



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

WHY JULY IS DEDICATED TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

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www.aleteia.org

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WHEN POPE PIUS IX WAS IN EXILE IN 1849, HE TURNED TO THE BLOOD OF CHRIST FOR STRENGTH.

ONE PARTICULAR DEVOTION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CONNECTED TO THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE HONORING OF HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD. IT IS A RECOGNITION OF JESUS' SACRIFICE AND HOW HE SPILLED HIS BLOOD FOR THE SALVATION OF HUMANITY.

FURTHERMORE, THIS BLOOD IS MADE PRESENT THROUGH THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST AND IS SOMETHING WE CAN CONSUME AT MASS, ALONG WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNDER THE APPEARANCE OF BREAD AND WINE.

OVER TIME THE CHURCH DEVELOPED VARIOUS FEASTS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL THE 19TH CENTURY WHEN A UNIVERSAL FEAST WAS ESTABLISHED.

POPE IN EXILE

DURING THE FIRST ITALIAN WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE IN 1849, POPE PIUS IX WENT INTO EXILE TO GAETA. HE WENT THERE WITH DON GIOVANNI MERLINI, THIRD SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE FATHERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD.

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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 JULY

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

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| 1 JUNÍPERO SERRA (USA), OPT. MEM. | 21 LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI, OPT. MEM. |
| 3 THOMAS, APOSTLE, FEAST | 22 MARY MAGDALENE, FEAST |
| 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (USA), OPT. MEM. | 23 BRIDGET, OPT. MEM. |
| 5 ANTHONY MARY ZACCARIA; ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL, QUEEN (USA), OPT. MEM. | 24 SHARBEL (CHARBEL) MAKHLOOF, OPT. MEM. |
| 6 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | 25 JAMES, APOSTLE, FEAST |
| 9 AUGUSTINE ZHAO RONG & COMPANIONS, OPT. MEM. | 26 JOACHIM AND ANNE, MEMORIAL |
| 11 BENEDICT, MEMORIAL | 27 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY |
| 13 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | 29 MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS, MEMORIAL |
| 14 KATERI TEKAKWITHA (USA), MEMORIAL | 30 PETER CHRYSOLOGUS; SOLANUS CASEY, OPT. MEM. |
| 15 BONAVENTURE, MEMORIAL | 31 IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, MEMORIAL |
| 16 OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, OPT. MEM. | |
| 18 CAMILLUS DE LELLIS (USA), OPT. MEM. | |
| 20 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | |

THE FEAST DAYS OF ST. MARIA GORETTI, (JULY 6), ST. HENRY (JULY 13), AND ST. APOLLINARIS (JULY 20) ARE SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. □

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

Life is a Gift of God

GOD TOUCHED ME

Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.

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

MY PERSONAL JERICO AND THE SISTERS IN CHRIST WHO HELPED TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after being encircled for seven days Hebrews 11:30

*By Patty Whelpley
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WHEN I CONSIDER MY FAITH JOURNEY, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF THOSE HAPLESS ISRAELITES WHO WERE STUCK IN THE DESERT FOR FORTY YEARS AFTER BEING LED OUT OF EGYPT. FOR ME, TOO, IT WAS ABOUT FORTY YEARS BEFORE I TOOK MY FIRST BABY STEPS INTO THE PROMISED LAND OF A LIVING FAITH IN GOD.

I GREW UP IN A BIG LOVING FAMILY, WITH PARENTS WHO WERE EXCELLENT GUIDES AND EXAMPLES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. STILL, GOD FELT DISTANT TO ME, AND FAITH WAS MAINLY A MATTER OF GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS AND HOPING IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME REAL.

AFTER I MARRIED AND STARTED HAVING CHILDREN, THOUGH, I REALIZED THAT "FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT" WASN'T ENOUGH. THIS HIT HOME AS ONE OF MY BABIES WAS BEING BAPTIZED. WHEN THE PRIEST SAID IN HIS HOMILY THAT CHILDREN LEARN TO GET TO HEAVEN BY FOLLOWING THEIR PARENTS, I BURST INTO TEARS RIGHT THERE IN CHURCH. "MY POOR KIDS," I THOUGHT, "HOW CAN I LEAD THEM ANYWHERE IF I DON'T HAVE REAL FAITH?"

OUR FAMILY GREW, AND I KEPT GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS, FEELING LIKE A HYPOCRITE. THEN, ABOUT FOURTEEN YEARS AGO, MY HUSBAND AND I ENCOUNTERED A LARGE FAITH COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIANS—MARRIED AND SINGLE, YOUNG AND OLD—WHO WERE HELPING ONE ANOTHER TO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. WE JOINED, RECOGNIZING THAT THEY HAD SOMETHING WE NEEDED. I WAS INTRIGUED BY THEIR CONFIDENCE IN GOD; THEY PRAYED SO POWERFULLY, AS IF THEY KNEW JESUS PERSONALLY. HOW DO YOU DEVELOP THAT DEPTH OF FAITH? I WONDERED. COULD IT HAPPEN TO ME?

I WONDERED AND WANDERED FOR SEVERAL MORE YEARS. AND THEN I REACHED MY JERICO.

LOOMING WALLS. FOR THE ANCIENT ISRAELITES, JERICO WAS A DISPLAY OF GOD'S POWER ON THEIR BEHALF. UNDER JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP, THEY HAD FINALLY CROSSED THE JORDAN RIVER AND ENTERED THE PROMISED LAND. BUT IN THEIR PATH WAS THE HOSTILE KING OF JERICO IN HIS FORMIDABLE, WALLED CITY. IT SEEMED IMPREGNABLE, BUT JOSHUA ASSURED THE PEOPLE THAT IF THEY MARCHED AROUND JERICO FOR SEVEN DAYS, AS GOD HAD DIRECTED, THE CITY WOULD FALL. AND INDEED IT DID (SEE JOSHUA 6).

I MET MY OWN "JERICO" WHEN MY DAUGHTER, BRIDGET, WHO WAS TEN, WAS KICKED IN THE HEAD WHILE PLAYING SOCCER. SHE HAD A CONCUSSION THAT LEFT HER UNABLE TO READ, WRITE, WALK, WATCH TV, OR EVEN BEAR THE TICKING OF A CLOCK. SURE THAT THE ORDEAL WOULD NEVER END, SHE HAD NIGHTLY ANXIETY ATTACKS. AS THE MONTHS PASSED, DARK DEPRESSION STARTED TO CLOUD HER PRETTY BLUE EYES.

THINGS GOT WORSE. THE CONCUSSION SEEMED TO HAVE LOWERED BRIDGET'S IMMUNITY, UNLEASHING A DORMANT CASE OF LYME DISEASE THAT CAUSED PAINFUL MUSCLE SPASMS THROUGHOUT HER BODY. ON CHRISTMAS DAY, SHE STEPPED ON A SEWING NEEDLE; IT BROKE IN HER FOOT AND WAS SURGICALLY REMOVED, BUT WITH RESULTING COMPLICATIONS.

FOR A WEEK OR TWO IN JANUARY 2009, IT SEEMED THAT ALL WAS LOST. A PRIEST CAME AND GAVE BRIDGET THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK, BUT IT LOOKED LIKE OUR LITTLE GIRL WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO FUNCTION WITHOUT HEADACHES, ANXIETY, AND DEPRESSION. WOULD SHE EVEN SURVIVE? WITH EVERYTHING GOING DOWNHILL VERY FAST, WE DIDN'T KNOW.

THE FRIEND AT MY SIDE. THE ORDEAL FELT LIKE A BIG, SCARY JERICHO—A TOWERING WALL OF PAIN AND UNCERTAINTY. AND YET, AGONIZING AS IT WAS TO SEE MY CHILD IN SUCH DISTRESS, I HAD TO ADMIT THAT SOMETHING UNEXPECTEDLY WONDERFUL WAS HAPPENING IN ME. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, I FELT AND KNEW THAT JESUS WAS WITH ME, GUIDING EACH STEP, BUFFERING EVERY MISSTEP.

HOW CAN I EXPLAIN IT? HERE'S AN ANALOGY. SAY YOU HAVE A DEAR FRIEND, AN ACTIVE PERSON WHO IS SUDDENLY HOSPITALIZED AND PUT ON BED REST. NOW YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT AND VISIT WITH HER—PLAY SOME BACKGAMMON, MAKE HER MEALS, AND DO LITTLE KINDNESSES. YOU'RE THERE WHEN SHE NEEDS HELP, CALMING HER ANXIETIES AND ANTICIPATING HER NEEDS.

IN A SIMILAR WAY, I EXPERIENCED JESUS BECOMING THE MOST ATTENTIVE FRIEND I HAD EVER IMAGINED. LITTLE MIRACLES WOULD HAPPEN WHEN I LEAST EXPECTED THEM. PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED BEFORE I EVEN THOUGHT TO FORM THE WORDS. JESUS MET MY EVERY NEED. AND SO OFTEN, HE DID IT THROUGH THE PEOPLE IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY MY SISTERS IN CHRIST.

LOVE MADE VISIBLE. I HAD BEEN GETTING TOGETHER REGULARLY WITH FIVE OR SIX OF THESE WOMEN; WE WOULD PRAY, TALK ABOUT OUR LIVES, AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN FOLLOWING THE LORD. IN MY TIME OF NEED, THIS GROUP BECAME A LIFELINE.

"SO HOW ARE YOU HANDLING THE STRESS?" A DOCTOR ASKED ME ONE DAY. I LAUGHED AND TOLD HIM HOW MY SISTERS IN CHRIST CONSOLED ME, BRAINSTORMED WITH ME, AND EVEN THREW A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY TO LIFT MY SPIRITS. EACH OF THEM HAD A GIFT. AND WHETHER IT WAS WISDOM, PRAYER, COOKING, PEACE, OR ACTION, EACH ONE SHARED IT GENEROUSLY.

THESE WOMEN WERE CHRIST'S LOVE REACHING OUT TO ME, CHRIST'S HANDS SERVING ME IN MY DAILY LIFE. SOME BROUGHT MEALS. OTHERS BABYSAT. ONE BROUGHT ME A LITTLE TOY SAILBOAT—A VISUAL REMINDER TO LET GO OF ANXIETY AND SELF-RELIANCE AND BE GUIDED BY THE WIND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AND BECAUSE MY FRIENDS KNEW HOW TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW THE SPIRIT'S LEAD, THEIR GIFTS WOULD COME AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT. ONE WOMAN SEEMED TO CALL EVERY TIME I WAS HEADED TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM!

BREAKTHROUGH! MEANWHILE, MY HUSBAND AND I KEPT CONSULTING MEDICAL SPECIALISTS. WE WERE RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS WHEN WE HEARD ABOUT A DOCTOR WHO USED A LITTLE-KNOWN TREATMENT WITH

HER CONCUSSION PATIENTS. IT SEEMED LIKE A LONG SHOT, BUT WE DECIDED TO GIVE IT A TRY.

AND SO IT HAPPENED THAT ON APRIL 28, DURING HER NINTH TREATMENT, BRIDGET WAS INSTANTANEOUSLY AND COMPLETELY HEALED. JUST AS SUDDENLY AS THE COLLAPSE OF JERICHO'S WALLS, HER PAIN VANISHED AWAY. WHAT JOY! AFTER SIX MONTHS OF MISERY, OUR DAUGHTER HAD REGAINED HER LIFE.

WE PRAISED GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS AND CELEBRATED WITH DINNER AT THE LOUDEST KIDS' RESTAURANT AROUND. WE THANKED THE LORD AS WE WATCHED BRIDGET JUMP BACK INTO LIFE WITH GUSTO—DOING EIGHT MONTHS OF SCHOOLWORK IN EIGHT WEEKS WITHOUT A SINGLE HEADACHE.

BUT BRIDGET'S HEALING WAS MORE THAN A GLORIOUS GRAND FINALE. FOR ME, IT WAS THE ENTRANCE INTO AN EXHILARATING LIFE OF FAITH, AN UNFOLDING DISCOVERY OF GOD'S PRESENCE, POWER, AND LOVE.

I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO YET. AND CONSIDERING THAT MY KIDS HAVE ALREADY SURPASSED ME IN FAITH, MAYBE I SHOULD BE EMBARRASSED TO BE TAKING MY LITTLE BABY STEPS SO LATE. STILL, I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT ANY ISRAELITE MOVING PAST JERICHO'S TOPPLED WALLS FELT ANY MORE DELIGHTED THAN I DO TODAY, AS I GET TO KNOW MY LORD AND DISCOVER HOW TO LOVE AND SERVE HIM IN MY WORLD. □

Patty Whelpley and her family belong to the People of Praise Community in Northern Virginia. She and her husband, John, have five children and are members of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Vienna, Virginia.

WHY JULY IS DEDICATED...

WHILE THE WAR WAS STILL RAGING, MERLINI SUGGESTED TO POPE PIUS IX THAT HE CREATE A UNIVERSAL FEAST TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD TO BEG GOD'S HEAVENLY AID TO END THE WAR AND BRING PEACE TO ROME. PIUS IX SUBSEQUENTLY MADE A STATEMENT ON JUNE 30, 1849 THAT HE INTENDED TO CREATE A FEAST IN HONOR OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD. THE WAR SOON ENDED AND HE RETURNED TO ROME SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

ON AUGUST 10 HE MADE IT OFFICIAL AND PROCLAIMED THAT THE 1ST SUNDAY IN JULY WILL BE DEDICATED TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST. LATER, POPE PIUS X ASSIGNED JULY 1 AS THE FIXED DATE OF THIS CELEBRATION.

AFTER VATICAN II, THE FEAST WAS REMOVED FROM THE UNIVERSAL CALENDAR, BUT A VOTIVE MASS IN HONOR OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD WAS ESTABLISHED AND CAN BE CELEBRATED IN THE MONTH OF JULY (AS WELL AS MOST OTHER MONTHS OF THE YEAR). SOME DIOCESES, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE, STILL CELEBRATE THE JULY 1 FEAST DAY.

POURED OUT

FOR THESE REASONS THE ENTIRE MONTH OF JULY IS TRADITIONALLY DEDICATED TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD, AND CATHOLICS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MEDITATE ON THE PROFOUND SACRIFICE OF JESUS AND THE POURING OUT OF HIS BLOOD FOR HUMANITY.

BELOW IS THE **OPENING PRAYER OF THE VOTIVE MASS**, AS WELL AS AN ADDITIONAL PRAYER THAT CAN BE USED AS OUR OWN PERSONAL MEDITATION OR PRAYER DURING JULY.

O GOD, WHO BY THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF YOUR ONLY BEGOTTEN SON HAVE REDEEMED THE WHOLE WORLD, PRESERVE IN US THE WORK OF YOUR MERCY, SO THAT, EVER HONORING THE MYSTERY OF OUR SALVATION, WE MAY MERIT TO OBTAIN ITS FRUITS. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOR EVER AND EVER.

ADMITTED TO YOUR SACRED TABLE, O LORD, WE HAVE WITH JOY DRAWN WATER FROM THE FOUNTAINS OF THE SAVIOR: O MAY HIS BLOOD, WE BESEECH THEE, BECOME WITHIN US A FOUNTAIN OF WATER SPRINGING UP TO ETERNAL LIFE. ☐

Philip Kosloski graduated from the University of Saint Thomas in Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and Catholic studies and a master's degree in theology from the Augustine Institute. He is currently a spirituality writer for Aleteia.org and has been featured on such places as The Huffington Post, Crisis Magazine, The Catholic Herald, Catholic Exchange, National Catholic Register and EWTN Radio.



"I am your mother Mary. Time has come that you, my children, must pray the beads of my rosary every day. New teachings, not within the gospel teachings of my son, Jesus, are coming out and very convenient truth, words of the false light. My children, be very discerning, of false prophets and so-called followers of God who are coming out. As my son, Jesus, said I am the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me. Be focused on what He said, my children.

I will be with you to put everyone on track. I love you, my children."

*Mary, your Lady of the Rosary
07062024*

"I am your Mother Mary. My children more than ever my beads of rosary will be more important now as instruments to stop the evil one. Confusion and chaos the world is experiencing will intensify if no interest is given to prayers and adoration of the Body of my Son Jesus.

Pray my children. Pray, pray, pray unceasingly. Always remember mercy of God is always there in your prayers."

*Mary, your Lady of the Rosary
06072025*

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

LIFE IS A GIFT OF GOD

BY VICTOR H. ARANETA

WHEN LIFE IS WRITTEN IN OUR SOUL BY GOD, DO WE LIVE ON THAT PERSPECTIVE? WE THINK OUR LIVES ARE OUR OWN ALONE, THUS THE THINKING "MY BODY, MY OWN." YES, OUR BODY IS LOANED OUT BY GOD TO US, BUT JUST LIKE A LOAN IT MUST BE REPAID BY GOOD DEEDS AND RIGHT CHOICES.

BUT HOW MANY OF US REALIZE THAT? WE PROBABLY BECOME AWARE OF IT FOR A WHILE UNTIL WE COME TO THE CROSSROAD OF DECIDING WHETHER TO END THE LIFE OF SOMEONE FOR CONVENIENCE. LET US ALL UNDERSTAND, THAT IN THE END, GOD CREATED US IN HIS OWN IMAGE AND BREATHED THE HOLY SPIRIT OF LIFE TO OUR NOSTRILS.

PRAYER: LORD, LET ME RECOGNIZE THAT IN ALL ASPECTS OF MY LIFE, YOU WERE THERE WATCHING ME. IF I AM PERPLEXED ON WHAT I AM GOING THROUGH, WHETHER PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL, IN THE END, I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ABANDON MY LIFE OR SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE YOU HAVE GIVEN AND ENTRUSTED TO ME; IN THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS, AMEN. □

Upcoming Events

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SOULS

JULY 4, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:
THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
AT 8:30 PM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

JULY 6, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:
THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 1:00 PM

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

JULY 6, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

JULY 12, 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

JULY 19, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:
THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 8:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
AT 9:00 AM



THE FEAST OF GOD THE FATHER WILL BE ON THE 1ST SUNDAY OF AUGUST. THEREFORE, THE FIRST DAY OF THE HOLY OCTAVE OF CONSECRATION TO GOD THE FATHER PRAYER WILL BE ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF JULY, WHICH IS JULY 27, 2025 AND WILL END ON THE FEAST DAY, AUGUST 3, 2025.

THE CONSECRATION BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG/PRAYERS/DEVOTIONALS/HOLYOCTAVEOFCONSECRATIONTOGODTHEFATHER.PDF

"THIS MINISTRY WILL LAST AS THE SUN RISES EVERY MORNING. WE TELL YOU NOW THAT ANYONE WHO CURSES THIS SPIRITUAL GROUP WILL NOT LAST AND WILL HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE GIFTS AND PRAYERS. ESPECIALLY IF THE INTENTION IS ENVY AND ANGER.

CONTINUE MY CHILDREN FOR YOUR WORDS OF PRAYER WE ARE LISTENING IN HEAVEN "

THE HOLY TRINITY AS ONE

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