



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

August 2018

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GOD THE FATHER, THE DIVINE SCULPTOR: EXCERPTED

By Fr. Frank Schuster

Isaiah states, "O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay and you are the potter; we are the work of your hands." The prophet Isaiah is writing this during the time of the Babylonian Exile. This was a horrific time for the biblical Jews. They were a conquered people who watched their temple in Jerusalem burned to the ground as they were hauled off to a foreign land. They had to wait seventy years before they were liberated. As a people, they felt like a flawed piece of marble. They felt like cheap unformed clay. It is Isaiah's hope and prayer that God, the divine artist, will be able to form the clay of their lives into a masterpiece again.



And don't we all have days or even years when we feel like that? Days or even years when we feel like flawed marble or a clump of clay? Perhaps we feel that way sometimes at work or in the effort to find work, sometimes we might feel that way at home, in our relationships with family members, or perhaps we feel that way with the person we see in the mirror each day, struggling to better ourselves each day, feeling like every step forward we take two steps back, or perhaps in how we are dealing with a personal struggle, like an addiction or debilitating illness? Perhaps we even feel this way in our relationship with God, wondering what God wants for us as we make our way through life, pondering what God's vision is for us. These are all Advent themes.

It is Isaiah's conviction that God is a lot like Michelangelo in that God sees in the imperfect marble of our existence a masterpiece waiting to be born. In our failures and in our successes, we can almost feel God's chisel at work on us if we take a moment to contemplate God's activity in our lives. Isaiah's analogy of the potter and the clay is even better. Take a moment and consider what is it like to be clay in the hands of an artist? It is fascinating to watch the artist take a clump of clay, place it on a spinning platform, and begin shaping the clay into a masterpiece. It is as if the clay has a mind of its own while the artist uses his fingers and thumbs to carefully shape the clay into artwork. The artist would periodically pour water on the clay so that it would remain supple and moist as nothing much can be done with dried out clay. After the artwork is completed, it is then placed in a hot oven for a long time prior to being painted and finished.

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FEASTS FOR AUGUST

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Alphonsus Liguori, Memorial | 22 Queenship of Mary, Mem. |
| 2 Eusebius of Vercelli; Peter Julian Eymard, Opt. Mem. | 23 Rose of Lima, Opt. Mem. |
| 4 John Vianney, Mem. | 24 Bartholomew, Feast |
| 5 Dedication of St. Mary Major, Opt. Mem. | 25 Louis of France; Joseph Calasanz, Opt. Mem. |
| 6 Transfiguration, Feast, Sunday | 27 Monica, Memorial |
| 7 Sixtus II and Companions; Cajetan, Opt. Mem. | 28 Augustine, Memorial |
| 8 Dominic, Memorial | 29 Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Mem. |
| 9 Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Opt. Mem. | |
| 10 Lawrence, Feast | The feasts of the Dedication of St. Mary Major |
| 11 Clare, Mem. | (August 5) and St. Jane Frances de Chantal (August 12) |
| 13 Pontian and Hippolytus, Opt. Mem. | fall on a Sunday so they are superseded by the Sunday |
| 14 Maximilian Kolbe, Memorial | Liturgy. ☐ |
| 15 Assumption, Solemnity | |
| 16 Stephen of Hungary, Opt. Mem. | |
| 20 Bernard, Memorial | |
| 21 Pius X, Sunday | |

**August 5, Sunday is
Feast of the Eternal Father**

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION SPONSORS

Las Vegas, Nevada

August 18, 2018
Lucien & Mila Lumba
Robert & Evelyn Pua

Los Angeles, California

August 18, 2018
Myles & Edith Avanzado | Carmi Caro
Marivic Punzalan | Alice Ng
Elena Rosales | Clara Velasquez

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

I was badly injured due to a bad fall. The bone on my right arm stuck out and was told I might need surgery. On my next doctor's visit, he realigned the bone successfully. No more surgery needed and am recovering with a cast on my arm. Thank you, God, and to The Army for their prayers.

- Rosario

I want to give thanks to God for my new job. After so many years of waiting and working under a substitute/temporary payroll [and begging for the grace to persevere in hope and trust in God's perfect plan and time], I have passed and completed all the requirements and am now gainfully employed in a permanent position – with all the benefits that come with it!

- Clara

GOD TOUCHED ME

PARENTAL LOVE

PART 2

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. Proverbs 1:8-9.

By Chat, a Devotee's granddaughter

Everyone says I am a living testimony of God's miracle because they have witnessed how I survived the most difficult ordeal, from my lowest of low and to where I am now. I have inspired them as I continued the battle of my illness.

I may be one of God's miracle, but if someone is worthy of being an inspiration, that would be my parents. Picture the hardship and suffering they went through as they watched their youngest child crying in pain with her life on the brink of

death; when they cry day and night with rosary tightly held in their hands, begging God for their child's life; as they keep telling me to hold on because I can do it. What greater pain could there be than a parent burying their child. We praise God because this did not happen!

Probably, my parents are right – that I am strong and brave because I have survived; but not strong enough

because I was ready to give up, yet I never saw my parents showing signs of giving up. In moments of excruciating pain, they were always beside me inspiring me to fight, hold on and for us to pray together.

Whenever we hear of cases like this, let us acknowledge these people who untiringly motivate the weak to be strong and to fight.

These people are the real MVPs. ☐



Chat is 22, a B.S. Psychology graduate and is currently teaching boys and girls whom she adores and from whom she receives lots of love – and “entertainment”! At 21, she battled health issues like acid reflux or GERD, cholecystitis, pancreatitis and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), an auto

immune disease that mistakenly attacks healthy tissues and organs. She has gone through several surgeries and continues to struggle with SLE's attendant consequences – affecting her kidneys, joints and skin. There is no known cure for SLE [yet] but there are treatments that can help manage its symptoms. Chat is a volunteer for these clinical studies and experimental or “test” drugs.

Chat admits to those times when the pain and the struggles are undefeatable but her faith in God (that grows stronger a little bit more each day, each pain and each struggle) and her family that stands by her, drives her to fight – and win.

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GOD THE FATHER, THE DIVINE SCULPTOR

How many times in our lives have we felt God's hands working on the clay of our souls, giving us shape. How many times have we fought the divine artist's efforts? How many times have we felt like we are in that oven being tested by fire?

Isaiah's analogy of the potter and the clay is a good metaphor for life. Everything in this life is a

preparation for everlasting life. No matter who we are, or what time or place we live in. During the times we feel like flawed marble or misshaped clay, it is good to remember that God has looked into the future of the human race and has seen a masterpiece. And no matter how you feel about your life circumstance right now, God has looked into your heart and has seen how beautiful you can be. All that is required of us is to allow God's hands into the clay of lives and allow God to make our failures and

successes an opportunity for growth. As we allow God to shape us, we take up the Lord's invitation to watch and see. God has already seen in each one of us a divine masterpiece. All that is necessary is for the bits of rubble to be brushed away. ☐

Fr. Frank Schuster is a Roman Catholic Priest serving the Archdiocese of Seattle as pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church in Woodinville, Washington and as the director of formation for the permanent diaconate.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

GOD EXISTS WITH US

By Victor Araneta

We have never seen God, but I know how I feel; it's the people like you who make Him real that prove His existence. My God is no stranger - He's so friendly each day as I meet different faces come my way, the faces of people that bring joy and laughter to my soul. God is my stars in the heavens, their existence is beyond human comprehension. A God who puts the precise season of nature in every turn of the sun that shines upon us. A God who hangs the sun out slowly with the break of day and gently takes the stars in and puts the night away. God is real. ☐



OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

LEARNING FROM WHEAT AND WEED

MATTHEW 13: 36:43

MANY COME,
BUT FEW ARE BLESSED.
WORDS I IGNORE.
IT IS YOUR HEART
THAT MATTERS TO ME.

JESUS OF NAZARETH, YOUR LOVING GOD
07212018

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PLEASE DROP OFF
YOUR NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS
EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS
AT THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES
OF THE DIVINE MASTER

FEAST OF THE ETERNAL FATHER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
ON CARMEN AND GOWER
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS
BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON

IN LAS VEGAS:
ST. SHARBEL MISSION OF LAS VEGAS,
10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89183
PROCESSION, FLOWER OFFERING AND
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM
MASS IS AT 9:30 AM

THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

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
8455 WEST SAHARA AVENUE
UNIT 172, LAS VEGAS, NV 89117

THE ARK ENCOUNTER

WILLIAMSTOWN, KENTUCKY
SEPTEMBER 28 TO
OCTOBER 1, 2018

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