



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

July 2019

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AN INDEPENDENCE DAY REFLECTION: HOW CAN WE FULFILL OUR MISSION?

Deacon Kurt Godfryd

Like the Minutemen, we have been sent into rough terrain to make a difference

During this Independence week, I have a confession to make. A few summers ago, I found myself standing on a bridge in Concord, Massachusetts. And without knowing that I shouldn't pick the flowers— I did! After apologizing to the park ranger for my failure to read the "Don't Pick the Flowers" sign, he smiled and allowed me to take the flower. At the time, it was a prized possession. Now, however, it is temporarily lost in my office. But that's another story.



If we could transport ourselves back to 1763, we would find ourselves at the end of the French and Indian War, a war that took many British lives and a great financial toll upon the King of England. Over the next twelve years, we would also observe an increasingly impatient king, one bent upon placing greater restrictions, taxes, and authority upon the colonists.

By April 18, 1775, King George III had reached his boiling point. British soldiers were sent marching from Boston to Lexington and Concord. However, the king hadn't counted upon one Paul Revere. Revere rode ahead of the British to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock of the expedition, both then staying in Lexington. As his ride continued, others also came aboard. Numerous farmers, townspeople, and militia leaders began preparations to take on what was then the world's finest military.

By the time the British had reached the North Bridge, hundreds of Minutemen stood to greet them. Now if you are a student of the American Revolution, you will know that the bridge that I was standing on was the bridge that, on the morning of April 19, 1775, the famous "Shot heard around the world" was fired. That shot would begin the Revolutionary War, conclude in a colonial victory, and fifteen months later, lead to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

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FEASTS FOR JULY

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

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| 1 St. Junipero Serra (USA); St. Oliver Plunket, Opt. Mem. | 21 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 3 Thomas the Apostle, Feast | 22 Mary Magdalene, Memorial |
| 4 Independence Day (USA), Opt. Mem. | 23 Bridget, Opt. Mem. |
| 5 Anthony Mary of Zaccaria; Elizabeth of Portugal, Opt. Mem. | 24 Sharbel (Charbel) Makhloof, Opt. Mem. |
| 6 Maria Goretti, Opt. Mem. | 25 James, Feast |
| 7 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 26 Joachim and Anne, Memorial |
| 9 Augustine Zhao Rong and companions, Opt. Mem. | 28 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 11 Benedict, Memorial | 29 Martha, Memorial |
| 13 Henry, Opt. Mem. | 30 Peter Chrysologus; Solanus Casey, Opt. Mem. |
| 14 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 31 Ignatius of Loyola, Memorial |
| 15 Bonaventure, Memorial | |
| 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Opt. Mem. | |
| 18 Camillus de Lellis (USA), Opt. Mem. | |
| 20 Apollinaris, Opt. Mem. | |

The feasts of Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha (USA - July 14) and St. Lawrence of Brindisi (July 21), are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. ☐

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION SPONSORS

<p><u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u></p> <p>July 20, 2019</p> <p>Ines Carrington Guada Eugenio Mila Lumba Evelyn Pua Nicet Santos Maria Luisa Sheets</p>	<p><u>Los Angeles, California</u></p> <p>July 20, 2019</p> <p>Tessie Almero Frank & Lorma Batino Marco & Norma Gamboa Nestor & Carmen Mora Connie Poblete Lilia Tuazon</p>
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OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

THE PATHWAY TO SPIRITUALITY

1. LEARN
2. EXPERIENCE
3. EVANGELIZE

GOD TOUCHED ME

THE KENTUCKY TRIP AND THE ARK ENCOUNTER: BLESSED BY GOD

by Kaela Gier & Makoa Gier

*O Lord, our Lord, how awesome is your name through all the earth!
I will sing of your majesty above the heavens with the mouths of babes and infants.
You have established a bulwark against your foes, to silence enemy and avenger.
Psalm 8:2-3*

by Kaela

When I found out from my parents that I was going on the pilgrimage, I felt happy and excited. And I kept asking my parents when is it. I could not sleep because I was so excited to get on the airplane. When I was on the airplane, I did not sleep the whole time.

At the Kentucky Derby, it was awesome and we got to see an actual horse race. I also visited the largest cave system called Mammoth Cave. Inside the cave, I saw a frozen waterfall and a place called the Giant's Coffin.

At Noah's Ark Encounter, I learned so much. When I first saw the Ark, I thought it was amazing. Did you know that the Ark was longer than three space shuttles? I learned that only eight people survived the flood. I saw where Noah, his family and the animals slept on the Ark. Each pair of animals had

their own cage. My favorite part was when we got to explore the different places of the Ark. I learned that the Ark was measured in cubits. A cubit is the distance from your elbow to your fingertip.

I would recommend all families to see Noah's Ark so they can see what the Bible talks about in real life.

I also had fun praying because my Dad was my prayer buddy. Everyone had their own prayer buddy and we all prayed together and after Mass.

After the pilgrimage, I was happy that I went to Kentucky and became closer to God. I learned more about God and what happened before I was born. I loved the pilgrimage and I never saw anything more beautiful than on the pilgrimage. I can't wait for my next pilgrimage! ☐

by Makoa

I thought that the Ark would have more animals. It was also huge. I loved my trip to the Ark. Now, I know how old Noah was. Now I know why God made Noah build the Ark.

I like how they added the dinosaurs. It must be hard to take care of all the animals. I saw how Noah's family made food. I also got to pet some animals. I like the part when we

took a picture with Father Edwin. I believe that my family enjoyed it, too, even my baby sister, Anela.

It was so fun. It was the best trip ever. The food was great and we got toys, too. I also wondered why there was an ice skating rink.

I believe everyone should go to The Ark. It was the best trip ever! ☐



SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

SEEKING INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THROUGH THE BIBLE

BEING OUR BEST IN GOD'S EYES

by Victor H. Araneta

The evil one will put us down on every occasion he perceives and then, he conquers you. Our role is to wear the crown of humility but with resolve that we are the children of God and only the best will come to our lives, regardless of what negative persuasions others will tell us.



We are created by God through His own image and perfection is what He expects us to achieve. When the enemy whispers that we sin, we are third class citizens in spirituality and God will punish us or send troubles to knock us down as a consequence of our transgression. Our role is to pick up ourselves and cry out loud that God created us with unique capabilities. He extends His hands of

mercy to those who are repentant, even if that repentance is just as small as a mustard seed. The scripture says: "God opens His heart to those whose faith and love for Him are present in one's heart even if this is as small as a mustard seed". We are children of almighty God and nothing is impossible to keep us HOLY and ENCOURAGED in His eyes.

God I know you're there and You're more than willing to welcome me back. I have repented my sin and recognize your Son as savior and salvation, in Jesus most Holy Name, Amen. ☐

*"I am your Mother Mary
Protect the unborn that God had given humanity.
No human laws can protect them but the law of
God that was given to His servant Moses.
The Sixth Commandment my children.
That's the law that will never change
till time is time"*

*Mary, your Lady of the Rosary
06012019*

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

FEAST OF THE ETERNAL FATHER SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019 IN LOS ANGELES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
1977 CARMEN AVENUE
ON GOWER
12:00 NOON TO 3:00 PM

IN LAS VEGAS
ST. SHARBEL CHURCH
10325 RANCHO DESTINO ROAD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89183
8:30 AM TO 12:00 NOON

THE APPARITION JOURNEY WITH THE BLESSED ONE

[IN IRELAND, BELGIUM,
GERMANY, & AUSTRIA]

DECEMBER 8 – 17, 2019

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

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AN INDEPENDENCE DAY REFLECTION

In Sacred Scripture, we are given many divine images of “sending” or “being sent.” In Isaiah, the Lord informs the prophet that we should not mourn over Jerusalem, for He sends prosperity over her like a river. We will be carried in her arms, and as a mother comforts her child, in Jerusalem we will find our comfort. In his Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul reminds those who have been sent that peace and mercy will flow to all that follow His rule. And St. Luke reminds us that the Lord sent them out, two by two, into the harvest, without sandals and without money, and with only their faith and love of Jesus Christ. Told to announce that the Kingdom of God is at hand, their missionary efforts are to make the power of Christ present in the world, a power that will lead “Satan to fall from the sky like lightning.”

But unlike the British soldiers, each of us has been sent not by a human king. Rather, we have been sent by the King of Kings— Jesus Christ! At our baptism, we were anointed Priest, Prophet, and King and incorporated into the Body of Christ. And then? We were sent into the world to make a difference and to build up Christ’s Body! Like the Minutemen, we have been sent into rough terrain. With a culture that is in great turmoil, we ask ourselves pointed questions.

How can we make a difference?

How can our actions, like the actions of the Minutemen some 240 years ago, change our culture?

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus gives us the answer. Two by two! In our day, the answer is really “individual by individual” and “family by family.” By simple actions such as praying before meals, offering to pray with and for others, or asking those who have been away from the practice of their faith to consider returning, we can begin rebuilding a culture that has fallen. In doing so, like the Minutemen, we will not know the outcome. However, we do know that Jesus Christ is present in our walk and promises to see us through the most difficult of circumstances. In His sending, Jesus counts on us to help Him build up the Kingdom, to be Christ for others, and to make His love known. He also tells us not to apologize for our faith, but rather to wear it bravely and with pride. ☐

And so, as our faith flames the message of Jesus Christ to a world in desperate need, perhaps we can see our own faith journey in the words of the great poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

So through the night road Paul Revere;

And so through the night

Went his cry of alarm

To every Middlesex village and farm,

A cry of defiance and not of fear,

A voice in the darkness,

A knock at the door,

And a word that shall echo forevermore!

For, borne on the night- wind of the Past,

Through all our history, to the last,

In the hour of darkness and peril and need

The people will awaken and listen to hear

The hurrying hoof-beat of that steed,

And the midnight message of Paul Revere!

Deacon Kurt Godfryd is editor of Catholic Journal and a permanent deacon of the Archdiocese of Detroit. This article was originally published on CatholicJournal.us.