



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

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DEACON-STRUCTING THE SACRED HEART OF THE FATHER

By Deacon Pedro

Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation

I first wrote this 5 years ago. This year (2017) the Feast of the Sacred Heart falls five days after Father's Day, but I think of this every year since I first wrote it. Lately I've been thinking a lot about being a dad, since that 13-year-old that I mention below will be soon graduating from High School and going off to University.

It's 11 p.m., Saturday night and I'm sitting up waiting to go pick up my soon-to-be sixteen-year-old son at a party. His mother had to work today and is working late, so I took his thirteen-year-old brother for dinner, a movie and then ice cream. He's now exhausted, in bed. That's after a full day at a soccer tournament, mowing the lawn, cleaning the pool, paying bills and grocery shopping. And so, I am up thinking about being a dad – and it's so cliché, but it's true: it just seems like yesterday we were changing diapers and pushing strollers... So I'm thinking about being a dad...

And being a son.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

My reflection began yesterday, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I did not grow up with a big devotion to the Sacred Heart, although I was familiar with the image of Jesus looking straight at you, pointing at his heart, which can be visible on the outside of his body. I knew the image, but I never really gave it much thought.

Until yesterday.

It seems silly and obvious, but yesterday, it struck me that the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is all about love. Of course. Heart equals love. Not sure why it hadn't been obvious before. I just hadn't thought about it.

I grew up with the notion that the father is the head of the family and the mother is the heart.

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FEASTS FOR JUNE

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Justin, Memorial | 24 Solemnity of St. John the Baptist, Solemnity |
| 2 Marcellinus and Peter, Opt. Mem. | 26 Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer, Opt. Mem. |
| 3 Charles Lwanga and Companions, Memorial | 27 Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 5 Boniface, Memorial | 28 Irenaeus, Memorial |
| 6 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Solemnity | 29 Peter and Paul, Solemnity |
| 9 St. Ephrem, Memorial | 30 First Martyrs of the Church of Rome, Opt. Mem. |
| 11 Sacred Heart of Jesus, Memorial | |
| 12 Immaculate Heart of Mary, Memorial | |
| 13 Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 19 Romuald, Opt. Mem. | |
| 20 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day, Sunday | |
| 21 Aloysius Gonzaga, Memorial | |
| 22 Paulinus of Nola; John Fisher and Thomas More, Opt. Mem. | |

The feast of St. Barnabas (June 11) is superseded by the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The feasts of St. Norbert (June 6), St. Anthony of Padua (June 13) and St. Cyril of Alexandria (June 27), are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. ☐

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

I thank God for the message that eased up my troubled heart, a message given to me on the day before my biopsy. I also thank God that the complication was minimal. And most of all I thank God for the benign result of my biopsy. I also thank all those who have prayed for my health and I ask you to continue praying for the health issues of my wife.

- Robert Pua

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

continuation of the
Dream of King Nebuchadnezzar
Book of Daniel

GOD TOUCHED ME

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

SEEKING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

By Josie Manaois-Santos, A Devotee

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11*

It all started with frequent invites from one of my dearest and longtime friends, who is also a godmother to my daughter, and a member of The Spiritual Army of God the Father. I always had reasons for not being able to attend because I was consumed with few personal issues, which at that time I felt would be a hindrance to other commitments. Little did I know, the moment I accepted and took the big step in joining the ministry, it was just the right direction and place to be in. This was the direction that strengthened my faith and love for the Lord. We look forward that this direction will further cultivate our spiritual growth so that we can flourish in this time of renewal.

There have been few transformations in my life/our lives, since we have started attending the prayer sessions. My husband and I had already exchanged our vows, but we were advised to have our marriage convalidated -- to bring our union into the Church, receive the fullness of the sacraments and God's special blessing upon us. Being a part of this ministry has since been a blessing; a great influence that is now playing a big part of our daily lives. It helped me and my husband to deepen our faith and that brought us so much closer to God, as we were reminded to always put God in the center of our relationship. We must keep our focus firmly on our relationship as the top priority. Not him, not me, but us. From then on, things have been slowly going well for us.

When we pray regularly, the Holy Spirit becomes a fountain of life and power within us, uniting us to God Himself. I have also found myself to be more at peace emotionally, mentally and socially as I continue

to be in attendance to the prayer meetings. I was able to go on daily without having to deal with unnecessary burdens in my surroundings. We are grateful to God for receiving unexpected small blessings that have been pouring here and there since we have joined. For instance, in my workplace, God gifted me by moving me to a new department with a wonderful director who has fought with upper management for two years just to have me work very closely to her. This was finally granted, and I became part of a department team that was pleasant to work with. Another God given surprise was when my husband was accorded a promotion in the midst of these pandemic times. He did not expect it at all as everyone was worried of lay-offs due to its effect of possible economic downfall, but God was more than generous to us. I am also thankful that my children are doing well with their studies and scholarship grants continue to come.

Growing up as a Catholic, I never knew there is so much more than just believing that there is God. Doing good deeds to your families and others gives you that remarkable feeling that brings joy inside your heart. It is important to change the way we reflect if we want a positive outcome in life, and we owe it all to Him. I now realize that God has plentiful to give in such great lengths when He knows it is for the good of our souls. God has transformed my life and my family's life by opening our hearts to the power of prayer. Who knows what wonderful door might be opening in our hearts next? WE ARE BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE! ☐

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

BEING ALERT AND PREPARED FOR THE END TIMES

BY VICTOR ARANETA

Are we really at the End times? What did the Lord say about the end times? "There will be earthquakes, chaos and plagues all over and signs will be given in the sky " Gospel of John chapter 2:3. Are these all happening? Let's look at the Book of Revelation Chapters 6 and 9. Both chapters mention two white horses. Chapter 6 states about a white horse with crown, while Chapter 9 states about a



white horse with crown of stephanite or jewels representing KINGSHIP AND KING OF KINGS. Both chapters state about "creatures" riding white horses. These tell us that we must be very discerning of false prophets massing

crowds to follow them and falsifying the glory of God. They will conquer plagues and bring stability in the whole world, to bring in NEW WORLD ORDER! People will be deceived by the first horseman with a crown on his head. This will later be distinguished with the mark of the beast, 666. This may or may not be a number, but something eaten, engulfed or put inside one's body, Revelation, Chapter 3:1-2.

The world is now so scared, and we do not know what to believe. This is part of the chaos and confusion related by Jesus about the end times. What does He say we should do? PRAY and be prepared for the hour of His second coming is not known to Him and even to the angels in heaven. Only the Father knows the time and day. But God sent an advocate to guide us, the Holy Spirit. God even provides us with an intercessor, His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary! The only way we can prepare is through praying her Rosary. There's still a lot more power of discernment which the Holy Spirit will give us in order to help us distinguish the wolves from the sheep. With this gift of discernment, it will help us to not succumb to the deception of the son of the evil one, the anti-Christ, riding on a white horse with a crown on his head .

For this, we pray: Lord God, give us the strength of unmasking the false leader through your Spirit. Let us not be blinded by this false prophet through his promise of his so-called "peace and tranquility" because we know that this will be an artificial or false peace that will cost our souls and bring us to eternal damnation, not the eternal life in God's Glory in paradise. In Jesus venerable name, we pray. AMEN. ☐

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
JUNE 4, 2021

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

JUNE 5, 2021

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

JUNE 6, 2021

STATIONS OF THE CROSS GARDENS
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
IN LOS ANGELES AT 10:00 AM

ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89183

MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

JUNE 19, 2021

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE

DEACON-STRUCTING THE SACRED HEART OF THE FATHER

It seems old-fashioned, but I did grow up in Latin America in the 70's. The idea of Jesus being the "heart", while logical, does not really jive with these notions. Jesus is a man. He is the head of the body. Mary is the one with the heart. (And rightfully, today we celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary¹.)

Although now, that I am father, I see that what makes me a good dad is not much my head, but more my heart. And I want my sons to grow up to be men (and husbands and dads, if that is what they are being called to) who have heart.

I don't mean "heart" as in "the heart of a lion." I mean "heart" as in "feeling."

Recently, a Jesuit priest, Fr. Keith Langstaff told me that in the times of Jesus, the ideas of "head" and "heart" were completely the opposite of what we have today. For us, the head is the place of wisdom, of sound logic. Ideas come from the head, the mind. The heart, on the other hand, is where we feel. In the times of Jesus, it was the other way around. The Jewish notion 2000 years ago, was that one thought with the heart and one felt with the head. Completely backwards.

And I'm not entirely sure where I am going with this, except that I like the idea that Jesus is not only head or only heart. I like the idea that being the head of the family doesn't mean that I can't have heart. I like the idea that if Jesus has a Sacred Heart, that means that God, the Father, also has a Sacred Heart. God is a God who is head, but also who feels, who loves.

God is not a God of the intellect (although He is that), but a God of the senses.

In listening to a program dedicated to fathers yesterday on "Focus on the Family," I was amazed to hear that most people, when speaking about their dads, no matter how old they are now, tend to get emotional. There is something about our dad-relationships that makes us emotional. At the end of the program, the host said something that is so true: "We all long for the love of a Father." It's no coincidence that God is Father.

God is Father and we all long for the love of a Father.

And that is I think, what the Feast of the Sacred Heart is all about. And maybe it's no coincidence that this great feast is now celebrated so close to Father's Day.

So, tonight, as I stay awake a bit longer, I pray for all fathers. I pray for your head, but mostly I pray for your heart. I pray that you continually strive to love your children as the Father loves His children - with a love that pours itself out completely, totally and eternally, unselfishly, unconditionally and without restraint.

Happy Father's Day. And may your hearts too, be sacred. ☐

Every week, Deacon Pedro takes a particular topic apart, not so much to explore or explain the subject to its fullness, but rather to provide insights that will deepen our understanding of the subject. And don't worry, at the end of the day he always puts the pieces back together.

There are no limits to deconstructing. Write to him and ask any questions about the faith or Church teaching:

pedro@saltandlighttv.org;

Deacon Pedro continues his exploration of the Doctors with Basil, Gregory of Nazianzus, Athanasius, Bonaventure, Anselm, and Isidore of Seville.

*“. . . Pray my beads for I am always with you.
The end times have started. Cry out to heaven
and raise your hands to glorify God.
My beads you will always hold and pray
as instrument to deflect the forces of Satan.*

Mary, Your Lady of Garabandal
050121

¹ This year (2017), the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is celebrated on June 24, same day as the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, so it may get suppressed in certain places.