



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

August 2015

## CONSECRATION AND FEAST DAY OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND - AUGUST 2, 2015

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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

[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

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
- 4 John Vianney, Mem.
- 5 Dedication of St. Mary Major, Opt. Mem.
- 6 Transfiguration, Feast
- 7 Sixtus II and companions; Cajetan, Opt. Mem.
- 8 Dominic, Memorial
- 10 Lawrence, Feast
- 11 Clare, Mem.
- 13 Pontian and Hippolytus, Opt. Mem.
- 14 Maximilian Kolbe, Memorial
- 15 Assumption, Solemnity
- 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
- 25 Louis of France; Joseph Calasanz, Opt. Mem.
- 27 Monica, Memorial
- 28 Augustine, Memorial
- 29 Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Memorial.

The feasts of St. Teresa Benedicta (August 9), St. Stephen of Hungary (August 16) and St. Rose of Lima (August 23) 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*

#### Prayer and Being Christ-like

Gen 4:25-26

Mark 5:37-41

Acts 9:40

Numbers 6:24-26

# HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

## GOD THE FATHER'S PROVIDENTIAL LOVE

*St. Pope John Paul, II  
General Audience – March 24, 1999*

*Reprinted with Permission*

1. Continuing our meditation on God the Father, today we would like to reflect on his generous and providential love. "The witness of Scripture is unanimous that the solicitude of divine providence is concrete and immediate; God cares for all, from the least things to the great events of the world and its history" (CCC, n. 303). We can begin with a text from the Book of Wisdom, in which divine Providence is seen guiding a boat in the middle of the sea: "It is your Providence, O Father, that steers its course, because you have given it a path in the sea, and a safe way through the waves, showing that you can save from every danger, so that even if a man lacks skill, he may put to sea" (Wis 14:3-4).

In a psalm we find another image of the sea, ploughed by ships and teeming with animals large and small, which recalls the nourishment that God provides for all living things: "These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things" (Ps 104:27-28).

2. The image of the ship in the middle of the sea well describes our situation before our providential Father. He, as Jesus says, "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45). However, in the light of this message of the Father's providential love, we naturally wonder how suffering can be explained. And it is necessary to recognize that the problem of suffering is an enigma which perplexes human reason. Divine Revelation helps us understand that it is not willed by God, since it entered the world because of human sin (cf. Gn 3:16-19). "Almighty God ..., because he is supremely good, would never allow any evil whatsoever to exist in his works if he were not so all-powerful and good as to cause good to emerge from evil itself" (St Augustine, *Enchiridion de fide, spe et caritate*, 11, 3: PL 40, 236). In this regard, the reassuring words that Joseph spoke to his brothers, who had sold him and later depended on his power, are significant: "It was not you who sent me here but God.... As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" (Gn 45:8; 50:20).

God's plans do not coincide with those of man; they are infinitely better, but often incomprehensible to the human mind. The Book of Proverbs says: "A man's steps are ordered by the Lord; how then can man understand his way?" (Prv 20:24). In the New Testament, Paul will

announce this consoling principle: "In everything God works for good with those who love him" (Rom 8:28).

3. What should be our attitude to God's providential and far-sighted action? We certainly should not wait passively for what he sends us, but cooperate with him in bringing to completion the work he has begun in us. We must be eager to seek first the things of heaven. These must come first, as Jesus said: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Mt 6:33). Other matters must not be the object of excessive concern, because our heavenly Father knows our needs; this is what Jesus teaches us when he asks his disciples for "childlike abandonment to the providence of our heavenly Father who takes care of his children's smallest needs" (CCC, n. 305): "Do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be of anxious mind. For all the nations of the world seek these things; and your Father knows that you need them" (Lk 12:29f.).

We are therefore called to cooperate with God in an attitude of great trust. Jesus teaches us to ask the heavenly Father for our daily bread (cf. Mt 6:11; Lk 11:3). If we receive it with gratitude, we will also spontaneously remember that nothing belongs to us, and that we must be ready to give: "Give to everyone who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again" (Lk 6:30).

4. The certainty that God loves us makes us trust in his fatherly providence even in life's most difficult moments. This complete trust in God, the providential Father, even in the midst of adversity, is admirably expressed by St Teresa of Jesus: "Let nothing trouble you; let nothing frighten you. Everything passes. God never changes. Patience obtains all. Whoever has God wants for nothing. God alone is enough" (Poems, 30).

Scripture offers us an eloquent example of total trust in God when it tells how Abraham reached the decision to sacrifice his son Isaac. In reality, God did not want the death of the son, but the faith of the father. And Abraham demonstrates it completely, for when Isaac asks him where the lamb is for the burnt offering, he dares to answer: "God will provide" (Gn 22:8). And then he immediately experiences the benevolent Providence of God, who saves the young boy and rewards his faith, filling him with blessings.

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# 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 Holfinger. 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.

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# SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

## THE FEAST OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND

The feast of Eternal Father on August 2, 2015 will be celebrated in Los Angeles at the Monastery of the Angels and in Las Vegas at St. Bridget's Catholic Church. The Consecration Octave commences on July 26, culminating on God The Father's feast day on August 2. The Los Angeles celebration starts at 11:30 A.M. while the Las Vegas group convenes at 11:00 A.M.

All are welcome to give honor, praise, continuing recognition and love to our Creator and Divine Father in heaven.

## TOYS FOR TOTS

We have been collecting toys for the Los Angeles Children's Hospital. The toy drive has been continuing for months but for some reason our "well" of toys has DRIED UP. Let us re-ignite our hearts and souls to pour in our interests to fill our "well" of toys for children. These toys have therapeutic effects on our tots. They're good impetus for speedy recovery and perking up lethargic spirits. Can we do this for our little brothers and sisters and of course, for our dear God who put us together in this world as one spirit made in His loving image?

Our target date of delivery to the Los Angeles Children's Hospital will be on August 15, 2015! NO FURRY STUFFED TOYS, PLEASE!

## SUMMER CARE PACK

Our care pack will soon be available to our devotees for distribution to our homeless brothers and sisters. This summer, our care pack will include personal hygiene items which can be very useful at this time of the year. Items in each care pack will include among others, a face

towel, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste. These packs will be readily available for distribution especially to our homeless in the streets. They are conveniently packed in Ziploc plastic bags.

The Ministry requests for a donation of \$10.00 per care pack from our devotees who are willing to extend their love gift to our homeless brethren.

## OUR SHORT TRIP TO NEW MEXICO

The steps towards the fulfillment of our trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico are now in full swing. The number of devotees who have signified their intentions to join us are overwhelming, that the Ministry has to lift the limit of 45 to now 55 individuals. It seems like Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary, wants his staircase be known to every soul! Los Angeles and Las Vegas devotees depart on Friday, September 4, 2015 from Los Angeles. This is a pilgrimage that entails a lot of devotional prayers, spiritual movies and documentaries on purgatory, heaven and hell. We will visit the Loretto Chapel where the Miraculous Staircase of Saint Joseph is treasured,

and the healing sand in Santuario de Chimayo. We enjoin our devotees to pray with us as a community. Let's all be one heart, mind and soul in this journey seeking spiritual enrichment!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GOD THE FATHER FEAST DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015

IN LOS ANGELES:

THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS  
ON CARMEN AND GOWER  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW

IN LAS VEGAS:

ST. BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH  
220 N 14TH STREET, LAS VEGAS, NV  
CELEBRATION BEGINS AT 11:00 AM

### TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PLEASE DROP OFF

YOUR NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS  
EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAYS  
AT THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER  
DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER

### THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2015

IN LOS ANGELES:

THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES  
OF THE DIVINE MASTER  
BEGINNING WITH A MASS AT 8:30 AM

IN LAS VEGAS:

THE CENACLE HOUSE ON  
SAHARA/DURANGO  
BEGINNING WITH A MASS AT 8:00 AM

### JOURNEY TO HOLY SITES IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

ST. JOSEPH'S MIRACULOUS STAIRCASE  
SANTUARIO DE CHIMAYO -- THE  
LOURDES OF AMERICA  
SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2015

DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER

INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT

[WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFMOMENTUM.ORG](http://WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFMOMENTUM.ORG)

# SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

## THE POWER OF SILENT PRAYER

*By Jurell Sison*

For years I've been trying to master the art of silent prayer. Sometimes my attempts find me staring at my shoes, thinking about the work I need to be doing. Other times, when I approach prayer with an open heart, I can feel my life, attitude, and perspective changing with every second I keep my eyes closed.

Silence is difficult. It's confusing. What, exactly, is supposed to happen while sitting for long, potentially awkward periods of time? I'm still not confident about my answer, but I can share some of my experiences.

**Enough is enough.** First, every time I enter into silent prayer it takes quite a while to get situated. I'm thinking about the endless number of tasks that need to be done at my job and my apartment. Moreover, I have special projects, blog posts, videos, and, most importantly, people I need to connect with throughout the day. My mind never shuts off, unless I put my foot down and say, enough is enough. Entering into silent prayer takes work. It takes discipline and courage to cut through all the little things that distract our minds and hearts to arrive at a sacred and productive silence.

I have some good days and I have some terrible days when I attempt to enter into silent prayer. However, the more I try, the better I get.

I am not in charge. When I'm at my best in silent prayer, I get an overwhelming feeling that I am not in charge. While that sounds cliché, it seems to me that this simple mindset is the remedy to my stress, heartache, and anxiety. Day to day I get tricked into believing that my daily tasks, obstacles, and struggles are bigger than they are. Some days I even feel cheated that people don't recognize them or validate them, but my prayer puts things into the proper perspective. I get a profound sense that God is in charge and that life is mysterious. And no matter what struggles come my way, God has a way to redeem them. I like to think that I trust God, but silence helps me to live that trust.

**Deeper prayer.** God isn't some "thing" we can quantify; God is mystery. Silence is one of the most profound ways to dive deeper into the mystery that is God. I've grown to appreciate this idea through St. Ignatius's spiritual exercises. For 30 weeks I was asked to sit in silence for one hour a day while using my imagination to contemplate the scriptures. I was hesitant at first, but it made sense that if God worked through all things (a very basic and popular Ignatian concept), God certainly worked through my imagination.

It was then that I realized the true beauty of silent prayer. Every week I was given a set of bible verses to

contemplate. More than that, I was asked to imagine myself within the bible stories. It was there that I "met" God for the first time. He revealed himself to me in a number of creative ways that made me seek God more, ways that fueled my desire to know God more deeply.

Ironically, my silent prayer was incredibly loud, interactive, and engaging. It was also emotional and intimate. The silence allowed God to speak to my heart in mysterious ways. Through those 30 weeks of the spiritual exercises, I interacted with God in ways that I never thought possible. We shared intimate moments and furthered our relationship. In my scripture contemplations, Jesus treated me as one of his disciples and entrusted me with tasks to further his mission. He trusted me. He embraced me. He stuck up for me. He loved me. The silence was a sacred space for me to be with Jesus.

For me, this is the power of silent prayer: it creates a deeper relationship with an infinite and mysterious God. It takes us down a path that ultimately leads to a deep friendship. □

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Jurell Sison is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Brunswick, Ohio. He graduated in 2013 from John Carroll university with a Master of Arts in Theology.

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### **GOD THE FATHER'S PROVIDENTIAL LOVE**

Such texts must be interpreted, then, in the light of Revelation as a whole, which reaches its fullness in Jesus Christ. He teaches us to place great confidence in God even in the most difficult moments: nailed to the Cross, Jesus abandons himself totally to the Father: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Lk 23:46). With this attitude he raises to a sublime level what Job had summed up in his famous words: "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Jb 1:21). Even what is humanly a misfortune can be part of that great plan of infinite love in which the Father provides for our salvation. □

## **CONSECRATION AND 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.

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. □

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## **ABBA FATHER!**

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*

— WJD —

**"MORE THAN ONCE"** — Luke 11:5-6

*Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you went to your friend's house very late at night and said to him, 'A friend of mine has come into town to visit me. But I have nothing for him to eat. Please give me three loaves of bread.'*

**KEY THOUGHT:**

Jesus didn't just teach about prayer once, but many times. Jesus didn't pray just once, but consistently went to his Father in prayer. Prayer is not something that we master, but a grace by which God gains mastery over our hearts. So Jesus stressed its importance, demonstrated his dependence upon it, and often made it the subject of his teaching. Here, to emphasize the importance of persistence, he uses an illustration from the real world in which they lived. This not only made his teaching memorable, but anchored the importance and meaning of prayer in real, everyday living.

**TODAY'S PRAYER:**

Father, thank you for Jesus' repeated emphasis on the importance of prayer, both in his teaching and with his example. Teach me to value prayer the way your Son did. Give me daily reminders of prayer's importance to me and to you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

*... I am your Mother Mary.*

*Learn to forgive in your hearts. As my son  
Jesus forgives His torturers and betrayers, you  
must be prepared to have the same heart of  
forgiveness if you're ready to serve your God.*

*My beads of rosary become your shields of  
everlasting love for God as you recognize with  
all your heart the salvation history of  
humanity. It's a contemplative prayer that  
pertains to the true meaning of God's love for  
humankind, where He gave His only son to  
redeem back the hardness of pride of man and  
also the hardness of man's heart to forgive.  
This must be the start of your road in a  
journey of forgiving one another, my  
children."*

*Mary, Your Lady of Peace and Mercy*  
06272015

*I am pleased and My glory and presence will  
be known to all My creation. Always be  
pleasing and obedient to My statutes. My laws  
are all constant. My mercy is not fathomable  
by any human and angelic thinking. I am  
pleased. I am Iaweh....*

07182015

# THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

## THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous July sponsors of the 800 Our Father Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of God the Father. This month is the commencement of the 800 Our Father devotion and we pray it will be a success.

### Las Vegas, Nevada

Lucien & Mila Lumba

### Los Angeles, California

Susan Angelo | Marilyn Batino

Pop Melo | Marivic Punzalan

Alice Ng | Clara Velasquez

## FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

Thank you, Eternal Father, for Your Will that transformed our sorrow into joy, our tears of anguish into tears of thanksgiving. Our physical and spiritual re-creation, through Your Healing Hands, kept us enclosed and revived in our hope for renewed lives as we look up to the heavens praising You, in Jesus' most Holy Name, through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and of the angels and saints.

*We thank our Eternal Father, for guiding us, through His Holy Spirit, for the endeavors we have undertaken in the ministry: the 800 Our Father Devotion He has directly crafted for His creation so He can be honored, known and loved by all men; the seed we have planted but nurtured by Eternal Father to assist our brothers and sisters who work for personal development through educational scholarships; and other charitable work of the ministry. These works of faith, we offer to Him in Jesus name. Amen.*

*Thank you Lord for hearing our prayers and granting our petitions. The last two weeks have been very challenging for our families but you manifested your loving presence each and every day through the people you surrounded us with – family, friends, doctors, nurses and co-workers! You carried us through and made the burden light. God the Father, may You be known, honored and loved by all men!*

- Alice A.

*This is a Thanks-Be-to-God for a miracle of healing. My friend, Flora, who is in her 80's, fell recently. X-ray showed a triple break in her right wrist. It was decided to insert a pin. She preferred to let the wrist heal crookedly rather than have the pin. The Sunday before last, after she received communion, she agreed to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for healing. She directed me where to find tiny aperitif glasses, in which we put a few drops of holy water to clean and rebuke it by praying the St. Michael prayer. We did the same with our hands. Next, we poured some holy water into the glasses, and added a drop of holy oil to the water. We also anointed her hand sticking out of the wrist wrap/brace. (I prayed for healing at the same time that a bubble on my hip be healed). We drank the holy water and oil, then prayed the chaplet fervently. Flora called me to say that the x-ray taken in preparation for the pin insertion showed no break in her wrist! She and I believe this is miraculous. The doctor said the earlier x-ray was a mis-read. Flora and I are thankful to God that she did not need the surgery. We are also thankful for our friendship, companionship in sharing our faith and times of prayer, and belief in miracles.*

- Joyce.

# 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. | 1<sup>st</sup> 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  
12:30 P.M. - Rosary to the Father | 1:15 P.M. - Holy Mass  
2:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

#### The 800 Our Father Devotion – August 15, 2015

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 CHINO HILLS:

#### Sacred Heard Devotional Group for Departed Souls

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month | 16657 Tourmaline Street | Chino Hills, CA 91709  
Devotional Prayers start at 8:30 P.M.

### IN LAS VEGAS:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

#### The 800 Our Father Devotion – August 15, 2015

*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:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Devotion

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

### 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.