



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

November 2012

In this Issue

Freedom Is Not Free	1
Overview of the Month	
Feasts for November	
Our Cenacle Corner	2
Highlights of the Month	3
Knowing Our Saints	5
Meditation & Commentary	6
God Touched Me	7
A Prayer Novena for US National Elections	12
Reminders Suggested Activities Thank You	13
Devotion Schedule	

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FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

Adrian Rogers

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Proverbs 14:34

God Himself placed the American dream into the bosom of our Founding Fathers — that is my firm conviction. Our government, rooted in a belief in Almighty God, was formed by brave men who knew it was God Himself Who made man and gave him rights . . . "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights," they said. In fact, our Constitution was born in the heat of a revival. They knew that government doesn't "give" anybody rights; it has no rights to give. God gives the rights. Government's role is to protect those God-given rights.

The only reason our nation is great is because of the blessing of God. God exalted our nation from its beginning.

The Exaltation of a Nation

"Righteousness exalts a nation." When people obey the Lord, God is free to bless. Many have forgotten that this nation is great because it was born in the very fires of a revival.

From 1740 to 1770, the flames of revival swept across this land. Jonathan Edwards, George Whitfield, and other great revivalists preached, and God gave America a mighty spiritual awakening. In fact, it was called "The Great Awakening." Even secular historians were forced to admit that there was a great awakening.

Out of this awakening people gained character, and out of this character the Constitution came.

The Constitution was written by people who had character, for people who had character. They believed people must have character, for our Founding Fathers did not believe in big government; they believed that individuals must accept personal responsibility. Character is responsibility assumed. It's just plain hard work. If the people of the United States of America do not have character, the Constitution will not work. Ultimately, our nation will fail without character. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance, Jefferson said.

Curious about what made our nation so great and determined to discover what it was, the brilliant French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville set out in 1831 to tour America. He found that it was not our natural resources, ingenuity, nor wealth. He wrote, "Not until I went into the churches of America and heard the pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." (Democracy in America, 1835) His words echo what Solomon said so long ago, "Righteousness exalts a nation."

Continued on Page 8

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

www.catholicculture.org

The month of November is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory, whose feast is celebrated on November 2. November falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time and is represented by the liturgical color green.

During November, as in all of Ordinary Time (Time After Pentecost), the Liturgy signifies and expresses the regenerated life from the coming of the Holy Spirit, which is to be spent on the model of Christ's Life and under the direction of His Spirit. As we come to the end of the Church year we are asked to consider the end times, our own as well as the world's. The culmination of the liturgical year is the Feast of Christ the King. "This feast asserts the supreme authority of Christ over human beings and their institutions Beyond it we see Advent dawning with its perspective of the Lord's

coming in glory." -- *The Liturgy and Time, A.G. Mortimort.*

On November 6, Election Day, it is important to strive to build what our Holy Father calls a "Culture of Life." All our nation's leaders should "contribute to the building of a society in which the dignity of each person is recognized and protected and the lives of all are defended and enhanced" (Gospel of Life). If you have not done so, read the Bishops' statement *Faithful Citizenship*. Before going to the polls, form your vote by reading the Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics. Today we should pray and fast for the citizens of our country will elect those leaders who will restore the culture of life.

FEASTS FOR OCTOBER

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

- 1 All Saints, Solemnity
- 2 All Souls, Feast
- 3 Martin de Porres, Opt. Mem.
- 9 Lateran Basilica, Feast
- 10 Leo the Great, Memorial
- 12 Josaphat, Memorial
- 13 Frances Xavier Cabrini, Memorial
- 15 Albert the Great, Opt. Mem.
- 16 Margaret of Scotland; Gertrude, Opt. Mem.
- 17 Elizabeth of Hungary, Memorial
- 21 Presentation of Mary, Memorial
- 22 Cecilia, Memorial
- 23 Clement I; Columban; Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro (USA), Opt. Mem.
- 24 Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Memorial
- 25 Christ the King, Solemnity
- 30 Andrew, Feast

The feast of St. Charles Borromeo, (November 4) and St. Martin of Tours, (November 11) are superseded by the Sunday Liturgy. The feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria (November 25) is superseded by the Solemnity of Christ the King. □

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

FAITH

- Luke 13:18-21
- Matthew 12:31-32
- Romans 4:20-24

ANGELS

- Exodus 23:20-23
- Daniel 7:10
- Hebrews 12:22

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS – A MEDITATION

By Patricia Mitchell
www.wau.org

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart. (Psalm 24:3-4)

From the very beginning, the church has honored and revered its martyrs and heroes. What began on a popular and local level gradually became woven into the liturgy, beginning around the fourth century in the Eucharistic Prayer. In the fifth century, a feast honoring all the saints was declared in some Eastern churches, and from there the celebration was taken up in Rome. In 835, Pope Gregory IV declared All Saints Day a feast for the entire church.

A day commemorating the saints is actually a day of rejoicing in the greatness of the Lord and hoping in his love. The victory that we see in the saints testifies to the Lord himself. It was not just their own efforts that produced such holiness, but the work of the Lord, who wants to pour the fullness of the life of Jesus into our hearts. This has been the hope and joy of all holy men and women always and everywhere, and it is our hope and joy as well.

The Book of Revelation contains a vision of the redeemed of the Lord, gathered around the throne of God: "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14). The victory of the redeemed came through the blood of Jesus, which washed them, purified them, and sealed them with the promise of eternal life.

The power of this precious blood of Christ is available to us every day by faith. We can turn to Jesus at any moment and ask for his blood to cover our sins and cleanse us. We can call on Jesus at any moment for him to pour out the power of this death and resurrection to strengthen us and enable us to live as God's children. "What love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1). We are his children; he has adopted us as his very own! Every day, our Father's hand is extended to us and we have the great privilege to take hold of him.

Let us fix our eyes on the Lamb at the center of the throne who has promised to be our Shepherd and to lead us to "springs of living water" (Revelation 7:17). The Lord, who has worked in the lives of the saints, is ready to work in us if we will turn to him. Our God, who has chosen us to be his very own, is faithful!

Continued on Page 8

HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

Fr. Robert Voigt
The Homiletic and Pastoral Review
Joseph F. Wagner, Inc., October 1961

In 998 St. Odilo, Cluny's most distinguished abbot, introduced All Souls' Day to be celebrated on the second day of November. From Cluny the feast spread to other Cluniac monasteries, and then to the entire Catholic Church.

All Souls' Day is celebrated at the end of the liturgical year when the Church examines the fruits of the redemption. The first fruits are the saints in heaven, honored yesterday. Next are the holy souls who have gone through the battle of life, are confirmed in the state of grace, and are certain of eventual beatitude.

Nature of Purgatory

These holy souls are detained in purgatory (a term in use since the eleventh century). This place is defined as a "holy hell" or a "sad heaven." Some like to locate it close to hell and fill it with red-hot fire. But it is enough to have radiant heat. Others, with better reasons, place it close to heaven; for them it is the vestibule of heaven, or, to change the figure, it is the side-door through which many enter heaven, who are not qualified to come in through the spotless Pearly Gates. Purgatory is much more like heaven than hell, for the souls detained there are not in Satan's clutches, but ready for God's loving embrace. They have their pains, but they also have their joys. They have their pains, because they cannot see God, though they are so close to Him. Their knowledge that their sentence is terminating builds up the desire for heaven to such a pitch that the pain of privation is most intense. But there is a mixed feeling. They also have their joy. Pertinently St. Catherine of Genoa wrote: "Apart from the happiness of the saints in heaven, I think there is no joy comparable to that of the souls in purgatory." Their state is such that it is more correct to call them holy souls than poor souls.

The holy souls know in advance how long they must stay in purgatory, and they can do nothing to shorten that stay. They are at the mercy of others. They are like the poor man at the football stadium -- without a ticket. He sees the crowd and hears them cheer, but he cannot join until someone gives him a ticket. So the holy souls are dependent on others to get them to heaven.

Continued on Page 9

THE PRESENTATION OF MARY

www.americancatholic.org

Mary's presentation was celebrated in Jerusalem in the sixth century. A church was built there in honor of this mystery. The Eastern Church was more interested in the feast, but it does appear in the West in the 11th century. Although the feast at times disappeared from the calendar, in the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church.

As with Mary's birth, we read of Mary's presentation in the temple only in apocryphal literature. In what is recognized as an unhistorical account, the Protoevangelium of James tells us that Anna and Joachim offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was three years old. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless.

Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

It is sometimes difficult for modern Westerners to appreciate a feast like this. The Eastern Church, however, was quite open to this feast and even somewhat insistent about celebrating it. Even though the feast has no basis in history, it stresses an important truth about Mary: From the beginning of her life, she was dedicated to God. She herself became a greater temple than any made by hands. God came to dwell in her in a marvelous manner and sanctified her for her unique role in God's saving work. At the same time, the magnificence of Mary enriches her children. They, too, are temples of God and sanctified in order that they might enjoy and share in God's saving work. □

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio

Yes, he was indeed on a mission to rescue his people from the power of darkness (Col 1:12). But his crown was of thorns rather than of gold. His weapon was the cross rather than a sword. He came to serve rather than to be served.

The Philistines had beat them, and the Israelites were determined not to let it happen again. So they demanded from God and from his prophet, Samuel, what all the other nations had -- a king to lead them in battle and protect them from their enemies (1 Sam 8:19). So God gave them Saul, who ultimately failed in his task. Then David was chosen. An unlikely candidate at first glance, a mere shepherd boy.

But wait a minute. When you consider God's idea of kingship, maybe David's experience as shepherd made him perfectly suited for the task. For the shepherd's duty was twofold. When a lion or bear threatened the flock, the shepherd had to fight and protect. But his more daily task was to bring the sheep to pasture where they could eat and drink, rest and prosper.

David showed his mettle when Goliath mocked and intimidated God's people. And he brought Israel from the status of a disorganized, beleaguered people to a unified Middle-Eastern empire. He made his people proud and set them up for success. But he could not resist skimming off some cream in the process. His goal was to protect and care for the flock. But he saw a fair Ewe and snatched her for himself, though her husband was risking his very life for David on the battlefield. And David ultimately took that life to cover up his sin (2 Sam 11).

That's precisely why God had advised his people against a king in the first place. The great ones of this world, reminds Jesus, make their authority felt. They use their authority for their advantage, ultimately exploiting those whom they are supposed to protect.

So Jesus comes as a king, but not a king of this world (Jn 18:36). Ever wonder why he told people to be quiet who went about proclaiming him messiah-king? Because his kingship was different than the kind of kingship they were expecting. Yes, he was indeed on a mission to rescue his people from the power of darkness (Col 1:12). But his crown was of thorns rather than of gold. His weapon was the cross rather than a sword. He came to serve rather than to be served. So the sign over his head on the cross, intended as mockery, proclaimed profound truth: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (Lk 23:38). This is true kingship: the true king-shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

And how about the provision he makes for his subjects? After all, his role is to feed as well as defend. He fed them and continues to feed them from two tables: the Word and the Eucharist. His teaching and the sacrament of his body and blood together constitute the refreshing nourishment that has made his sheep prosper for 2,000 years. These pastures are always green. True, some of the flock don't look so prosperous. But what they say about leading a horse to water is equally true about sheep and pasture: you can lead them there, but you can't make them eat and drink.

For now he nourishes us through signs. The words of Scripture are signs and all the life-giving sacraments are signs. For now, he protects our souls from being enslaved to the powers of darkness, but our bodies and property are still subject to their harassment.

Continued on Page 8

KNOWING OUR SAINTS

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

www.americancatholic.org

"Father unknown" is the cold legal phrase sometimes used on baptismal records. "Half-breed" or "war souvenir" is the cruel name inflicted by those of "pure" blood. Like many others, Martin might have grown to be a bitter man, but he did not. It was said that even as a child he gave his heart and his goods to the poor and despised.

He was the illegitimate son of a freed woman of Panama, probably black but also possibly of Native American stock, and a Spanish grandee of Lima, Peru. Martin inherited the features and dark complexion of his mother. That irked his father, who finally acknowledged his son after eight years. After the birth of a sister, the father abandoned the family. Martin was reared in poverty, locked into a low level of Lima's society.

When he was 12, his mother apprenticed him to a barber-surgeon. He learned how to cut hair and also how to draw blood (a standard medical treatment then), care for wounds and prepare and administer medicines.

After a few years in this medical apostolate, Martin applied to the Dominicans to be a "lay helper," not feeling himself worthy to be a religious brother. After nine years, the example of his prayer and penance, charity and humility led the community to request him to make full religious profession. Many of his nights were spent in prayer and penitential practices; his days were filled with nursing the sick and caring for the poor. It was particularly impressive that he treated all people regardless of their color, race or status. He was instrumental in founding an orphanage, took care of slaves brought from Africa and managed the daily alms of the priory with practicality as well as generosity. He became the procurator for both priory and city, whether it

was a matter of "blankets, shirts, candles, candy, miracles or prayers!" When his priory was in debt, he said, "I am only a poor mulatto. Sell me. I am the property of the order. Sell me."

Side by side with his daily work in the kitchen, laundry and infirmary, Martin's life reflected God's extraordinary gifts: ecstasies that lifted him into the air, light filling the room where he prayed, bilocation, miraculous knowledge, instantaneous cures and a remarkable rapport with animals. His charity extended to beasts of the field and even to the vermin of the kitchen. He would excuse the raids of mice and rats on the grounds that they were underfed; he kept stray cats and dogs at his sister's house.

He became a formidable fundraiser, obtaining thousands of dollars for dowries for poor girls so that they could marry or enter a convent.

Many of his fellow religious took him as their spiritual director, but he continued to call himself a "poor slave." He was a good friend of another Dominican saint of Peru, Rose of Lima (August 23).

In 1962, Pope John XXIII remarked at the canonization of Martin: "He excused the faults of others. He forgave the bitterest injuries, convinced that he deserved much severer punishments on account of his own sins. He tried with all his might to redeem the guilty;

lovingly he comforted the sick; he provided food, clothing and medicine for the poor; he helped, as best he could, farm laborers and Negroes, as well as mulattoes, who were looked upon at that time as akin to slaves: thus he deserved to be called by the name the people gave him: "Martin of Charity." □



MEDITATION AND COMMENTARY

"THE HARVEST IS ABUNDANT BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW." (LUKE 10:2)

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A few decades ago, a team of sales-people would have mapped out their territory and assigned a particular town to each salesperson. The sales-people would go to every home in that town, and if the door opened, they would try to sell their product, whether it was vacuum cleaners, encyclopedias, suits, or anything else.

Now, in the age of huge department stores and Internet shopping, that personal approach isn't practical anymore. Some might even call it old-fashioned and inefficient.

But that's not the way Jesus looks at things. In fact, he used an "old-fashioned" approach when he sent out the seventy-two disciples. He could have just beamed his message of salvation into people's brains and avoided all the messiness using ordinary human beings. Instead, he chose rough-hewn tradesmen and their wives to go out and deliver it personally. He sent them to demonstrate his message in action and then tell people that the kingdom of God was at hand.

We may wonder why Jesus would use such low tech means to announce the good news. He certainly isn't against technology. He might indeed have used the tools of our media-drenched age if they had existed at the

time. But then again, he might not. Think about the number of messages that are thrown at you every day. Would you pay attention to one more text message, one more tweet, or one more sound bite? Wouldn't you be more likely to pay attention to a living, breathing person whose life has been changed by Christ? That's why the disciples were so effective.

That's also why Jesus has appointed you to be his witness. You have some very good news to deliver. Evangelization is not about delivering the exactly right facts. It's about telling your own story of God's mercy and presence -- a story that only you can tell. So don't worry about doing it perfectly. If God wanted perfection, he wouldn't have chosen us humans to do the work. Just make yourself available, and let the Spirit work through you. If the seventy-two could do it, so can you!

"Lord, help me to see my corner of the world as your mission field. Give me a compassionate heart so that I can witness to your love and grace!" ☐

I am your Mother Mary. As you pray my beads today, offer all your prayers for those individuals who left the church especially those who doubt the merciful heart of God. Many are even convinced that the existence of God is only a weakness of one's individual conviction. As you pray contemplate on each mystery that represents the story of man's salvation.

Offer, offer all your worries and concerns that you have and trust that these will always be heard by God. Continue to have a strong faith, for this alone you will hold in the hard times ahead of you. Set aside provisions for existence like water, imperishable food to last for at least 12 days, blessed candles and holy water. Set them aside in a place where they will be easily access to. Pray to your guardian angels and most of all to all the Archangels for protection against forces of evil.

My intercession you will have before the throne of my son Jesus in the eternal realm of God Almighty. I thank you for listening to this call.

*- Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary
100612*

The Lord is not as interested in your money or time or activity level as He is in your heart. He wants your wholehearted devotion that is not diminished by time or circumstances.

- Archangel Gabriel

101712

. . . You have prepared the groundwork for evangelization. When you go out and impart My Words, open your hearts and feel My presence in every word you say. Do not teach but preach the Word as you practice it in your own lives.

My Words are living and it will bring light to every soul. Preach my children, preach the Words of God.

- Jesus, Your Divine Teacher

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. . . I am your Mother Mary. On this day of my 2000 beads, I ask to open your hearts for forgiveness and love. My mantle I ask you to keep for healing physical and spiritual ailments. Preparation for tribulations I ask you to do soon. Your dedication in this army of Almighty God is one that is ready to face these trials in God's name. Offer hands of assistance to your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in God's name. I will stay. Feel the fragrance of my presence, my children".

- Mary, Your Lady of Peace

102012

GOD TOUCHED ME

EXCHANGING MY PLANS FOR GOD'S

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

- Proverbs 19:21

By Ultreya Couer

It was October 2010. I had been sick for weeks. The pattern was 3 days juggling work, advising students, conference calls, marriage, motherhood, taxi driving for the kids, collapsing for 2-3 days, then getting back up to try again. I had grown up believing that "persistence" was my word. It had worked through high school, university, and my post-graduate years. I got a Ph.D. through sheer persistence and dog-headedness alone. I had no reason to think that it would fail me now. So I "persisted", despite the various warning signs from my body, the recurrent conjunctivitis, the hacking cough, and my lack of energy. I was too sick to join my husband and three kids for a family reunion abroad, and I found myself at home on my own on medical leave for two weeks. We organized that our children's nanny would come by every other day to check up on me, bringing me groceries. I struggled to stay awake during her visits, since I knew that this was the only face-to-face human interaction I would have. However, there were times when I could not stay awake, and she would quietly let herself out of the house.

Late one evening, I found myself on my knees, head in my hands, begging, pleading over and over "Help me, God, please, help me, God". I eventually tired of my exhortations, tired of hearing my own voice, and found myself quiet. And in that quiet, I felt a voice in my heart saying, "Take the first step, and I will catch you."

What was that voice? Was it my imagination? I had been hearing it for quite a long time. Every now and then for the last few months, at random times, for instance, while waiting at the bus stop or in line at the grocery, or sitting at my desk in the office, I would hear that voice saying "Quit your job".

"How is it even possible to hear voices in your heart," the rational part of my mind asked derisively. So I ignored that voice, and kept on "persisting". Because, when one examined my circumstances in the logical light of day, I had it pretty good. I was at a prestigious university, with a well-paying job with flexible hours. I was the only woman in our institute leading her own research group. I was well-known and well-respected in my field, had high profile international collaborations, and plenty of opportunities for interesting travel. The downside of it was that I was not happy with my life. I was exhausted by the constant juggling to keep all balls in the air. Given that both my husband and I worked, I felt that neither of

us was raising the children. When my husband and I got home in the evening, we gave the kids hugs and kisses, then would open our laptops, and get back to conference calls, reports, and PowerPoint slides. When the children asked for our time and attention, "tell us a story", or "play with us outside", we'd say, "another time, maybe tomorrow". Also, the fact that my husband and I worked together put a huge strain on our personal lives. Almost every fight we had since we started these jobs six years ago began as a work discussion that got out of control. Somehow, I had this nagging feeling inside that how I was living my life was not how it was meant to be. However, how could I leave my job? What would I do instead? Finding another job would not be so easy. This being Austria, one needed a 3-year course in bookselling to be allowed to work in a bookshop. (I know, because I tried.) Be a housewife? What a waste, I thought, after all those years of studying. Also, I liked having my own money, and could not fathom the thought of being financially dependent on my husband. Besides, given the economic climate where most other people were thankful to have a job in the first place, how could I leave mine? When I weighed these pros and cons in the cold light of day, it made sense to stay with my situation, and try to be thankful for it. Besides, I was a scientist, and this was the 21st century. Interior voices have no role in scientific decision-making process, which is typically based on logical cost-benefit analysis.

Back to this incident in October 2010. I was eventually diagnosed with having very low iron levels, and was prescribed a series of iron infusions, as well as supplements. After a few weeks, I felt physically better, and was back in the grind. I would still hear that voice in my heart, saying "Quit your job". Sometimes, I'd get annoyed and I'd think back rudely "And then what?" Silence. No good answer for that. Joseph Campbell once said, that if a man does not meet his destiny, God will drag him to it. As I would find out myself.

Continued on Page 10

The Solemnity of All Saints

Points for Meditation:

Think of the saints whom you most admire. Then list the qualities they possessed that attract you. How did God use these character traits to make these men and women holy? How can he use your natural gifts and talents to help you grow in holiness?

Spend some time meditating on the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Focus on the promises that Jesus makes to those who follow him. How are these promises—the kingdom of heaven, the vision of God, participation in the divine nature, eternal life, and rest in God -- a part of your everyday decision-making? To what extent do they influence the goals you have for your life? On this day of grace and celebration, ask the Lord to give you a deeper desire to see his promises fulfilled in your life.

Many saints led challenging and often painful lives, but still managed to retain their joy and love of the Lord because of their intimacy with Jesus. What are some concrete ways in which you can deepen your intimacy with the Lord?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, the saints in heaven behold your glory and know the rewards of your life. Fill me with hope in your promise of eternal life. May we all share the joy of your saints in heaven. ☐

The Solemnity of Christ the King

But things are not now as they will one day be. The king who once rode into town on a donkey will next time be riding on the clouds. He will come no longer in suffering but will rather be clothed in glory. Now it takes faith to see him. Then his coming will be plain as day. Now he compels no one. Then every knee will have no choice but to bow.

When he comes, it will no longer matter who won the election, the promotion, or the Oscar.. He will make all things new. Some will be ready, many will not. Some who are last will be first. Others who are first will be last.

The question is not when this will happen. The question is, when it does happen, in which group will you be?

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Freedom is Not Free

The Humiliation of a Nation

If righteousness exalts, surely the converse is also true. "Sin is a reproach to any people." When there is a lack of righteousness, it will destroy a nation; it will lead to the ruin of any people.

I want to tell you that the greatest threat to America is God. He's our only hope, but He is also our biggest threat. I'm not afraid nearly so much of what the Taliban or the terrorists are going to do to us as I am of what God Himself is going to do, through them or through someone else.

Character: Don't Leave Home Without It

Character is the missing ingredient in our nation today — that "responsibility assumed." We've lost our character as a nation. Look what we are doing to ourselves:

- **Government dependence** — Rather than depending upon God, self-ingenuity and responsibility, we have come to think Uncle Sam is our source. Our Constitution states that government is to provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare, not promote the common defense and provide the general welfare!
- **Divorce** — Family values have been scorned. Since 1920, the divorce rate has risen 1,420 percent. Baby boomers are divorcing at a rate twice as high as their parents.
- **Abortion** — The Vietnam Memorial has 68,000 names on it. It stretches for five hundred feet. If we were to build a similar memorial for the little babies who've died since Roe vs. Wade, it would have over 45 million names on it and would stretch over 63 miles.
- **Pornography** — A broken sewer pipe is being spewed out on America. Material that was once seen and sold in back alleys is now on open display in magazine racks and neighborhood drug stores and piped into the homes of America's families through cable television and the Internet.
- **Drugs and alcohol** — We live in an alcohol-soaked society. Advertisers have done such a good job that according to one statistic, 95% of college students drink beer. That's not to mention the rampant drug use in our society and the problems it brings.

"Sin is a reproach to any people," and when we lose our character, we lose our freedom. Liberty and responsibility are inseparably linked. We are humiliated as a nation, yet we sing "God Bless America." It's a wonder He doesn't blot us off the face of the earth.

The Rejuvenation of a Nation

Even so, I refuse to say it is too late for America. There can be a new birth of freedom. If you study the history of

revival, you find that God sends revival in dark days. What God has done before, He can do again. As God forgives sins for an individual, so He forgives sins for a nation. Pray for, look for, and expect revival!

Our nation was born in a revival. There can be a revival, and the answer is not in Washington. When we get right with God, God is going to hear us. 2 Chronicles 7:24 says, "If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

We do not need a majority. Great numbers aren't what we need. Lenin began his revolution in 1917 with a few thousand. Castro took over Cuba with a band of eighty cutthroats. Jesus began with twelve disciples. Joshua 23:10 says, "One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, He it is that fighteth for you, as He hath promised you." One praying Christian is worth more than a thousand of those who do not believe in God.

We need to get in our prayer closets! Enter your prayer closet! Get on your face before God. Cry out for mercy. Say it, sing it, and mean it: "God bless America." Believe God for revival. We need to say, "Lord, start a revival and let it begin with me." □

Dr. Adrian Rogers, preacher/teacher of Love Worth Finding Ministries, had a zeal and love for Jesus that resonated in every message. His legacy continues to reach around this world, sharing the good news that Jesus Christ is the greatest Love worth finding. Although Dr. Adrian Rogers passed away on November 15, 2005, tributes continue to pour in testifying of his worldwide impact.

Continued from Page 3

The Holy Souls in Purgatory

How to Help the Holy Souls

The faithful left behind can do just that, and they want to do it. The holy souls are their friends who have gone ahead into eternity. The faithful still love them and want to do something for them. They can—through their prayers. This is certain from the clear statement (Macc. 12:46): "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from sins." The prayer used may be the one suggested by Cardinal Newman in his hymn for the dead:

Help, Lord, the souls which Thou hast made,
The souls to Thee so dear,
In prison for the debt unpaid
Of sins committed here.

The faithful can also help these holy souls through the Sacrifice of the Mass. They make an offering on All Souls' Day that Masses be said. These Masses help the holy souls, both because the Mass is so powerful in itself and because the faithful have coupled their sacrifice (this offering) with the Sublime Sacrifice. That these sacrifices are helpful is no guess, but a fact known from the same book of Maccabees (12:43) where Judas Macchabeus had

his soldiers send drachmas to Jerusalem to offer up a sacrifice for the soldiers who had fallen in battle.

The practice of remembering the departed at the altar was widespread already in the early Church. St. Monica, to give one example, was familiar with it. When she lay on her deathbed at Ostia, she made a lyrical request of her son, Augustine (Confessions, IX, 11) : "Bury my body wherever you please. Let that not be your concern. Only one thing I beg of you: at the Lord's altar, wherever you may be, remember me."

The faithful can help the holy souls through sacred indulgences. They visit their parish church and say six Paters, Aves, and Glorias. Each time they make a separate visit and say this list of prayers they can gain a plenary indulgence for some holy soul. Of course, the prayer must be said thoughtfully. A prayer such as Shakespeare described in Hamlet is useless: " My words fly up, my thoughts remain below: words, without thoughts, never to heaven go."

Blend of God's Justice and Mercy

Purgatory is a place where the justice and the mercy of God blend. Justice demands that sin be punished. Mercy limits the severity of the punishment. Our Lord says through His beloved evangelist: "The night comes when no man can work," but in His mercy He lets others work for that holy soul.

Many souls, because supported by Extreme Unction coupled with Viaticum and the Apostolic Blessing, go directly to heaven. Others—many others—not so supported must enter purgatory and go into heaven by the side door. In His mercy God allows us to pray for the holy souls, and we do this best on All Souls' Day. □

Continued from Page 7

Exchanging My Plans for God's

About six months later, February 2011, Ross, the kids, and I went for a long weekend to Sta. Maria, a town in the Austrian Alps. There was a five-kilometer toboggan trail that they wanted to go on. My job was to drive Ross and the kids up the mountain, drop them off at the top of the toboggan trail, then drive back down while they sledged down, pick them up at the foot of the mountain, then do it again. Each round trip took about 20 minutes. I drove up and down that mountain about a dozen times that afternoon, though it felt more like a hundred. That evening, I was weak, dizzy, disoriented, and cold. I felt like I had lost my center. We drove home to Vienna the next day, with me huddled in the passenger seat, wrapped up in as many jackets as we could find. About two weeks later, I still felt no different. I started going to doctors to find out what was the matter. My GP checked my iron levels, which turned out to be normal. She sent me to a neurologist, who ordered MRIs and EEG tests to map my brain activity. Everything turned out to be normal. From the exterior, medical point of view,

everything was normal. On the inside, I felt like my bones and muscles had turned into mush, and it was only my skin that was keeping me together. I was floating on the distant edges of the universe, tethered very tenuously to earth. My thoughts repeatedly went to our fourth floor window, but I feared it was not high enough. I was once again on medical leave, though with no firm diagnosis. My doctor suspected depression and prescribed medication. I had always thought depression was a sickness of the mind, and that it was not something physically felt in the body. How could this imbalance in the mind cause my physical symptoms? Surely I was not just imagining what I was feeling, though by now, Ross was getting impatient with me. I ordered half a dozen books on depression from Amazon. My GP referred me to a psychotherapist, who had an office reminiscent of a womb and smelled of wet dog. Among other things, they (the books and the therapist) all suggested journaling. So I started writing. Looking back on my journals from those dark days, I find the passage "I wish they would just tell me I had an incurable disease and only X months to live. In that scenario, there is no question about me quitting my job or when I am coming back".

My mom was celebrating her 60th birthday that May, and we all went home to Chennai. Two weeks away from Vienna and the gray cold monotony of winter seemed to do me good. As suddenly and inexplicably as it came, my personal darkness lifted. I went back to work full throttle. But that passage I had written in my journal about wishing for an illness so I could justify quitting my job haunted me. And that pesky voice asking for the impossible was still there.

Some months later, in September 2011, I gave notice at work. It was a hectic time at the office. Our director was leaving, and a lot of things were up in the air. Since there was so much going on, they said they would not initiate the search for my replacement just yet, and if I changed my mind, I was welcome to stay. Less than a month after I gave my notice, I retracted it. Stepping outside the safety and security of the university was yet too much. However, I knew that it was only fear that was keeping me from leaving.

In December 2011, I was to attend a work-related conference in San Francisco. My mom flew in from Chennai to help Ross mind the kids while I was away. Over coffee one morning before I left, she told me about her friend Paulus, whom she had known when she was in her 20s, and whom she was recently back in contact with. He was a locutionist, she said. "What exactly is a locutionist?" I asked. "It sounds like it has something to do with electrical wiring." A locutionist receives messages from God, she said. I'm pretty sure I rolled my eyes on hearing that. However, he had a gripping, fascinating story, which she told me. It made my hair stand on end. Anyway, she suggested, "If you have free time, why don't you drop by and visit him?" "He lives in San Diego, CA. It's a long way from San Francisco to San Diego," I said. I

couldn't exactly fly to San Diego to meet this stranger when I was supposed to be working. Besides, I had already scheduled that all my downtime would be spent doing the Christmas shopping. In any case, I promised to call him. I had no idea what I would say. "Hi Paulus, my mom is a friend of yours and she made me promise to call you." It felt silly. The first time I called, I got his voicemail. I left a message, and thought that would be the end of it. I was rarely in the hotel room, and didn't have a cellphone, so it would be difficult for him to reach me. We'd play a few rounds of phone tag, then that would be it.

However, he called back, and left a message, asking me to call back at a particular time. We finally spoke to each other, and were fast friends. He was a very gregarious person, and we laughed a lot. We spoke of light things, about earthquakes in California (my field of work), how ridiculous it was that earthquake insurance was so expensive, and the up-coming pilgrimage tour to Europe that he and his wife were leading. We spoke of serious things. I told him the dilemma I was facing about leaving my job and spending more time with the kids, about how I had already resigned, and then backed down from the decision. He told me to listen to my heart, because God speaks to us through the heart. He would pray that God would guide me, and for consistency in my decision. I didn't actually tell him then about the voices I heard from my heart. I still felt that speaking about that experience, giving words to it, would be my indictment as a crazy person, and I wasn't quite ready for that.

During that San Francisco trip, my supervisor offered me a two year extension of my contract. This should have been a cause for celebration. I did not have a permanent position in the university, and my contract was renewed each year, for a maximum of six years. The rule at the university was that non-permanent positions could not be renewed for more than six years. I was approaching the end of my six years, and extensions were rare. I should have been really happy. Instead, I felt nauseated. To my supervisor, I tried to sound enthusiastic. But I told myself that I would mull things over the holidays.

I went back to Vienna. We had a lovely white Christmas. Ross and the kids loved their presents from America. My mom, brother, and sister-in-law were on Paulus' pilgrimage tour, and arrived in Vienna shortly after Christmas. One day, channel surfing, I saw a program called "Paulo Coelho: On the Road to Santiago", and called my mom over to watch it with me. Halfway through the program, we both agreed that we had to do the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Our target date was May 2013, some 15 months away. (In my mind, the preparation was a big part of the trip, and I wanted to savor the process.) In preparation for the trip, I ordered a box set of Paulo Coelho's books. Over the following weeks, I read them in order. First, "The Pilgrimage", which was about his own journey to Santiago de Compostela. Then "The Alchemist", which was the book

that made him famous, about a shepherd named Santiago who goes on a journey to find a treasure. Then came "Valkyries", which was largely autobiographical, about Paulo's quest to meet his guardian angel. There is a very dark part of the book, where Paulo is confronted by a very strong manifestation of evil. This experience is a turning point for him. He gives up his dabbling in black magic and turns to God.

The night that I read that passage, I had a bad dream. I could hear this diabolical laughter ringing in my ears. I woke up and started praying. Every time I started the Our Father, I would somehow lose the thread, and have to start over again. If I stopped, the images from my dream came back, and I'd get scared, so I just kept starting again. I don't know how long this continued. Eventually, I calmed down. I had the impression that Jesus, Mother Mary, and my guardian angel were telling me to pray. "It scares me when I am told to pray, because it feels like something bad or some catastrophe is about to happen," I talked to them. They reassured me that prayer is God's creation acknowledging Him, speaking to Him, and is a joyous thing. They also told me that mortal prayers are very powerful, and can really change the course of events. They told me that I was protected and loved. I felt a profound sense of peace, with grace and well-being raining down on me. My mom had given me a picture of St. Faustina's Divine Mercy with the rays of light coming from Jesus' heart, a souvenir from her pilgrimage with Paulus' group. At that moment, I felt like I was being embraced and protected by those rays of light. Later, the thought came to my mind that a friend of ours was in danger. I asked Jesus, Mother Mary, and my guardian angel what I should do. They said "pray, pray, pray". I asked how I should pray. They replied that conversing with them openly, as I was then, was prayer. For when I did not have my own words, prayers such as the Rosary, Our Father, and Hail Mary were good. Then Jesus told me to listen to my heart, because God had given me a good one. Our heart was our connection to God. Then I fell into a peaceful sleep.

All this transpired in the early morning hours of Monday, February 6, 2012. (Being a scientist, I have a habit of taking notes, like in a lab experiment. I am referring to these notes as I write about this experience.) The next day, strengthened by my dream, I gave my notice at work. This was the second time that I was "resigning" in six months, as I had also given notice, but retracted it the previous September. I agreed to stay on until June, in order to finish and transition my projects to my co-workers.

This second time around, I had some awareness of how my mind worked. It was no surprise to me when the old fears and doubts came back full force some days later. "You'll never get another job!", "What a waste of all that studying!", "the kids will drive you crazy!", "you'll be a boring housewife with nothing interesting to say and no one to talk to!", "you'll have no money and have to cut

coupons!", "you'll have to buy bargain brand generic shampoo!" I had been a prisoner to these fears and doubts for years, and knew them well. My former captors were not going to let me go easily. Their onslaught in those days was fierce and physical. There were times I felt like I had been punched in the stomach, when I couldn't breathe, when my heart was racing, as if I were running with someone hunting me down. "Stupid, foolish decision you will surely regret!" they hounded at me.

On the outside, I tried to appear carefree and lighthearted, telling people I was glad to be finally doing what I had wanted to do for so long. On the inside, I was scared. I remembered the dream of February 6 that had given me proverbial kick in the butt, and I prayed for help. My rescue came in another dream. In it, my guardian angel used a flaming sword to raise a wall of fire behind me, so there was no turning back. Don't worry about taking steps into the unknown, I will catch you. I am the Way, I will always be with you, and make the way for you. I was aware of the words, but not from whom they came in the dream.

Afterwards, I knew that the doubts and fears would surely come back to derail me, but I also knew that I could be strong enough to keep my ground, because powerful friends had my back. In the following days, I recalled the phone call I had with Paulus in December. We had had no other communication since then. He said he would pray for me and my decision. I wrote him an email thanking him for his prayers. I did not mention anything about the voices or the dreams. He replied, "I had been praying for your guidance, even to the point of speaking to your guardian angel to whisper to your heart the best choice for your family, and now this all happened."

This blew me away! It was somehow connected. I told him everything. He was not at all surprised. He had walked this path before and would guide me. He suggested books to read. He told me about the saints. He gave me prayers. He encouraged me try to go to Mass as often as I could, to go to Confession once a month, and to set up a prayer room. He sent me pictures for my prayer room. The prayer room, which is part of a small attic storage space, is now the heart of our home. Ross and the kids call it "Mom's holy place". At first, the prayer room was an irritant for Ross, who is an atheist. He felt that the prayer room was an affront to his beliefs and that I was forcing God down his throat. I worried at some point that he would disassemble it. Paulus and I prayed that Ross would leave the prayer room be. Ross has since made peace with having a prayer room at home.

In May 2012, I walked the last 100 km of the Camino de Santiago with a group. That experience is another story of its own. I'll only say that, somehow, things just "fell in to place" to do it then, only four months after my mom and I watched the TV program. (It turns out, that for many of my fellow pilgrims on that trip, things had also just happened to "fall into place".) My mom couldn't join me, but I've promised to go with her another time. I hugged

St. James' statue about a dozen times when we arrived in Santiago, asking for his help to bring me back.

In June 2012, one of my last work assignments was to meet with researchers in California. After months of emails, I finally met Paulus, his wife Angela, and their daughter Grace. I was very moved when Angela embraced me and told me I was like another daughter to them. Earlier on this trip, I mentioned to a friend of mine that I would miss my business cards from the university, and that I felt vulnerable without them. After praying with me and Grace in their family prayer room, Paulus went in to gather prayer cards for me to take home. Among them were cards of God the Father. They would fit perfectly in a business card holder, filling the space left empty by my university cards! We all laughed heartily when I mentioned this. God works in mysterious ways. The hours that I spent with this kind, loving, generous and God-centered family were the highlight of that trip.

In some ways, perhaps it is too early to tell this story. The plot is set-up, but it is only yet the beginning. In traditional quest stories, the protagonist ventures from her known life into the unknown in search for her treasure. At this point, I've only just made it outside the gates of town. (And God has a sense of humor. It is ironic that the first stage of "departing from her known world" corresponds to me staying at home with my family. To everything there is a season.) What's next? Where is this journey headed? I don't know yet, but that is fine. It is called the unknown, after all. I go where God leads me. I am not yet used to divining His signs, or interpreting where His Will lies. But He is good, and He has given me an experienced guide. Paulus is now my spiritual counselor and teacher. As we say on the Camino, *Ultreya!*

(Ultreya is a medieval Spanish word meaning "Ever onward!", and is used by pilgrims on the Camino to encourage each other along the way.) □

***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:***

***eablp@aol.com and/or ladipatsee@gmail.com
(702) 274-4315 and/or (213) 364-8235***



A Prayer Novena for U.S. National Elections

Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord, not only of individuals, but of nations and governments. We thank you for the privilege of being able to organize ourselves politically and of knowing that political loyalty does not have to mean disloyalty to you.

We thank you for your law, which our Founding Fathers acknowledged and recognized as higher than any human law.

We thank you for the opportunity that this election year puts before us, to exercise our solemn duty not only to vote, but to influence countless others to vote, and to vote correctly.

Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened. Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation, their response to you requires that they be politically active.

Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a sect fleeing the world but rather a community of faith renewing the world. Awaken them that the same hands lifted up to you in prayer are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth; that the same eyes that read your Word are the eyes that read the names on the ballot, and that they do not cease to be Christians when they enter the voting booth.

Awaken your people to a commitment to justice to the sanctity of marriage and the family, to the dignity of each individual human life, and to the truth that human rights begin when human lives begin, and not one moment later.

Lord, we rejoice today that we are citizens of your kingdom. May that make us all the more committed to being faithful citizens on earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



REMINDERS | SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- 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**.
- Visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead during the Octave of All Saints' Day (November 1 through November 8) will gain a plenary indulgence that can be applied only to the souls in purgatory. On other days, this work gains a partial indulgence.
- Spend a little time after Mass thanking God for all the unnamed saints, some of whom could be our own family and friends.
- Pray the Litany of the Saints -- you could make it really special by chanting it ("he who sings prays twice") and you could read an explanation of this litany, which is considered the model of all other litanies.
- Do pious practices to help the Poor Souls: attend Masses for the Poor Souls on November 2; remember your family and friends who are deceased and make an extra sacrifice for them; pray the rosary for the most forgotten soul in purgatory.
- Make a nice poster listing all the family and friends departed. Put this on display where the members of the family can be reminded to pray for the loved ones throughout November. Remind family members to offer extra prayers and sacrifices for the poor souls in purgatory. □

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

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 recreation, 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.

Alice's distance acuity is now 20/20 – no surgery, no contacts – restored through prayers and Saint Lucy's intercession!

Welcome to the world Mateo Jullien – now the greater bundle of joy for 1st time Grandparents Beth & Frank!

Adora Rafols Espiritu's breast cancer is gone!

Julie Rivera is out of ICU and is healed now!

We thank you Lord for the protection and spiritual deliverance of Fe Bollinger from unwanted spirits through your grace and our Blessed Mother's intercession. We invite you Lord to dwell in her and in her home and always let Your Presence be felt in her heart as we ask this through Your Son Jesus who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father and the 2000 Hail Mary Group of Northern California acknowledge with thanks our generous November 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

Laddie & Gertrude Salgado

Los Angeles, California

Esperanza Dominguez

Alice Ng | Brenda & Evangeline Soronio

JJ & Rowena Ramos

Elizabeth Tampus | Celia Tiguelo

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 – November 17, 2012

at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | starting at 8:30 a.m.
Please see Victor 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 P.M.
Cenacle will be at 10:00 A.M. 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 at 2:00-3:30 P.M.

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave, 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, Las Vegas, NV 89117

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – November 17, 2012

*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 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.

ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT: BE CATHOLIC BEFORE YOU ARE DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN

By Carl Bunderson and Matthew A. Rarey



Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia celebrates Mass October 20, 2012 at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica.

Credit: Matthew Rarey-CNA.

Rome, Italy, October 25, 2012 / 04:00 am ([CNA/EWTN News](#)).- As the country approaches election day in two weeks, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia is encouraging Catholic voters to place their faith above their allegiance to political parties.

"I'm always encouraging our people minimally to vote, maximally to run for political office, and make sure that they're Catholic prior to being Democrat or Republican and that they put that into practice politically," he told CNA in Rome on October 22.

Archbishop Chaput echoed the calls of other American bishops to have their flocks consider their faith in the voting booth. "We do believe in the separation of church and state, but we don't believe in the separation of faith from our political life," he said. "It's very important for Catholics to make distinctions when voting that they never support intrinsic evils like abortion, which is evil in all circumstances. That's a lot different from different economic policies" that people can reasonably disagree on, the archbishop explained.

His remarks come as an October 22 Gallup poll shows the "economy in general" is the issue rated most important by Americans as the election nears. "But people who are practicing Catholics cannot have alternate views on abortion," he stated. "Such foundational issues have a huge impact and it's important that Catholics make those distinctions." "A person (candidate) might be right on a lot of secondary issues but wrong on the foundational issues. And if that's the case, it would be very difficult for a Catholic to vote for someone who, for example, favors unlimited access to abortion ... undermines the meaning of marriage or supports policies that really undermine the foundation of our culture."

Archbishop Chaput sees Philadelphia as a great example of both Catholic and civic virtue. He noted that it both produced two canonized saints, John Neumann and Katherine Drexel, and was the location of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the writing of the U.S. Constitution. "I'm standing on the shoulders both in terms of the Church and the civic community," the archbishop pointed out. "We have to produce new saints and be really good citizens."

He also connected patriotism with love of parents and family, saying that "loving our country is really participating in love of our families." And "the meaning of family," he asserted, is "hugely important for the future health of our country." "Having mothers and fathers who love us and love one another provides security for the healthy growth of children. Confused family life leads to confused participation in the broader life of the community."

The Catholic vote has tended to follow the rest of the electorate in recent years, but with the current campaign for president running neck-and-neck, Gov. Romney and President Obama are vying for every segment of voters they can. The latest polling from Gallup suggests that Romney has 51 percent of the Catholic vote while Obama has 49 percent. In the 2008 election, 53 percent of Catholic voters supported Obama, and 47 percent supported GOP candidate John McCain.

Archbishop Chaput noted that "Catholics who go to church vote quite differently than Catholics as a group, and that Catholics who take their faith seriously, for them it's much more than a cultural affiliation – it's a very personal affiliation with Jesus Christ and his community."