...it is proper to crown only those images to which the faithful come with a confidence in the Mother of God so strong that the images are of great renown and their sites centers of genuine liturgical cultus and of religious vitality. Before the crowning rite, the faithful are instructed on its meaning and purely religious nature... The crown ... should be fashioned out of material that will symbolize the singular dignity of the Blessed Virgin - a simple crown and avoid "opulence."

On Saturday, May 6, the Spiritual Army of God the Father celebrated the Crowning of our Blessed Mother, recognizing her as Queen of Heaven and Earth. In Las Vegas, the crowning was held at the Cenacle House. Both the Liturgy and the Crowning Ceremony were officiated by Fr. Ric Salditos. Mother

Mary's statue was walked in procession by Guada Eugenio. Bread wine grapes, Crucifix . rosary and bouquets of flowers were offered. The Blessed Mother was crowned with flowers and with gold crown by Ines Carrington and Robert Pua respectively. A simple, yet special poem was recited as an offering to Mother Mary. The First Saturday devotional prayers followed. Outpouring of love from the devotees was overwhelming. The celebration culminated with a special dinner in Mother Mary's honor.

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 17, 2017 AT 1:00 PM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES 1111 MICHAEL WAY LAS VEGAS, NV 89108

FEAST DAY OF GOD THE FATHER AUGUST 6, 2017 MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS 1977 CARMEN AVENUE ON GOWER, LOS ANGELES, CA [DETAILS TO FOLLOW]

AND
ST BRIDGET'S
220 N 14TH ST
LAS VEGAS, NV 89101
11:30 AM
MASS AT 12 NOON

PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, MEXICO DECEMBER 9-13, 2017

DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER
INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

INFANT JESUS CELEBRATION JANUARY 19-21, 2018 SAINT FRANCIS DESALES LAS VEGAS, NV

In Los Angeles, it was held at the Chapel of The Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. The chapel was full of devotees, as well as their family members, and friends. This year, the honor of crowning went to Ruth Mercado and Gerard Gier. Fr. George Fernandes, celebrated the mass and officiated the crowning ceremony. The crowning ceremony was poignant – the symbolisms of the flower offerings. The presentation of 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! A potluck brunch of delectable dishes prepared by devotees and friends of the Spiritual Army was enjoyed by all.

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.



This ceremony has a lesson to teach us about the Gospel: that the greatest in the kingdom of heaven are those who are foremost in serving and in love. Our Lord himself came to serve, not to be served; he drew all things to himself when he was lifted up from the earth, and he reigned by the power of gentleness and love. And our Lady, whose glory we proclaim today, was the humble servant of the Lord when she was on earth: she gave herself utterly to her Son and His work; with Him, and under Him, she was an instrument in our redemption.

Now, in the glory of heaven, she is still the God-bearer to Christ's brothers and sisters: she cares about their eternal salvation; she is minister of holiness and queen of love.

LET US PRAY: O GOD, SINCE YOU HAVE GIVEN US MARY, THE MOTHER OF YOUR SON, TO BE OUR MOTHER AND OUR QUEEN, GRANT THAT WE, WHO HAVE COME HERE TO CROWN HER IMAGE, MAY ATTAIN THE GLORY OF YOUR CHILDREN IN THE

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

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

ASCENSION DAY CELEBRATION

Las Vegas devotees have welcomed the arrival of Victor, Alice and April Araneta during this recent Memorial Day weekend. With God's blessing, we gathered in fellowship glorifying God on His day of Ascension. The next day, we gathered again in thanksgiving



to God's presence in an apostolic exercise of His glory and blessing to Jess and Vi Carlos.

We thank God as He led us to bring more light to others.

PRAISE GOD ALMIGHTY!!!

Nothing is More Precious

Jesus' presence in a marriage brings with it numerous blessings. Just as he honored the woman who poured her precious perfume on him, so will he honor us when we pour ourselves out for our husband or wife. Just as he praised the faith of the centurion, he will praise our faith as we turn to him for guidance in our marriage. And just as he taught and encouraged his disciples as they traveled throughout Israel, he will always seek ways to teach us and encourage us as individuals and as a family.

The love and presence of Jesus in our homes is the single most important gift we can give to our spouse. So, each day, affirm together that Jesus is present in your home, guiding your lives along the path to heaven.

Welcoming Jesus into Your Home. In the course of his teachings on marriage, John taught that because their lives are so caught up in day-to-day responsibilities, married couples needed to be active in seeking after Jesus -- even more aggressive than the monks who lived in the isolation of their monasteries. The monks do not need "the consolation and the help of the Holy Scriptures as much as those married couples who are in the whirl of a distracting existence" for "you are in the front of battle" (Homily III on Lazarus).

To counter these distractions, John encouraged married couples to "pray together at home and go to church." He said, "I would have you always pray; and if not always, at least very often; and if not very often, at least now and then, at least in the morning, at least in the evening." (Homily XXII on Hebrews).

We live in a world that moves at a whirlwind pace. We get ourselves so busy that we sometimes forget about Jesus. We face a barrage of images and ideas, from television to the Internet, from fast food ads to shopping mall hype, and they all urge us to go and go and go. Of course, in and of themselves, there's nothing wrong with these things, but they need to be kept in their proper perspective. When we find ourselves engulfed in them and unable to devote any time to our family or to our relationship with Jesus, John would tell us that our life is out of order.

John wanted balance. He wanted order. He espoused the value of schedules and the regular examination of the day, week, and month primarily to measure the balance. Balance for John meant that each family, each mini-church, needed to protect the "Christ-centered atmosphere" lest it fall by the wayside -- and prayer is the best way to protect this atmosphere.

Show Your Love. A very practical man, John wasn't satisfied just telling his people to love as Jesus loves. He made sure that they knew how to do this. For John, selfless love showed itself in a desire to be "perfect," all the while knowing that our spouse is not perfect. It is

this striving for perfection, coupled with a healthy dose of realism, that will preserve a marriage from the pitfalls of resentment and punishingly high expectations.

To reinforce his point, John encouraged couples to express their love for each other every day: "Never call your wife merely by her name. Call her with terms of endearment, with honor, and with much love. . . . Always begin by telling her how much you love her. . . . Tell her that you love her more than your own life" (Homily XX on Ephesians). John suggested that couples should be willing to die for each other, "even if it becomes necessary . . . to be cut into pieces ten thousand times." For John it was not only physical death but the death that comes from living together. John knew how deeply cruel words can hurt when a husband or wife says or does something that should not have been said or done. Sometimes, silence can cut more deeply than words. But in all these instances of death, John encouraged couples to forgive and let go -- just as Jesus forgives us. If something needs to be addressed, it should be addressed -- but always out of a desire for unity, always letting love cover our flaws and our sins (1 Peter 4:8).

It can be easy to forget that love keeps marriages alive, not routine, function, and chores. It can be easy, also, for a couple to take each other for granted. That's why John encouraged his people to pay attention to their verbal and nonverbal gestures of love. That's why he asked them to assess how they were doing from time to time -- so that routine would not dethrone affection. It's also why he spoke about the value of sexual intimacy in marriage.

The Key to Harmony. John also spoke about the importance of having harmony in the home. In his mind, harmony meant always keeping the focus on what was best for the whole, not just for one individual. It meant working through life together, resolving differences without resorting to harsh comments, spite, or anger. "When harmony prevails, the children are raised well; the household is kept in order; and neighbors, friends, and relatives praise the result."

So how can married couples live in harmony in a world that pulls them in so many directions? How can we dedicate ourselves to bringing Jesus into our homes when we are already spread so thin? Chrysostom faced this question as well, and he gave two key responses: Couples must pray and read Scripture every day, and they must avoid serious sin. If a married couple can work on just these two areas, they will be comforted and they will find harmony.

"If we order our lives in this way and diligently study the Scriptures," John taught, "we will find the lessons to guide us in everything we need" (Homily XX on Ephesians). What kind of lessons? On the one hand, we will learn how to love unconditionally, how to forgive, and how to treat each other charitably. On the other hand, we will learn how to guard against getting caught

up in money, how to avoid manipulating each other, and how to put aside any tendency to puff ourselves up with pride or arrogance.

When a couple begins to pray, reads Scripture together, and tries to stay close to Jesus, good things begin to happen. They find that their efforts to be more considerate and more harmonious are built up and bring far more results than before. And this doesn't surprise Chrysostom in the least. Remember how he taught that Jesus and the angels and the archangels all come into a marriage founded on Christ. They are all present in a marriage striving to be a mini-church, and they all cast a beautiful and bright light over the whole home.

Am I Ridiculous? When he talked about this exalted view of marriage, John faced a certain degree of opposition. "I am aware that many people think me ridiculous for giving such advice," he said. But he continued: "If you live as I say and build your household into a mini-church, your perfection will rival the holiest of monks."

So what about you? It's never too late to start. Consider how you can bring Jesus into your home -- maybe with a family rosary or a time of Scripture reading just before dinner. Make it a point to go to Mass together every Sunday. Work with your whole family to try to gain consensus on how to build up the harmony in your home. And above all, do not let yourself get discouraged. Every step you take -- however small or large -- can go a long way in establishing your home as a mini-church. □

Continued from Page 3

PENTECOST, HOLY TRINITY , CORPUS CHRISTI

Jesus' life, death and resurrection fulfil the Scriptures; Jesus is the new David, the risen Lord of the Christian community; and the Church must become 'a light to the nations'.

The book of Exodus is the second of the five books of Moses known as the Torah, the Pentateuch or the Law. It tells the story of how God delivered the people from Egypt, and the freedom they gained from the covenant relationship they sealed with God in the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai. It continues the story of Israel's journey with God begun in Genesis. Exodus is an anthology of liturgy and literature from nearly all periods of Israel's history, possibly reaching its final form in the exilic period (6th century B.C.).

The book of Deuteronomy is the fifth of the five books of the Torah. Deuteronomy is organized as a series of addresses by Moses to the people of Israel. The book includes the death of Moses and the commissioning of Joshua as the next leader. Its great theme is that God has saved his people whom he loves; the people are to remember this, and love and obey God as covenant people. Deuteronomic theology and perspective had an influence well beyond this book, and shaped the development of early Judaism with its focus on observance of the Law as the way of life for God's people. Authorship remains a mystery to scholars, many of whom favour a date in the 7th century B.C. □

***"... Offer My precious blood to God Almighty Father
for the sake of my sorrowful passion.***

***My children, I was condemned to death
because of the lies of the evil enemy.
But I conquered death on the third day.***

***When you're chosen, fight for my sake
and I will raise you up and
make your enemies your foot stool."***

- Jesus of Nazareth, Your Loving God

05202017

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous June sponsors of the 800 Our Father Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of God the Father.

Las Vegas, Nevada

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Alice Ng | Clara Velasquez

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

HOW DO WE RESPOND WHEN OUR CRY FOR MERCY RECEIVES ITS LOVING ANSWER FROM OUR MASTER?

WE NEED TO PRAISE AND THANK JESUS FOR HIS HEALING POWER, MERCY, AND GRACE.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU FELL FACE DOWN AND PRAISED JESUS?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU PRAISED AND THANKED THE LORD

FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU

WITH A GENUINE HEART AND A PROSTRATE POSTURE?

Thank you, Lord, for the First Saturday, Spiritual Army of God Cenacle and Newsletter. I do believe you more than permit,-- will -- what experiences and people come together to compile and edit the newsletter and teach at the cenacle. Thank you for the professionalism, good humor, and content. Thank you for your blessings through these things, and thank you for the confidence and faith which result. Bless the contributors, the workers making it possible, and the reception of the results.

*-With gratitude,
- JMU*

Thank you, God The Father, for being in our life. Thank you for nourishing our life through Jesus, Thy dearly beloved Son and Redeemer and The Holy Spirit, The Paraclete!!!

Thank you for bringing us closer to Thee, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary and strengthening our faith journey through The Spiritual Army of God The Father Ministry and Our Lady of Lourdes Ministry.

We love Thee, O, Almighty Eternal Father with all our hearts and souls. We belong only to Thee!!!

- Gary and Maria Sheets.

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. | 1st 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

800 Our Father Devotion – June 17, 2017

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 Heart Devotional Group for Departed Souls

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

IN LAS VEGAS:

Sacred Heart and Precious Blood of Jesus Devotion for Departed Souls

Every 1st Friday of the Month
at The Cenacle House in The Enclave 8455 W. Sahara Avenue #172 | Las Vegas, NV 89117
Devotional Prayers start at 2:30 P.M.

1st Saturday Devotion

at Saint Frances de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108 at 8:00 AM
Devotional Prayers follow.

and

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 1st 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

800 Our Father Devotion – June 24, 2017

*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.*

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena & Rosary Prayers

Every Wednesday of the month after the 7:30 AM Mass (*except during the Holy Week*)
St. Francis de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108

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.