



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

August 2019

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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 FOREMENTIONED.

THIS IS WHY GOD IS THE BEST FATHER EVER

By Sophia Swinford

I knew this would happen. There was red sauce everywhere, on their hands, mouths, down the front of their shirts. And they loved it. They both sat there, in their high chairs, grinning and giggling at the mess their little toddler hands had made. I sighed, picked up the damp paper towel, and started cleaning them up. For the third time that day. No matter how many times they made a mess, they still wanted to feed themselves. They would try to wrap their little fists around the spoon handle, their mouths open wide, and would inevitably spill sauce all over themselves.



I couldn't help but laugh with them, though. I couldn't help but smile at them as I wiped the mess from their hands and faces. I wanted to be mad, but, come on, they're adorable twin toddlers. There was no staying mad at them.

As I wiped their adorable little faces, I suddenly felt so at peace. I smiled at the voice in the back of my heart saying, "That's what you look like to me."

I do a really good job of beating myself up for every mistake. I am extremely skilled in seeing my every flaw. But, in that moment, I finally felt like I could see what my Father sees. Not a disappointment. Not a list of flaws. Just a little girl insisting on doing things herself instead of just listening to her Father. I started to realize that no matter how many times I messed up, God would always be happy to wipe up the mess, not because I had earned the privilege, but just because I'm His little girl, His beloved child.

Still, I need reminding of these things a lot. The word "father" probably means something different to each person reading this. But no matter what kind of good, bad, complicated relationship we have with our earthly fathers, each and every one of us still has the best Father in heaven, and here's why.

In His eyes, we are always enough.

Sometimes we can get so caught up in self-criticism or self-improvement that we forget that God isn't tallying up our successes and our failures. He isn't watching our lives toss us around, laughing as we try to hold on.

No, He's our Father. Our Dad. He wants to kiss our scraped knees and celebrate our every win.

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FEASTS FOR AUGUST

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

- | | |
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| 1 Alphonsus Liguori, Memorial | 20 Bernard, Memorial |
| 2 Eusebius of Vercelli; Peter Julian Eymard, Opt. Mem. | 21 Pius X, Obligatory Memorial |
| 4 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 22 Queenship of Mary, Memorial |
| 5 Dedication of St. Mary Major, Opt. Mem. | 23 Rose of Lima, Opt. Mem. |
| 6 Transfiguration, Feast | 24 Bartholomew, Feast |
| 7 Sixtus II and companions; Cajetan, Opt. Mem. | 25 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 8 Dominic, Memorial | 27 Monica, Memorial |
| 9 Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Opt. Mem. | 28 Augustine, Memorial |
| 10 Lawrence, Feast | 29 Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Memorial |
| 11 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 13 Pontian and Hippolytus, Opt. Mem. | |
| 14 Maximilian Kolbe, Memorial | |
| 15 Assumption, Solemnity | |
| 16 Stephen of Hungary, Opt. Mem. | |
| 18 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 19 John Eudes; St. Bernard Tolomei, Opt. Mem. | |

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. ☐

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

<p><u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u></p> <p>2000 Hail Mary Devotion Sponsors August 17, 2019</p> <p>Lucien & Mila Lumba</p>	<p><u>Los Angeles, California</u></p> <p>800 Our Father Devotion Sponsors August 17, 2019</p> <p>Felix & Carmi Caro Purita Dominguez Alice Ng Maria Nguyen Lucy Solonzano Clara Velasquez</p>
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OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

THE WAYS OF THE ENEMY AND WAYS WE DESTROY THEM

THE 3 D'S OF THE EVIL ZONE
THE 3 WAYS TO DEFEAT THEM

1 JOHN 3:12

JOHN 3:16

MATTHEW 14:23

GOD TOUCHED ME

IN HEALTH AND IN SICKNESS, I LOVE THEE O MY GOD!

by Lilia Ching Tuazon, a devotee

My body may grow weak but God is my strength: He Is all I need.

Psalm 73:25-26

This is my second article which I have contributed to God Touched Me. In my first article, I wrote about how my spirituality improved and became closer to God. This time I will be writing solely about my surgeries which occurred since I came to this country in 1981. And how God has been with me through it all.

In July 1983, I had Caesarean section because David was a breech baby. Fifteen years later, in August 1998, I had my second surgery, a total hysterectomy. A year later, I noticed my right face becoming bigger and the doctor told me I had to have surgery to remove a nodule or cyst behind my right ear. It was my third surgery. Another year later, I noticed a lump in the middle of my neck due to a nodule in the middle of my thyroid gland. This was my fourth surgery. The fifth surgery was a titanium implant on my right breast because the doctor thought I had breast cancer. This titanium implant serves as a marker so that next time I have a mammogram, it pinpoints where the biopsy has already been done. The sixth surgery was for the carpal tunnel syndrome on my right hand which was done in March 2014, before I retired. Throughout these occurrences, I have been praying for good health yet God has not answered my prayers according to my will. Instead, He answered my prayers according to His will. I knew that God has had a reason for every one of them. Whatever it was, I know that it was the best for me because I trust Him.

In November 2017, my sister who lived in the Philippines, got sick and not long after, passed away. At that time, a lump on the right side of my neck had developed and was under observation and at my doctors' advice, travelling outside the United States was not an option for me.

A year passed by and I wanted to spend time with, at that time, my only surviving sibling, my brother. I also, wanted to pay my respects at my sister's burial site – on the day of her first year death anniversary [on November 23]. I consulted with my doctors, made travel plans and arrived in the Philippines on November 13, 2018 – not knowing that my dear brother was gravely ill. Five days later, I had to take him to ER myself!

I prayed to God the Father not to take my brother on our sister's first death anniversary celebration. On November 23, 2018, my brother's wife called requesting me to go to the hospital for my brother had been calling my name. I did so hastily. I stayed by his bedside until the next day when he passed on at 1:54 a.m. I told God the Father that I do not question His will regarding the passing away of my younger siblings before me. The only thing I asked of Him was to take care of their souls, to forgive them and to have mercy on them for all the sins they have committed while on earth. I also asked Him to please take care of me and the families my siblings have left behind.

I was back in California on December 17, 2018 to prepare for the third year Feast Day celebration of the Infant Jesus of Prague in my parish in January, 2019. This was our parish's third year of celebration which was revived after 40 years! It was a very successful one as the number of devotees who attended continued to increase year after year.

A few weeks after the celebration, on February 5, 2019, I had my seventh surgery for the removal of my gall bladder.

I have no idea when my neck surgery will be but I always pray to God to melt this nodule or cyst. Currently, my doctor is monitoring the cyst and I am scheduled to see her every six months for this purpose.

Despite all my medical conditions I know deep in my heart that God is continuously touching my heart. This assurance penetrates the innermost crust of my being and His Arms are blessings that envelope me with His love and healing embrace. ☐

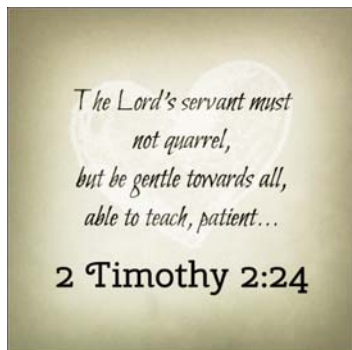
SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

SEEKING INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THROUGH THE BIBLE

IRRITATION

by Victor H. Araneta

What bugs us? Whether it's a neighbor singing on top of her voice at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning or a co-worker who snaps her gum all day or a mate who always sees a hole in a donut, one is forced to deal with nagging irritations.



The most important principle to remember if you are to deal with minor irritants successfully is to view them as "helpers" in one's spiritual growth. Each time one confronts an abrasive person or circumstance, you must either lay down your personal rights or enforce them. That involves a denial of self and a yielding to the Lordship of Christ. One's choice in such situations advances your growth in godliness or neutralizes it. You choose the way of humility and servanthood

as Jesus did, or you proclaim your selfishness loud and clear. Irritations reveal the true nature of self. If accepted as God's agents for maturity and obedience, they will scrape away the layers of pride, ego, and selfishness and reveal the gentleness of genuine spiritual beauty. ☐

I am your Mother Mary. Today is a special day dedicated especially for the unborn and those who are wanting to have children.

Pray unceasingly for God will match those unborn souls to those whose hearts are pure to have children. Pray, my children, pray.

Mary, your Lady of the Knock
07192019

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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

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

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

IN LAS VEGAS

ST. SHARBEL CHURCH
10325 RANCHO DESTINO ROAD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89183
8TH DAY CONSECRATION PRAYERS
AND FLORAL OFFERING
AT 8:00 AM
MASS AND PROCESSION
AT 9:30 AM

THE APPARITION JOURNEY WITH THE BLESSED ONE [IN IRELAND, BELGIUM, GERMANY, & AUSTRIA]

DECEMBER 8 – 17, 2019
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

THIS IS WHY GOD IS THE BEST FATHER EVER

There's another little girl I babysit who's four-years-old and loves to draw. More specifically, she loves to give drawings to her parents. One afternoon, when her dad got home, she skipped over to proudly present her gift: a sheet of black paper with red and purple scribbles all over it. "Wow! It's beautiful!" he exclaimed. And the best part? He wasn't pretending; he didn't need to. The offering wasn't beautiful because of skill, but just because it was from his child.

I wish that everyone could have the same experience, but even the most dedicated fathers are going to mess up sometimes. All of us need a reliable source of love – something more than an imperfect human being who will both succeed and fail can give us. Our Father in heaven is that love. Our efforts to please Him are not precious because of how good or perfect they are; they are precious because we are precious to Him. Always.

He will do anything to get us to heaven.

Because we are His precious children, beautiful and worthy just as we are, He will go to extraordinary lengths to bring us home to Him. A priest once put it this way to me: "Aside from hindering your free will, your Father will do anything to get you to heaven."

We do not have an absent Father. We don't have a Father who only has time for us some of the time. We don't have a Father who is too tired or too busy to spend time with us. We don't have a Father who sits by and does nothing while we flounder and lose our way.

We have a Father who wants to spend today, tomorrow, and eternity with us. We have a Father who loves us enough to teach us hard lessons, who isn't willing just to make our lives easy because He wants them to be meaningful. He wants to be with you now and forever, and He will do anything to make that happen.

He is always a Father first.

I should really know better by now. I should know better than to think that God is judge before He is my father. But I do. Maybe it's because I so desperately want to make Him proud or because it's hard to imagine that the Almighty would want to be so gentle with me, but I find it difficult to remember that God doesn't want something out of me nearly as much as He wants me. I forget the creed I profess every Sunday: "I believe in God, the Father almighty."

That's right. Even before He wants us to know that He is almighty, He wants us to know that He is Father.

He wants a relationship with us. He wants our hearts. It's so simple, so pure, so unconditional that it can be really hard to wrap your head around, especially because in our world, fathers aren't just fathers. They are brothers, friends, husbands, stepfathers, boyfriends, businessmen, and much more. They have many roles to play and they don't always keep their role as father a priority.

But God does. He wants nothing more than to be your perfect Father. He wants nothing more than to heal our every wound, because where humans leave emptiness God always brings fullness.

I often forget that God being our Father doesn't just mean that He's our Creator or that He's in charge. It means that we are precious to Him, that we are made for His kingdom, that we're each a reflection of Him. It means that He loved us into existence and that He continues to even now.

"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called children of God. Yet so we are. [...] Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:1-2) □

Sophia Swinford is a freelance writer, a regular contributor to Aletheia, and a student of theology. You can follow her on Twitter @sophiaswinford. This article originally appeared on LifeTeen.com. Article used with permission.