



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

August 2013

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CONSECRATION AND FEAST DAY OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND – AUGUST 4, 2013

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Returning to the House of God our Father. The Roman Catholic Church defines God as the three Persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, since the earliest beginnings of the Church, there has been a tendency to focus primarily on the Second Person of the Holy Trinity – Jesus, the Son of God. And to a lesser extent, there has been renewed interest in the Holy Spirit in the latter half of the 20th century. But what of the Father?



True, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered up to God Our Father and the "Our Father Prayer" is directed to Him. But do we "know" the Father? Do we believe that when Jesus came to earth as the Incarnation of God, that we no longer needed to know, love, serve or honor the Father? Do we think that Jesus replaced the Father? Do we feel that God Our Father belongs to the Old Testament era and Jesus belongs to the New Testament times? Do we perceive God Our Father as an ancient, mythic figure that is stern, aged, and unapproachable? Do we truly know Him? Love Him? Serve Him? Honor Him? The response to these questions by most Catholics would indicate that, indeed, something is seriously lacking in our perception and relationship with God Our Father.

Think for a moment. Do we typically see statues or paintings of the Father in our Catholic churches? Are any of our churches named in honor of Him? Does the Catholic Church have any special feasts that specifically honor Him? The answer, unfortunately, is "No!"

Why don't we honor our Creator, Our Father – especially with a feast? This is an unsettling question and a disturbing revelation, but it is also something we can easily remedy. As children of God Our Father, we can work towards establishing a feast for Him – a feast that would provide us with an opportunity to offer our fiat. Holy Scripture provides us with a blueprint for such a feast as was foreshadowed in the Feasts of Tabernacles [Booths] and Dedication (Lev 23:33-43; 2 Chron 7:1-9; 1 Mac 4:59; 2 Mac 2:1-18). Both eighth-day period, or "octave." It would be, then a Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father with its solemn eight day celebrated as The Feast Day of the Father of All Mankind.

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OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

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The month of August is dedicated to The Immaculate Heart of Mary. The entire 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. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our pilgrimage to heaven during which we hope for reward.

August is often considered the transitional month in our seasonal calendar. It is the time of the year we

begin to wind-down from our summer travels and vacations and prepare for Autumn — back to school, fall festivals, harvest time, etc. The Church in her holy wisdom has provided a cycle of events in its liturgical year which allow the faithful to celebrate the major feasts in the life of Christ and Mary. Most notably, during August, we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the feast of the Assumption (August 15). □

FEASTS FOR AUGUST

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

- 1 Alphonsus Liguori, Memorial
- 2 Eusebius of Vercelli; Peter Julian Eymard, Opt. Mem.
- 5 Dedication of St. Mary Major, Opt. Mem.
- 6 Transfiguration, Feast
- 7 Sixtus II and companions; Cajetan, Opt. Mem.
- 8 Dominic, Memorial
- 9 Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Opt. Mem.
- 10 Lawrence, Feast
- 13 Pontian and Hippolytus, Opt. Mem.
- 14 Maximilian Kolbe, Memorial
- 15 Assumption, Solemnity
- 16 Stephen of Hungary, Opt. Mem.
- 19 John Eudes; St. Bernard Tolomei, Opt. Mem.
- 20 Bernard, Memorial
- 21 Pius X, Sunday
- 22 Queenship of Mary, Memorial
- 23 Rose of Lima, Opt. Mem.
- 24 Bartholomew, Feast
- 27 Monica, Memorial
- 28 Augustine, Memorial
- 29 Martyrdom of John the Baptist, Memorial

The feasts of St. John Mary Vianney (August 4), St. Clare (August 11) and St. Louis of France (August 25), fall on a Sunday so they are superseded by the Sunday Liturgy. □

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

PRIDE AND POOR IN SPIRIT

PSALM 10:4

ISAIAH 14:12-15

PROVERBS 8:13

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD FEAST DAY – AUGUST 6

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Peter was a “take charge” kind of fellow. Jesus must have recognized that quality when he first saw him in his fishing boat on the edge of the sea. More than once, Jesus even congratulates him for this characteristic, prophesying a leading role for Peter. He tells the fisherman that he will become a fisher of men, and he even calls Peter the “rock” on which he will build his church. However, it took many lessons from Jesus for Peter to be able to fulfill these roles and achieve the potential that Jesus saw in him.

In today’s Gospel, we see Peter wanting to take charge again. Seeing the glory of God come upon Jesus, as well as Moses and Elijah standing with him, Peter immediately proposed building some kind of shrine to memorialize this amazing event. Instead of standing in awe of what was before his eyes -- instead of prostrating himself before these holy men, Peter wanted to take action. But, knowing Peter’s tendencies, the Father told him exactly what he needed to hear: “This is my chosen Son; listen to him” (Luke 9:35).

“Listen to him.” This is a word we all need to hear. If we want to serve Jesus as his disciples on this earth, we need to spend time listening to him and getting direction and guidance from him. All action and no reflection is far from the most effective way to build the kingdom of God!

Remember the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)? Martha was busy working, while Mary sat at Jesus’ feet listening to his teaching. Of course, Martha did good things, but Mary chose the better part.

We can learn from these stories and make sure we are spending enough time with Jesus, adoring him, praying, reading his word. As we do, we will begin to detect the difference between a “good” idea and an inspired one that comes from the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants to lead us in all our endeavors, and if we stay in touch with him, he will make us into his own instruments, no matter what we are doing.

“Jesus, I want to sit at your feet today. Even when I am busy with the tasks of daily life, I want to hold you close in my heart and listen to your voice. I love you, my Jesus, my Savior and Lord.” □

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FEAST DAY – AUGUST 15

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For as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:22) Mary has such a privileged role in Christianity: She was the first to receive the full fruits of Jesus’ redemption and now foreshadows the coming glory we all can expect! Made alive in Christ here on this earth, she then experienced resurrection to new life with a glorified body -- something that awaits each of us as children of God.

What incredible hope Mary’s assumption can give to us! She shows that Jesus came not only to forgive our sins but to restore us as well, to bring us to heavenly glory (Hebrews 2:10). As God’s children, we are destined for nothing less than the glory of heaven. Jesus wants us to overcome sin simply because he wants us to be with him forever in glory (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

“If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” (Romans 6:5). This resurrection to new life is the fullness of the salvation we have now only in part. Our salvation isn’t limited just to this world: We will be joined to Jesus forever in eternity. With Mary, we too are destined to behold the “salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah” (Revelation 12:10). And when we do, we will be able to look back upon our whole lives and marvel at all the hidden ways God was working in us, preparing us for our heavenly inheritance.

How amazing are God’s plans! And how amazing, too, that he provides us such an example as Mary to demonstrate all that he wants to give us. So this feast is not just about Mary. It’s about all of us and our hope of sharing with her in the glory of the resurrection.

“Almighty God, how amazing is your plan of salvation -- how far beyond anything I could ask or imagine! You have made me your child, and you long for me to be fully united with you in heaven. All praise and glory to you!” □

CONSECRATION & FEAST DAY OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND

The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father and its Feast of the Father of All Mankind would integrate the purpose and meaning of both the previous Old Testament feasts in its focus on knowing, loving, serving and honoring God Our Father. Because of this, it would involve a commemoration of what God has done for His children and what we need to do for Our Father. With this feast, God would not only be present as He was in the Ark of the Covenant, in a stone temple, or in the tabernacle of a church – He would be housed and present in those souls who were purified and dedicated to Him through consecration.

What exactly is The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father and its Feast of the Father of All Mankind? Its greatest significance in these times is that it provides us with an opportunity (1) to honor God Our Father, (2) to offer Him our “fiat,” and (3) to consecrate ourselves to Him. In this way, we are truly cooperating with our Mother Mary in the Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart. We are returning to Our Father; we are offering Him our unconditional “fiat” as Mary and Jesus did; and we are consecrating ourselves to Him – totally. As He so richly deserves, we are finally knowing, loving, serving, and honoring Him as God Our Father – the Father of All Mankind.

Consecrating Ourselves To God Our Father. The most compelling precedent for consecrating ourselves to God Our Father over an eight-day feast, or octave, is found in John 10:22-39. This passage describes how Jesus during the eight-day Feast of Dedication, revealed that He was consecrated to God Our Father.

Jesus further explains that He consecrated Himself to Our Father so we, too, could be consecrated in truth (Jn 17:19-21). The concept of “Consecration to God Our Father” is crucial because, as Jesus tells us, “the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (Jn 4:23-24). If we follow Jesus, if we model ourselves after Him, shouldn't we also consecrate ourselves to God Our Father during an eight-day feast, so that we, too, can adore Him “in spirit and in truth?”

If we choose to consecrate ourselves to God Our Father, how should this be done? The concept of an “octave,” or 8-day feast, has been significant in our relationship with God since the beginning of our Salvation History. It is not by coincidence that Jesus chose to reveal His consecration to God Our Father on the eight-day Feast of Dedication.

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... I am your Mother Mary

This day of my beads, I hear the prayer you offer to those souls who died from their own hands and on whom little time was given to ask for Mercy. Their souls are in deep purification longing for prayers. Also those souls who linger in deep resentment and prefer to stay in their lives in the world that's no longer theirs, pray for them my children.

I offer my intercession and my visitation to some of them who gave their will and entered the light of salvation. But some are just too late.

There is still more my children and only through your prayers will change their will and see the light of salvation.

I am with you as your prayers are raised to the throne of God.

I love you my children.

- Mary. Your Lady of the Eucharist

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KNOWING OUR SAINTS

“BURY ME UNDER THE FEET OF MY BROTHERS” ST. DOMINIC, FOUNDER OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS

By: Michael Monshau, OP

Most people are familiar with the eight hundred-year-old Dominican Order, one of the ten largest religious communities in the world. But how many know much about its founder, St. Dominic?

Dominicans themselves sometimes admit, with a hint of embarrassment, that they just might be able to tell more stories from the life of St. Francis than from the life of their own beloved founder. More surprising still, this is probably how St. Dominic would prefer it.

Consider this incident, which took place during his final illness. His friars had taken Dominic to a local Benedictine abbey, where they hoped he might rest more comfortably. Since death was approaching, the Benedictine superior intimated that he would be very pleased to bury Dominic in the abbey; the holy man would be given a prominent grave that would accommodate the numerous pilgrims who could be expected to visit his final resting place.

When he caught wind of this, however, Dominic ordered his friars to take him home to their own priory. There, after his death, they were to place his body in an unmarked grave beneath the flooring of the house. “Bury me under the feet of my brothers,” he commanded them.

What are we to think of such a strange request? As we shall see, this story tells us a great deal about Dominic, while also revealing much about how God wants us to fulfill the unique mission assigned to each of us.

Active and Contemplative. Dominic was born of wealthy parents in 1170 in Caleruega, in the north of Spain. People knew him as a most likeable but serious fellow, an outstanding student dedicated to learning.

Also apparent from his early years was his radical commitment to God and to a life based on the gospel. While studying at the university, for example, Dominic was so moved by the plight of the poor that he sold his prized possessions -- expensive textbooks copied out by hand on parchment -- to buy food for the needy. “I could not bear to prize dead skins when living skins were starving and in want,” he explained. On another occasion, he tried to sell himself into slavery in exchange for a prisoner of war.

Despite these youthful demonstrations of heroic activism, Dominic’s initial attraction was to the contemplative life. Following his ordination to the priesthood, when he was about twenty-five, he moved in with a group of priests whom the bishop had gathered in the town of Osma. Like monks, but in an urban setting, the group (known as

“canons”) pursued a simple, cloistered life of contemplation, liturgical prayer, and study.

Into the Fray. Had Dominic lived in more peaceful times, he might well have spent the rest of his days quietly loving God within cloister walls. But it was a turbulent era, when ignorance about the Catholic faith was creating widespread confusion and disorder in both church and society.

Dominic does not seem to have realized how desperate the church’s needs were until almost ten years later, when he was summoned to accompany his bishop on various diplomatic missions. The journeys took them through the region of France where the Albigensian heresy had a firm foothold.

Albigensians believed that the material world was evil and even questioned the goodness of physical life. They led many people to worry that their enjoyment of any human pleasure might weaken their friendship with God. People became confused, and their consciences became troubled over whether it was right to enjoy a good meal, get a good night’s sleep, or marry and start a family. Many were impressed by the grimly austere lifestyle of Albigensian preachers -- especially compared to the life of ease and wealth pursued by many of the church’s clergy.

Dominic himself had experienced the unsuccessful preaching of clerics who lived in comfort and who demonstrated no excitement over the gospel they were proclaiming. It disheartened him to see how many Catholics were turning against their faith because there was no one to help correct their false perceptions. Filled with compassion for them, he felt certain that authentic preaching of God’s word, along with the witness of a humble and simple lifestyle, could bring them back. He even saw this happen on one of his journeys, when he led an Albigensian innkeeper back to the faith after spending an entire night in spirited debate with him.



The Holy Preaching. Not long after this, Dominic was commissioned by the pope to be a traveling preacher. Then in 1206, during a mission in southern France, he had an intense experience of the Lord that reconfirmed his calling to preach.

Observing the dire situation of so many Christians, Dominic gradually became convinced that the church needed a new movement of preachers, a band of apostles devoted to spreading God's word in every kind of situation. They would be spiritually and intellectually prepared for their mission -- formed through a prayerful, disciplined life and assiduous theological study. Able to preach at liturgical functions and to teach philosophy and theology, the members of the Order of Preachers would be known for their trained minds and for putting their knowledge at the service of all.

It was a radical idea at the time. Never before had a religious order been founded for a specific task. Previous orders had been established to provide their members with a certain way of life. For example, the Benedictines offered monastic life, and the Franciscans fostered gospel simplicity. Dominic, on the other hand, founded his order to serve the intellectual needs of the church -- a task he called "the Holy Preaching."

The Holy Preaching became Dominic's passion, the absorbing task that defined and gave vibrancy to his entire life. He preached constantly, leading many people to Christ. And when he died in 1221, a revered and well-known figure, three hundred members of his order were at work in eight countries.

Let Nothing Distract. So completely did Dominic give himself to his mission that it almost seems he disappeared into it! He left no sermons and no writings except for one brief letter. While other great leaders left the imprint of their personality upon their followers and the church in general, Dominic bequeathed primarily his work -- the Holy Preaching.

In this light, Dominic's deathbed command makes perfect sense. "Bury me under the feet of my brothers" was not said out of any special eagerness to get involved in planning his burial. Rather, Dominic was communicating that nothing should be allowed to distract from the work of Holy Preaching. He didn't want people to think of him - or of any other Dominican -- when their attention could more profitably be focused on knowing, living, and spreading the gospel.

This approach has remained something of a trademark of the Dominican charism. Various noteworthy members of the order have served the church and society with distinction -- among them, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, and Bartolomeo de las Casas. Quite typically, though, people know a good deal about their work and relatively little about their personal lives.

Here is a lesson for all of us. It is an invitation to let nothing interfere with our own mission to know God better -- to cultivate this personal friendship through

prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments -- and then to make God present to others through our words and deeds. This is the primary vocation of every baptized person, not just people who are engaged in formal religious ministry. As Vatican II emphasized, absolutely every Christian is called to grow in holiness and participate in the crucial mission of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ (On the Church, 33).

Given his single-minded emphasis on knowing and proclaiming God, it seems as if Dominic anticipated this teaching by nearly eight centuries! His example can therefore help each of us fulfill our own calling to Holy Preaching in our own lives and circumstances, as the Spirit leads. It can inspire us to follow Christ with undistracted hearts, in the spirit of the great gospel herald who said of Jesus, "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Two Tombs. Recently, a Dominican priest from America was visiting Italy. During the course of his travels, he visited the shrine of the much beloved Franciscan, St. Anthony, in Padua. The pilgrim was very edified to see throngs of people in the church, venerating the saint's image with much affection and praying and singing with great feeling. He was especially impressed by a large procession that formed in Anthony's honor -- a splendid, public affair, filled with spirit and emotion.

Later that day, the same friar happened to be in Bologna, at the tomb of St. Dominic. Within that church, where Dominic was finally laid to rest, only five people were present. Each was sitting alone, somewhat near the tomb, in perfect silence, studying! Those who have come to know and love Dominic can savor that scene as entirely in keeping with what he would have wanted.

Fr. Michael Monshau, OP, is a professor of Liturgy, Homiletics, and Spirituality at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum) in Rome.

GOD TOUCHED ME

ABBA FATHER! EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE

By: Bob Sheire

In the past, there were two persons of the Trinity whom I loved and experienced and prayed to -- the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father, however, was always somewhere in the distance, a person I could not reach. I didn't feel I was worthy to reach him, nor did I believe that he had time for me.

Within this last year, however, I have found that the Father is not only approachable, but that he longs for a relationship with his sons and daughters. We must learn to accept that and to return his love. We have to understand how real he is, how passionately in love he is with his creation, how deeply he wants to have a personal relationship with us. The Father doesn't need this relationship, but we need it, and he wants it.

The reasons for my emotional distance from my God the Father are deep-seated. You see, I never knew my biological father as I was growing up. He was a bank robber in Indiana, and he was arrested and put in prison when I was only one week old. My mother remarried and I was given my stepfather's name: Sheire. My stepfather was a hardworking man, but unfortunately he was an alcoholic and abusive. Childhood for me was filled with many painful experiences of my stepfather; I never knew a father's love.

When I was about twenty years old, shortly after I got married, I saw my real father on television: He had become a Baptist missionary in South America. When I saw this preacher, I was amazed that he had the same name that I thought was my real name, Harold Robert Holflinger. Back in those days, television was live, so I called the station and asked to speak to the minister. He was still there, and I asked him: "Do you have two sons by the name of Louis and Bob?" There was a long silence. Then he asked me who I was. I said, "I'm Bob." He answered, "Well, I'm your father."

SEARCHING FOR FATHERLY LOVE

I met with my real father a couple of times, but didn't actively pursue a relationship with him because my stepfather was still alive. As bad as that relationship was, I felt a loyalty to him because he had put a roof over my head and food on the table. But after my stepfather died, I began to see my biological father on a regular basis. We were able to establish a good relationship, but the anger and pain about his having abandoned me still remained. Fatherly love still seemed to be eluding me.

As my wife and I grew in our relationship, I became a father myself -- in fact, the father of eight children over the next twelve years. I always tried to be a good father

and I grew closer to the church -- but there was a void in my life. Because I had never known a father's love, it was difficult for me to love my children. Looking back now, I can see the many times when I failed my children. Even so, the Lord was watching over them because they have all grown up to be fine adults.

As the children got older, my wife and I had more time to seek the wonderful things that the church had to offer. About a year ago, a number of my friends attended a conference that focused on the Father's love. I was not able to go, but I asked them to bring back tapes of the talks so I could listen and pray about what I heard. As I spent time with those tapes, praying and studying scripture, I asked the Father to reveal to me how much he loved me, because I desperately needed to know the love of a father. During one particular time of prayer, God did reveal his deep love for me; it was probably the most wonderful experience of my sixty-three years of life. I came to understand how wonderfully the Father loved me, how much he cared for me -- even that he was my Daddy. I felt that I was being cradled in his arms, sitting on his lap like a beloved child. I felt as if all of the fatherly love that had been denied me over the years was poured into me in a few hours' time.

RUNNING INTO OUR FATHER'S ARMS

When we are small children, we run eagerly to our daddies. What joy we feel as we are received by them! They raise you up, lift you high, and bounce you on their knees. That is what I experienced with my heavenly Father. It was simply acceptance -- what I had always wanted from a father and very seldom received. Many of us have experienced times when we needed our fathers but they were not there for us, perhaps through no fault of their own. I've never experienced that loss with my heavenly Father; his love is constant. Over this past year, whenever I have felt unhappy, I turn to him and he pours out his mercies and blessings.

In my case -- and I'm sure I'm not alone in this -- my relationships with my father and my stepfather were so flawed that I looked at God the Father in fear. I was unsure that he was capable of giving me any more love than they had. Praise God, the Father has no flaws in his love. There are no strings attached. His love is unconditional. He says: "I love you; I created you; my Son Jesus died for you; our relationship is secure." And that is the difference.

I can now see that my fatherly love for my children was often conditional. I loved them more when they were

good than I did when they were not good, more when they obeyed than when they disobeyed. My children are now in their 30's and 40's, but it's not too late. I am trying to reflect the compassionate love of the Father to my children, to have more compassion for them. I hope that, in time, this will enable them to experience the Father's love as I have experienced it.

I have forgiven my biological father and I have also forgiven my stepfather. But this could not happen until I had come to know my heavenly Father's love. I hold no anger toward either man. I can't hold anger against anybody, because the Father holds no anger against me. During my initial experience of coming to know the Father's love, I felt him reassuring me that I would never be angry with anyone again. Even though I can be very hotheaded at times, since that time a year ago, I have not been angry with anyone. God healed me tremendously in that regard.

I've always known that Jesus loved me because he died on the cross for me; he poured out his precious blood for me. I've understood that, and I've experienced the presence of Jesus in my life. Yet when I asked the Father to come into my life, it was an even greater experience. Jesus is the Father's Son, and I am the Father's son. I am a brother to Jesus, and that same love and compassion that the Father has for his Son Jesus, he has for me. It's hard to comprehend that with all the billions of people in the world, the Father is so intimately in love with each and every one of us. But we have to understand that this is the nature of our Father's heart. □

*If you have any personal articles
or God's miracle in your life
you want to share with the devotees,
we may be reached at
the following e-mail addresses
and phone numbers:
evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org
alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org
(702) 274-4315 and/or (213) 385-7798*

CONSECRATION AND FEAST DAY OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND

Unlike other feasts and consecration methods, The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father views the "big picture" of our Salvation History. It involves the entire process of our spiritual journey which includes Mary, our Mother; Jesus, our God and our Savior; and the Holy Spirit, our God and our Sanctifier – with progression always toward God Our Father.

God's Word in both the Old and New Testaments provides us with extensive Scriptural support for an eight-day or "octave," format. From the Book of Genesis to the Gospels and Epistles, the number "eight" is used to signify salvation, covenant, purification, and dedication. Perhaps, more importantly, it is used to indicate the end of one era and the beginning of another in which God is revealed, manifested, and present to His children in a new way.

The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father, in its most powerful form, is intended as a formal eight-day feast for God Our Father culminating on the first Sunday of the "eighth" month, God Our Father's Month – August. The solemn eighth day of the Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father would be celebrated under the title of The Feast of the Father of All Mankind. However, consecration to God Our Father using the eight-day formula of The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father can be done informally at any time during the year. □

MEDITATION AND COMMENTARY

RESTING IN HIS FAITHFULNESS

But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said:

"Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day on which I led the Israelites out of Egypt to the present, but I have been going about in a tent under cloth. In all my wanderings everywhere among the Israelites, did I ever utter a word to any one of the judges whom I charged to tend my people Israel, to ask: Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' "Now then, speak thus to my servant David, 'The LORD of hosts has this to say: It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal throne firm forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. And if he does wrong, I will correct him with the rod of men and with human chastisements;

2 Samuel 7:4-14

Don't you find it interesting that God wasn't angry with David for thinking that he -- a lowly human -- could ever build a fitting monument to the God of all creation? Not only did God not get angry, he promised David that his dynasty would remain secure and would have a special role in his plan for creation. In this little interchange, David learned a lot about who God is, especially about how surprisingly strong and generous he is toward those who love him.

Do you think of God in this way? Do you see him as a stable foundation -- a solid rock -- for your life? Because he loves us immensely, God is always with us, ready to give us his guidance and encouragement in every situation we face. And yet, we often think that he's far away, too occupied with weightier matters to concern himself with us. Or we think that we're just not good enough to merit promises as great as the one he made to David.

"Thank you, Father, for your faithfulness to us. There is none like you. Even when we are unfaithful, you hold out your hand to lift us up. Please help us learn that we can trust you in all things and that you will never leave your children orphaned."

Isn't this a horrible way to think about God our Father? He simply is not limited by this world— not even by our limitations. He knows what we need when we need it, and he will remain true to the plans he has for us. He is not like earthly fathers, who have their own mixtures of strengths and weaknesses. He is completely committed to us and completely faithful to all his promises.

God's love for us doesn't change based on how well or poorly we have performed. We don't have to build a "temple" worthy of God before he will come to dwell with us. He is always with us loving us -- healing us, and offering us a share in his joy and peace. All he wants is an open heart. Then, he will build us into a temple that far outshines anything we could have built on our own. Of course there will be times when he will have to correct us, but he will never abandon us.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

- You are enjoined to practice Eucharistic Adoration at least an hour a week. Let us render God adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition. Kindly check with your respective parishes for schedules. Some churches are open 24-hours for Eucharistic Adoration.
- Pray at least one rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary daily.
- Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 3:00 PM and at 9:00 PM daily.
- Pray the Angelus at 6:00 PM daily.
- Pray the Pro-Life Scriptural Rosary [www.rosaryoftheunborn.com] to make reparation for the crime of abortion.
- Think of ways to make reparation to Mary for the sins committed against Jesus and Mary. A very good one is to join the **First Saturday devotion**; another is the **2000 Hail Mary devotion**.
- On the Feast of the Father of All Mankind, August 4, honor our Eternal Father and dedicate that day to him by: (1) Praying the last day of the Octave Novena; (2) offering yellow flowers to Him; (3) Attending mass and receiving Communion; and (4) If you know of a church who is celebrating the Feast of the Father of All Mankind, join them.
- Remember to go to Mass on August 15 – it is a holy day of obligation.

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

Thank you, God, for walking me through many trials in my life, only to make me grow closer to You -- from my illnesses and extreme financial trouble -- and for the miracle You have given me as I see my husband do everything for me; for my children who have become closer to me these days. God is still doing a work. And he has taught me that I need him every day, even on days when everything is going well. God is Good!!!! I am blessed! Thank you Lord!

- A Las Vegas Devotee

Thank you, God, for the First Saturday devotion established in Las Vegas. From these prayers I have begun to do a lot of things I have always wanted to do, but did not have the leadership to do on my own such as to pray the rosary on First Saturdays. I have also acquired the practice to arrive early before mass, and enjoy praying beforehand. I thank God for the Las Vegas group, for the sacrifices in getting this prayer group going, over the course of eight years! Thank you sincerely. I really appreciate these things you have done that I am aware of. Many more have been done, I am sure, that I will never know about. I am deeply grateful.

- God bless -- Joyce

A big thank you to Mother Mary, Jesus Christ and especially God our Father for all the blessings they have given me. Throughout nursing school, I was blessed to have a scholarship for the entire four years and graduated completely debt free. I was also blessed with a nursing assistant job at UCLA during my junior year. Upon graduation, they also got me through my board exams on my first try. I thank God for the continuous blessings showered on me and I am truly excited to see what else He has in store in the future!

- April K

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous **August** sponsors of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of our Blessed Mother. The devotion continues to be a constant success.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Lucien & Mila Lumba

Los Angeles, California

Carmi Caro | Key Ebarle
Marie Nguyen | Ma. Victoria Punzalan
Aida Tuason | Lilia Tuazon

Tessie Almero & JJ Ramos
Coordinators

SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND

The Solemnity of God the Father will be celebrated in Los Angeles at the Monastery of the Angels (a contemplative Dominican Order of Sisters) on August 4 at 11:30 A.M. The celebration will be highlighted by flower offering, recitation of the 8th-day Consecration, Holy Mass, and culminating with the Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Part of the Solemnity honoring the Father Of All Mankind, will be the blessing of the Daily Chaplet of God the Father booklet, Consecration/Litany cards and other sacramental after the Liturgical celebration.

In Las Vegas, the celebration will be held at St. Bridget Catholic Church. This church has a Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at its adjoining chapel and the previous parish priest, Fr. James Swenson (now deceased), dedicated this chapel to the Eternal Father. He also dedicated the 11:30 A.M. mass on all Sundays to the Eternal Father. Being an ardent devotee of the Eternal Father, Fr. Swenson had also initiated the Octave Novena to the Eternal Father which is being prayed after the daily 6:30 A.M. masses on the Eight-Day Consecration starting on the last Sunday of July and culminating on the First Sunday of August, the Feast of the Father of All Mankind. Everything that Fr. Swenson had initiated is still being practiced to this day with the approval of the present Administrator, Fr. Jesse Cortez. Since 2006, The Spiritual Army of God the Father has spearheaded the celebration on the Feast Day of the Eternal Father. On August 4, the last day of the Octave Novena will be prayed after the 11:30 A.M. mass. Prior to the 11:30 A.M. mass, an Introductory Speech will be given to educate the parishioners about this important event. Then, we will have a procession of the Eternal Father picture, followed by floral offering by the congregation. After which, the Litany of the Love of God will be prayed. Music and hymns will be provided by the Amen Ministry Choir. After the mass, the parishioners are encouraged to visit the Perpetual Adoration Chapel to give honor to the Eternal Father. ☐

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TOY DRIVE FOR THE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
[ONGOING]**

**WHITE ELEPHANT BAZAAR
COMING VERY SOON**

**FEAST DAY OF
THE HOLY INFANT JESUS**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2014
ST. CASIMIR CATHOLIC CHURCH
2718 ST GEORGE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

SAVE THE DATE
AND SAVE UP FOR A
**PILGRIMAGE TO
MOTHER MARY'S
APPARITION SHRINES
PORTUGAL | SPAIN | FRANCE**
DECEMBER 4-21, 2014
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER
INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

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
11:20 A.M. - Rosary to the Father | 11:50 A.M. - Holy Mass
1:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confession ongoing from 11:20 A.M. to 11:45 P.M.

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – August 24, 2013

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 LAS VEGAS:

1st Saturday Devotion

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

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – August 17, 2013

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.

IN LAUGHLIN, NEVADA:

1st Saturday Devotion

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church | 3055 El Mirage Way
Holy Mass starts at 8:00 A.M. Devotional prayers follow.

IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:

1st Saturday Devotion

2000 Hail Mary Devotion

Please call (650) 766-2071 for dates and venues for the coming months or for more information.

For Sacramento:

Please call Precy Rieta (916) 564-3733 | Caring Sturgill (916) 897-3194 | Maria Rosario (916) 230-7756.

IN SAN DIEGO

Rosary to the Father

Monday – Saturday after the 8:00 A.M. Mass [Look for Iris Haj]
St. Mary's Church | 1160 S. Broadway | Escondido, CA 92025

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.