



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

JUNE 2025

## HEART OF JESUS, HOLY TEMPLE OF GOD: EXCERPTED

*Bishop Robert Barron*  
[www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)

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EVERY YEAR, JUST AFTER THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS. THOUGH THE CHURCH CERTAINLY REVERENCES THE MIND OF CHRIST ("MAY THAT SAME MIND BE IN YOU THAT WAS IN CHRIST JESUS"), AND THOUGH IT CLEARLY REVERENCES THE WILL OF CHRIST (MUCH OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP IS SIMPLY CONFORMING OUR WILLS TO CHRIST'S), THERE ISN'T A FEAST OF THE SACRED MIND, NOR OF THE SACRED WILL. BUT THERE IS A FESTIVAL OF THE SACRED HEART. WHAT SEEMS CLEAR IS THAT THE CHURCH WANTS US TO PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE AFFECTIVITY OF JESUS. WHEN I FIRST READ IMMANUEL KANT'S RELIGIOUS



WRITINGS MANY YEARS AGO, AND CAME ACROSS HIS ACCOUNT OF JESUS, I CONFESSED THAT I LAUGHED. THE GREAT PRUSSIAN PHILOSOPHER, PREDICTABLY, PROJECTED HIS AUSTERE SELF ONTO THE LORD AND READ HIM AS "THE ICON OF THE PERSON PERFECTLY PLEASING TO GOD." FOR KANT, JESUS WAS A SEVERE, AUSTERE, MORAL IDEAL. BUT THIS IS SO ALIEN TO THE NEW TESTAMENT! FOR THE GOSPELS PRESENT JESUS AS A PERSON OF EXTRAORDINARY EMOTION, PASSION, AND HEART.

JUST THINK, FOR EXAMPLE, OF TWO OF THE BEST KNOWN OF HIS PARABLES: THE GOOD SAMARITAN AND THE PRODIGAL SON. BOTH OF THESE SPEAK POETICALLY OF GOD AS SOMEONE WHOSE HEART IS PROFOUNDLY ENGAGED. THE FATHER OF THE PRODIGAL SON, THROWING CAUTION AND RESPECTABILITY TO THE WIND, GOES RUNNING DOWN THE HILL TO MEET HIS BOY; THE GOOD SAMARITAN, UPON SEEING THE WOUNDED AND HELPLESS MAN, WAS "MOVED WITH COMPASSION." HOW WONDERFUL THAT, AT THE WEDDING FEAST OF CANA, JESUS PROVIDES WINE FOR THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE. HE DIDN'T CURE ANYONE OR RAISE ANYONE FROM THE DEAD OR FORGIVE ANYONE'S SINS; HE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CELEBRATION AND JOY OF THE PARTY-GOERS. HE PROVIDED SOMETHING THAT LIFTS UP THE HUMAN HEART!

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 4*

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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.

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## FEASTS FOR JUNE

THE FEASTS ON THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE ARE:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 ASCENSION SUNDAY OR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, SUNDAY                  | 22 CORPUS CHRISTI, SOLEMNITY   |
| 2 MARCELLINUS & PETER, OPT. MEM.  | 24 NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, SOLEMNITY   |
| 3 CHARLES LWANGA & COMPANIONS, MEMORIAL                                     | 26 JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ, OPT. MEM.  |
| 5 BONIFACE, MEMORIAL  | 27 SACRED HEART OF JESUS, OPT. MEM.  |
| 6 NORBERT, OPT. MEM.  | 28 IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, MEMORIAL  |
| 8 PENTECOST, SOLEMNITY  | 29 SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, SOLEMNITY  |
| 9 BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH; BERNARDINE OF SIENA, OPT. MEM. | 30 FIRST MARTYRS OF THE HOLY ROMAN CHURCH, OPT. MEM.   |
| 11 BARNABAS; EMBER WEDNESDAY, MEMORIAL                                      | THE FEASTS ST. JUSTIN (JUNE 1), STS. JOHN FISHER AND THOMAS MORE, AND ST. PAULINUS (JUNE 22) ARE SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. ☐ |
| 13 ANTHONY OF PADUA; EMBER FRIDAY, MEMORIAL                                 |  |
| 15 TRINITY SUNDAY, SOLEMNITY  |  |
| 19 ROMUALD, OPT. MEM.   |  |
| 21 ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, MEMORIAL   |  |

## OUR CENACLE CORNER

SEEKING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD  
THROUGH MEDITATION OF PASSAGES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

*Love is Always Plentiful  
in Our Midst*

# GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.*

*Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

## IN MEMORY OF MILA LUMBA

*"For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance." 2 Timothy 4:6-8*

*By Evelyn Pua, a Devotee*

MILA LUMBA WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 18, 1949 IN PAGSANJAN, LAGUNA. SHE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD ON MAY 9, 2025 AT THE NATHAN ADELSON HOSPICE IN LAS VEGAS, NV. SHE IS SURVIVED BY HER TWO DAUGHTERS, LEA AND MARIAN. HER OLDEST DAUGHTER, MICHELLE (MILET), DIED IN 2019; AND GIL, HER HUSBAND DIED IN 2023.

GIL WAS ROBERT'S (MY HUSBAND'S) GRADE SCHOOL MATE AT SAN BEDA COLLEGE. MY HUSBAND WAS A YEAR OR TWO AHEAD OF HIM. AFTER COLLEGE, THEY REUNITED ALONG WITH OTHER FRIENDS, AND CONSTANTLY MET AT GIL'S HOUSE.

THE FIRST TIME I MET MILA, WAS AT OUR CONDO IN CANOGA PARK IN 1991. THE LUMBAS JUST ARRIVED FROM MANILA AS IMMIGRANTS – GIL, MILA PREGNANT WITH MARIAN, MILET & LEA. FROM THEN ON, OUR FRIENDSHIP FELL INTO PLACE. WE ALL MET TOGETHER ON CERTAIN

HOLIDAYS OR SPECIAL OCCASIONS. WE SOMETIMES WENT TO VISIT THEM AT THEIR APARTMENT BUT NOT TOO OFTEN SINCE, AT THAT TIME, WE WERE ALL WORKING PEOPLE. THEY MOVED TO ANOTHER PLACE IN GLENDALE AND FINALLY, BOUGHT A HOUSE IN LAS VEGAS.

WHEN WE MOVED TO LAS VEGAS IN 2004, THAT WAS THE TIME WHEN OUR FRIENDSHIP WAS NURTURED BY OUR COMMON INTEREST OF LOVING GOD. OUR FRIENDSHIP, ALONG WITH VIC BATU (DECEASED IN 2023), HAS BEEN MADE IN HEAVEN. TOGETHER, WE HAVE MOVED TO GREATER HEIGHTS IN OUR SERVICE TO GOD. GOD DOES NOT STOP THE CLOCK. HE GIVES

US THE PEOPLE TO HELP US, TO HURT US, TO LOVE US, TO LEAVE US SO AS TO MAKE US THE PERSON WE WERE MEANT TO BE. OUR FRIENDSHIP HAD BEEN EVIDENTLY



PLANNED BY GOD AND WE ALL KNOW THAT DIVINE PROVIDENCE ALWAYS PREVAILS.

WHAT I THINK OF MILA COULD BE EXPRESSED THROUGH AN ACRONYM OF HER NAME:

**M** – STANDS FOR MERRY WHICH MEANS JOLLY, HAPPY, FUN. LOTS OF IT! MEMORABLE ARE THOSE TIMES WHEN WE TRAVELED TO ARIZONA, SAN DIEGO, SACRAMENTO, LAUGHLIN OR EVEN TO THE CHINA RANCH DATE FARM NEAR TECOPA – VIC, THE DRIVER, MILA THE CAPTAIN, AND I THE GPS WHO WAS AND STILL IS ALWAYS ON LOW BATT. THE THREE OF US OR WITH OTHERS, TRAVELED TO MANY CITIES, AND ALSO IN LAS VEGAS EVERY TIME WE BROUGHT THE IMAGE OF THE HOLY INFANT JESUS FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE. WE HAVE LOST OUR WAY OR GOT DELAYED FOR MANY REASONS, OR DROVE THROUGH THICK FOGGY ROAD, BUT WE ALL LAUGHED ABOUT IT, NEITHER STRESSING NOR PRESSURING ANYONE. HER SENSE OF HUMOR WAS VERY INFECTIOUS.

**I** – FOR INDEFATIGABLE WHICH MEANS TIRELESS, NOT PHYSICALLY BUT WITH THE DRIVE WITHIN HER. IN OTHER WORDS, PERSISTENT. SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR EVERYONE, AND FOR ME – ESPECIALLY, WHEN I NEEDED A RIDE DURING THE TIME WHEN ROBERT WAS STILL WORKING. IF SHE COULD NOT DO IT FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, SHE FOUND AN ALTERNATE MEANS, ALWAYS MAKING SURE IT WAS TAKEN CARE OF.

**L** - FOR LOYAL AND LOVING GOD. I ADMIRER MILA FOR HER STRONG FAITH IN GOD. SHE WAS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE I KNOW WHO HAS EXHIBITED THE FULL TRUST IN GOD. AS SHE WENT THROUGH LIFE, THROUGH HER TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS, SHE ALWAYS EMERGED VICTORIOUS WITH GOD – CONQUERING HER ILLNESS, THE SIDE EFFECTS OF HER MEDICATIONS, AND MANY MORE. SHE REMINDS ME OF THE SICK WOMAN WHO TOUCHED THE HEM OF JESUS' ROBE AND WAS HEALED BECAUSE OF HER FAITH. HOWEVER, ON MAY 9, OUR DEAR GOD HAS CALLED HER BACK. BEFORE SHE PASSED ON, SHE TOLD US THAT SHE WAS AT PEACE BECAUSE BOTH HER DAUGHTERS ARE NOW STABLE.

**A** – FOR AFFABLE WHICH MEANS FRIENDLY, GOOD NATURED, EASY TO TALK TO. MILA'S SENSE OF HUMOR WAS VERY INFECTIOUS AND SHE BROUGHT OUT THE HUMOR THAT IS BURIED DEEP WITHIN US. SHE MADE FRIENDS EASILY AND SHE MADE PEOPLE AROUND HER FEEL AT EASE. ONCE WE GOT TOGETHER – EITHER ON THE PHONE OR OUTSIDE, WE LAUGHED AND GIGGLED, IN SPITE OF ALL THE CHALLENGES WE HAVE

HAD. WE DID HAVE SOME SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS BUT IT ALWAYS ENDED WITH LAUGHTER.

DUE TO THIS SPECIAL CONNECTION THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US – IN GOD'S BOOK, OURS WAS A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN. IN NOT SO MANY WORDS OR EVEN WITHOUT WORDS, WE FELT EACH OTHER'S EMOTIONS – HAPPINESS, SADNESS, LOVE OR HURT – ALWAYS UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER WITH NO ENVY, NO JEALOUSY. MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MILA WAS BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN BY AUTHOR TONI MORRISON ON HER DEFINITION OF A SISTER.

"IT IS ABOUT KNOWING EACH OTHER SO DEEP, WITH A PARTICULAR FLAIR, WITH A CERTAIN SENSE OF STYLE. IT IS A LONG-TERM FRIENDSHIP – CHOSEN, NOT GIVEN, FRIENDS ARE FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE, NOT BECAUSE BIOLOGY DICTATES A CONNECTION. THEY COME IN ALL AGES, SHAPES, SIZES AND COLORS; THEY HAVE COME HERE TO STAY. FOR THOSE THEY LOVE, THEY ARE BOTH THE SHIP AND THE SAFE HARBOR. NEVER THE WRONG SIZE OR THE WRONG COLOR; NEVER TOO EARLY OR LATE, BUT ALWAYS RIGHT ON TIME. SISTERS CAN BE COUNTED ON IN ANY MILLENNIUM TO WATCH YOUR BACK OR YOUR BABIES. TO KEEP IT REAL OR KEEP IT HIDDEN. TO SHOP UNTIL YOU DROP. THESE ARE THE VOWS OF SISTERHOOD --'TIL DEATH DO US PART."

GOOD-BYE, MILA, MY FRIEND, MY KUMARE, MY SISTER IN CHRIST. MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN PEACE. ☐



WITH LOVE ALWAYS, SEKSI  
TILL WE MEET AGAIN! A

## HEART OF JESUS

WHEN THE WOMAN AT THE HOME OF SIMON THE PHARISEE EXTRAVAGANTLY POURS PERFUME ON THE LORD'S FEET, INFURIATING THE MORE SOBER-MINDED BYSTANDERS, JESUS RESPONDS WITH DEEP APPRECIATION. FOR HER HEART WAS SPEAKING TO HIS. COR AD COR LOQUITUR. AS HE LOOKS OUT OVER THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM, THE LORD WEEPS BECAUSE OF ITS SINS. HE COULD HAVE SIMPLY CONDEMNED THE TOWN OR DISPASSIONATELY POINTED OUT ITS MORAL FAILINGS, BUT HIS HEART SPOKE THROUGH THOSE TEARS. TO A CROWD OF PROBABLY SHOCKED AND CONFUSED LISTENERS, HE SAID, "DO NOT THINK THAT I COME TO SEND PEACE UPON THE EARTH; I HAVE COME TO BRING A SWORD, NOT PEACE." THE ANGER OF JESUS IS AN OUTPOURING OF HIS HEART, A VALUE-RESPONSE BEYOND WHAT MIND OR WILL COULD EXPRESS. AT THE TOMB OF HIS FRIEND, LAZARUS, JESUS WEPED. "THE JEWS THEREFORE SAID, 'SEE HOW HE LOVED HIM.'" HIS WILL WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT TO EXPRESS HIS LOVE FOR LAZARUS, BUT THE PEOPLE TRULY UNDERSTOOD THE DEPTH OF THAT LOVE WHEN THEY SAW HIM WEEP. FINALLY, CONSIDER THE LORD'S WONDERFUL WORD AND GESTURE TO HIS DISCIPLES WHEN HE APPEARED TO THEM AFTER THE RESURRECTION: "PEACE," HE SAID TO THEM - -"AND THEN HE SHOWED THEM HIS WOUNDS." OR PONDER HIS REMARKABLE WORD TO THOMAS: "PUT YOUR HAND IN MY SIDE" -- IN OTHER WORDS, INTO MY HEART.

NOW, WHY DOES THE CHURCH WANT US TO CONTEMPLATE TODAY ALL OF THIS AFFECTIVITY? IT DOES SO BECAUSE IT KNOWS THAT THE HEART OF JESUS IS NOT SIMPLY THE HEART OF A GREAT MAN FROM THE FIRST CENTURY, BUT RATHER THE HEART OF GOD HIMSELF. THE FEELINGS OF JESUS -- OF JOY, SORROW, PITY, COMPASSION, EXULTATION, ETC. -- ARE THE FEELINGS OF GOD. THEREFORE, THE HEART OF JESUS IS A PLACE WHERE GOD DWELLS. IN THE LOVELY LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART, WE FIND THIS INVOCATION: "COR JESU, TEMPLUM DEI SANCTUM, MISERERE NOBIS." (HEART OF JESUS, HOLY TEMPLE OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON US.) WHEN WE MOVE INTO THE SPACE OF JESUS' HEART -- LOVING WHAT HE LOVES, SORROWING OVER WHAT HE SORROWS OVER, REJOICING OVER WHAT HE REJOICES OVER, FEELING COMPASSION FOR WHOM HE FEELS COMPASSION -- WE ARE DWELLING IN THE HOLY TEMPLE OF GOD. □



*Offer your prayers to those who are suffering on this day, the day of love and care for others.*

*My sorrows weep for those close to my Mother's Immaculate Heart.*

*Jesus of Nazareth*

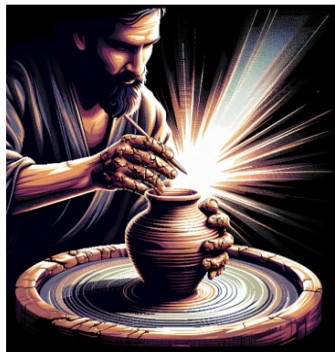
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# SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

## LOVE IS ALWAYS PLENTIFUL IN OUR MIDST

BY VICTOR H. ARANETA

WHEN THE LORD GOD CREATED OUR WORLD IT WAS DONE WITH LOVE AND APPRECIATION OF BEAUTY. WE CAN JUST IMAGINE, AFTER EACH CREATION, HE APPRECIATES THE CREATED THE ANIMATE OBJECTS AS GOOD IN HIS EYES.



Jeremiah 18:4 - "And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it."

HUMANITY AS PART OF THAT CREATION WAS VIEWED BY GOD AS GOOD AND PERFECT. LATER ON AFTER THE FALL OF MAN, THIS APPRECIATION OF HIS CREATION STILL REMAINS IN GOD AS BEAUTIFUL AND LOVELY, BUT HUMANS START TO SEE A LOT OF IMPERFECTIONS IN HIMSELF AND AROUND HIM. HUMANITY CHANGES AND MAKES MODIFICATIONS. WORKING UNDER THE GUISE OF IMPROVEMENTS, MAN WORKS TOWARDS THE DESTRUCTION AND ANNIHILATION OF GOD'S CREATION. WE APPRECIATE THIS CREATION NOT FROM THE ORIGINAL FORM THAT WAS CREATED BUT FROM THE MODIFICATIONS MAN HAS MADE TO SUIT HIS OWN NARRATIVE OF PRESERVATION .

WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND US, LET US PRAY: MY GOD, WE PRAY FOR WISDOM SO WE CAN SEE THE ORIGINAL BEAUTY OF YOUR CREATION, NOT FROM OUR OWN PERSPECTIVE, BUT FROM THE ORIGINAL POTTER'S HANDS AND HEART OF GIVING AND LOVE OF GOD ALMIGHTY. AMEN. ☐

## Upcoming Events

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

JUNE 1, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:

ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY DEVOTION DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SOULS

JUNE 6, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:

THE CENACLE HOUSE

AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

AT 8:30 PM

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

JUNE 7, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:

THE CENACLE HOUSE

AT 1:00 PM

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

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

JUNE 7, 2025

IN LOS ANGELES:

ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL

ST. ANNE FAMILY SERVICES

155 N. OCCIDENTAL BL.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90026

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM

MASS AT 9:30 AM

### 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

IN LAS VEGAS:

THE CENACLE HOUSE

AT 8:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

AT 9:00 AM