



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

SEPTEMBER 2020

## ARE YOU DEVOTED TO GOD?

*By Micca Campbell*

*"Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you." Psalm 73:25 (NIV)*

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I long to be fully devoted to God, but it amazes me how far things can get out of line when I'm not paying attention. In weak moments, I can spend money on myself that I've saved to give away. I've sat halfway through a sitcom before realizing I'm laughing at things contrary to the will of God. Bad habits quickly gain the upper hand when I neglect to address them daily. Worse yet, a passion for self-indulgence can sometimes trump my devotion to God. Perhaps you can relate.

If we aren't careful, it's easy to let worldly desires become obsessions, redirecting our love and devotion away from God. When I give more devotion to anything or anyone other than God, I'm being unfaithful. Why? Because I belong to God and He deserves my whole heart. Yet one of the most amazing things about our great God is no matter how unfaithful we are, God is never unfaithful to us. He is wholly devoted to His children, holding nothing back. Not love. Not forgiveness. Not mercy. Not provision, protection or His presence. Not even His Son.

Our heavenly Father, by example, models devotion for us. Take another look. God is totally devoted to you. The question is, "Are you totally devoted to Him?"

You already know my devotion isn't always what it should be. However, giving in to worldly passions isn't the only thing that exposes my lack of devotion. Holding back parts of myself from God is a sure sign of a divided heart. I tend to withhold my time, adoration, dedication, honesty and gratitude. Yet without full surrender on my part, I'll never become fully devoted to God. It's only when God means more to me than anything or anyone on earth that my heart will be fully devoted to Him alone. Then I can state our key verse with passion: "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you" (Psalm 73:25).

Our key verse is attributed to a music director of King David named Asaph. And from this verse, it's obvious nothing meant more to him than God. Asaph knew God was far more excellent than any object on earth. God is our peace and joy. He is our salvation and security. He is our daily portion and strength. Nothing of earth's wealth, honor or fame comes close to God. Even in heaven there is nothing more superb than He. For that reason, Asaph proclaims, "earth has nothing I desire besides you."

*Continued on Page 5*

# FEASTS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3 St. Gregory the Great, Memorial                | 27 Twenty-Six Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday   |
| 5 St. Teresa of Calcutta, Opt. Mem.              | 28 Wenceslaus; Lawrence Ruiz and Companions; St. Simón de Rojas O.S.S. (Spain), Opt. Mem. |
| 6 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday   | 29 Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels, Feast                                 |
| 8 Birth of Mary, Feast                           | 30 Jerome, Memorial   |
| 9 Peter Claver (USA), Memorial                   |   |
| 12 Most Holy Name of Mary, Opt. Mem.             |   |
| 13 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |   |
| 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast           |   |
| 15 Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial                 |   |
| 16 Cornelius and Cyprian, Memorial               |   |
| 17 Robert Bellarmine, Opt. Mem.                  |   |
| 19 Januarius, Opt. Mem.                          |   |
| 20 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday  |   |
| 21 Matthew, Feast                                |   |
| 23 Pio of Pietrelcina, Memorial                  |   |
| 26 Cosmas and Damian, Opt. Mem.                  |   |

The feasts of St. John Chrysostom (September 13), Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions (September 20), and St. Vincent de Paul (September 27) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. ☐

## THANK YOU

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

*Psalm 106:2*

From Tiffany G. Martin

A big thank you to the Spiritual Army and all the prayer warriors who kept me in their hearts and intentions. I am so humbled.

Thank you for all the love and support, and from your mouths to God's ears, I am healed.

To God be the glory!

## OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

### **The Book of Revelation - The End Times**

# GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.  
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

## **ST. RITA: THE ADVOCATE OF THE HOPELESS AND OF THE IMPOSSIBLE THROUGH WHOSE PLEADINGS BEFORE THY DIVINE LORD ARE ALMOST IRRESISTIBLE**

*By Beth Lim, a devotee*

*And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints,  
rose before God from the hand of the angel.*

*Revelation 8:4*

I have a strong faith in the power of prayer. You may not get what you prayed for every time. It is not the outcome that is important. God hears your prayer and He may not grant what you ask for because not everything you desire is good for your soul. So, we accept whatever God wills. Still we don't stop praying for ourselves, for our family, for our friends who may be facing a difficult time such as financial hardship, a job loss, or failing health.

My brother underwent surgery to remove a growth from his lung. It was not a complicated procedure. However, he developed blood infection or sepsis after the surgery. His condition worsened and he had difficulty breathing so he was placed in a ventilator. He underwent dialysis and was given antibiotics to help fight off the infection. It came to a point where the doctor and nurses thought that they were going to lose him. They notified his wife who in turn called us, his siblings, and encouraged us to bid our goodbyes through Facetime as he laid there unresponsive.

I called our prayer warriors and requested that my brother's name be added to the list of the sick. Frank B suggested that we do the novena to St. Rita, the patron saint for impossible causes. I followed his advice and prayed fervently for her intercession. I asked other family members to do the same.

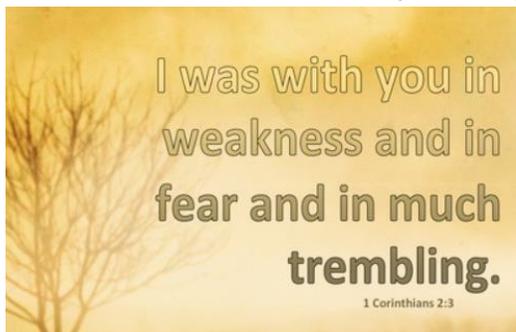
I strongly believe that it was through her intercession and through the mercy of God that my brother slowly regained consciousness and that the antibiotics worked in stopping the blood infection. To wean him from the ventilator they did a tracheotomy on him. After undergoing physical therapy, he was sent home after a two-and-a-half-month stay in the hospital.

The family is grateful for all the prayers offered by so many for his healing. Thank you, prayer warriors. Thank you, St. Rita. Thank you, Lord! ☐

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

### ANXIETY: A CURSE CREATED IN EDEN BY VICTOR ARANETA

Anxiety brings human misery and trouble to one's self and to people around him or her. The Bible says if worry or anxiety extends life even for a minute then WORRY A LOT!



When one worries and succumbs to depression, the person puts forth an action contrary to God's plan of peace and serenity to all. Remember Jesus'

greeting to His disciples when He rose from the dead, "PEACE BE WITH YOU," four words that mean a lot in our spirituality. It means the yoke of brokenness is already defeated by His passion, crucifixion and resurrection; the final blow on the slavery of Satan that started in the garden of Eden and culminated in Golgotha!

When we think of tomorrow and get anxious of what it will bring to you, open your mind and your heart that tonight must pass with calmness and assurance; that tomorrow will be another day of peace. Tomorrow will not come unless tonight occurs. In the meantime, shower yourself with the living water of God that promises peace and tranquility! THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD WHOM SHALL I WANT!

**Prayer:** Lord God Almighty, listen to the plea of my heart and mind that hungers in the innermost being of my soul. Give me peace that I long for. Remove any guilt or anger that cause my anxiety. Replace this with joy and a promise of peace and serenity, in Jesus name I pray, Amen.

## Upcoming Events

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

IN LOS ANGELES:  
VIA ZOOM

IN LAS VEGAS:  
VIRTUAL

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS GARDENS  
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS  
LOS ANGELES, CA

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS BEGIN  
AT 12:30 PM FOLLOWED BY  
MASS AT 1:30 PM  
PLEASE RSVP TO

[ALICE.A@SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG](mailto:ALICE.A@SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG)

ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89183  
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

## ARE YOU DEVOTED TO GOD?

When you and I are able to say those very words and mean them, our devotion for God will shine. But that's not all. There are benefits to being fully devoted to God. A devoted heart draws near to God and experiences His presence throughout the day. A fully surrendered heart calls us to fellowship with Christ so that His power can equip us to carry out His plans. Devotion allows us to adore Him for who He is: A God who withholds nothing from His children. A love like that reminds me of the lyrics from an old hymn penned by Isaac Watts: "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

May the Holy Spirit stir our hearts until we can say, "There is nothing I desire besides you, Lord." Dear Lord, I'm so grateful for your immeasurable devotion to me. Work in me until I'm completely devoted to you. In Jesus' Name, Amen. ☐

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Micca Campbell is a national speaker with Proverbs 31 Ministries, an organization that seeks to lead women into a personal relationship with Christ. She was named Mother of the Year in 2004 by ParentLife magazine. Micca, her husband Pat, and their children reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

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*“ . . . I am your mother Mary  
Pray, pray, pray my children. God is offended enough  
with all the lies and destruction of human lives  
happening all over humanity.  
My children, this is the fight between good and evil.  
The evil one penetrates even the main core of society  
and church and has brought to submission. My  
children you know to fight with the armor of God. You  
will fight for your freedom spiritually and physically  
for God has sent his Angels and me to assist you in  
this fight. My son Jesus' Sacred Heart is there to  
cover each and every one with His Precious Blood! In  
short a time you WILL FIGHT FOR THIS FREEDOM  
AND PREPARE TO FIGHT WITH MORE VIGOR  
AND RESOLVE AGAINST LIES AND MORE LIES  
LIKE THEIR “king” the father of all lies, the evil  
one”.*

**Mary, Your Lady of Peace**  
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## GOD'S HOLY FIRE

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



### KEY THOUGHT

Love is shown by the actions that back up a person's words. We show our love for Jesus by what we do, by obeying what he has taught us. Jesus, however, doesn't expect this demonstrated love for him to be a one-way street. He shows us his love for us by having the Father send another Friend like himself to us. This Friend, the Holy Spirit, is called the Advocate or Comforter or Helper in other translations. The Father sends this Friend so that we will never be alone. We can be confident that we will always have the presence of God in our lives!

### PRAYER

Father, words can't express my thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit. I know that even when I am by myself, I am not alone. I know that when earthly friends forsake me, or those close to me betray me, your Presence is my Helper and my Friend. Thank you. Please forgive me for not seeking this Friend's help and support in times of trouble. Please make the presence of this Friend very clear as I live my daily life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen. ☐

# FEAST OF GOD THE FATHER: THE CELEBRATION AND CONSECRATION

The Feast of God the Father culminated on the 1st Sunday of August, the 2nd of the said month, at the Monastery of the Angels in Los Angeles, and at St. Sharbel Church in Las Vegas. The Holy Octave of Consecration to God the Father commenced on July 26, 2020, the last Sunday of July.

The celebration was also a day of the final consecration to the Father of all Mankind, offering a white scapular representing the purity of our hearts when we face our Creator. It is our promise to keep His commandments; and ourselves as offering to the Highest God in heaven.

In Los Angeles, the feast was attended by a limited number of devotees of The Spiritual Army of God the Father to comply with the protocol of social distancing brought about by the current pandemic situation. Likewise, in Las Vegas, the celebration was also attended by a limited number of The Spiritual Army of God the Father devotees and a few parishioners of St. Sharbel Church. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Joseph Santiago in Los Angeles and by Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles and concelebrated by Abouna Father Nadim of St. Sharbel Church in Las Vegas. The celebration's highlights were the procession of the Eternal Father icon, personal petition through flower offering and the 8th day Consecration Prayers to God our Father.

This celebration gives us the opportunity to allow our own faith to be strengthened and transformed, drawing us closer to God, and helping us to know Him better and worship Him more perfectly. It also assists us in inviting others to experience that joy. The power of our feast day celebration is to fortify our work of evangelizing to the world by first consecrating ourselves to God the Father.

Our congratulations and best wishes to very long time LA devotees, Rom and Au DeGuzman, on their 50th wedding anniversary seen above receiving a blessing from Father Joseph. We also offer this Holy Sacrifice of the mass in praise and thanksgiving to God, our Heavenly Father, for the great work you have contributed to the Ministry. We ask God, the Most High to be ever at your side in His Divine power and glory and assist you to persevere unto the end, so that your marriage will be kept holy on earth and continually blessed. ☐

