



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

November 2018

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SOME GENERAL REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL

www.bible.org

1. **Because it honors God.** When we are thankful, we recognize that God exists, and we are acting on the reality of His life as the very source and means of ours. True thankfulness recognizes our total dependence on God and stems from realizing that everything going on in our lives and all we have is the product of God's sovereign control, infinite wisdom, purposes, grace, and activity (2 Cor. 4:15).

2. **Because it is commanded in Scripture.** First, the Psalms are filled with the call to give thanks. An example is Ps. 100:4 which says, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Then Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything keep on giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (my translation). In Colossians, he twice gives the command to be thankful (3:15, 17).

3. **Because of the dangerous consequences of thanklessness:** Thanklessness is dangerous to self and others. It dishonors God and leads to proud humanism or dependence on man rather than God (cf. Rom. 1:21). In addition, it leads to bitterness, complaining, and a joyless life (Heb. 12:15). Since thankfulness is a response to the grace of God, its opposite, bitterness with its companions, complaining and grumbling, are the product of an unthankful heart that fails to properly respond to God in faith to His person, infinite wisdom, grace and purposes. Thanklessness promotes pettiness and occupation with self, people, and problems. That in turn creates depression and feelings of hopelessness because we become focused on our problems rather than on the Lord.



But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and who makes known through us the fragrance that consists of the knowledge of him in every place (2 Cor. 2:14).

This verse in 2 Corinthians demonstrates that a thankful and God-focused person counts on God and His triumph and will manifests the sweet fragrance of a life filled with the knowledge of Christ rather than the spirit of bitterness and complaining. Thankfulness, then, becomes a spiritual barometer; it is an evidence of the condition of our spiritual life and value system, which should give us a warning if we have ears to hear (cf. Eph. 5:4 & 20 and note the context of each verse. For verse 4, the context or focus is living as children of God rather than as children of the world [cf. vs.1]; for verse 20, the context or focus is the fruit of the Spirit [cf. vs. 18]). □

FEASTS FOR NOVEMBER

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

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| 1 All Saints, Solemnity | 21 Presentation of Mary, Memorial |
| 2 All Souls, Feast | 22 Cecilia, Memorial |
| 3 Martin de Porres, Opt. Mem. | 23 Clement I; Columban; Bl. Miguel Agustín Pro (USA);
Thanksgiving Day, Opt. Mem. |
| 4 Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 24 Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Memorial |
| 9 Lateran Basilica, Feast | 25 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe,
Solemnity |
| 10 Leo the Great, Memorial | 30 Andrew, Feast |
| 11 Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 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 | |
| 18 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |

The feasts of St. Charles Borromeo, (November 4), St. Martin of Tours, (November 11) and St. Catherine of Alexandria (November 25) are superseded by the Sunday Liturgy. ☐

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION SPONSORS NOVEMBER 17, 2018

<p><u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u></p> <p>Lucien & Mila Lumba</p>	<p><u>Los Angeles, California</u></p> <p>Gertrude Asuncion Edith & Miles Avanzado Abraham Bains Norma Fuentes Alice Ng Corazon Pablico</p>
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OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

**TRUSTING GOD
THROUGH CHALLENGES AND SEASONS OF LIFE**

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23
ROMANS 15:13

GOD TOUCHED ME

HOW I CAME TO CONVERSION

Excerpted from A Catholic Newbie's Blog

Right about Christmas 2011 is when I experienced my "calling." I don't even know what words to give this. I've heard "calling" and "conversion of heart" but to me, it's like I was suddenly given the eyes of faith. Never before was I willing to believe in Jesus as the son of God because my very logical mind would not accept it. But once I was given the "eyes of faith," it didn't need to be "proven" to me; suddenly, I could just "feel" how right it was.

It started some years before that when I began to feel a very faint desire and interest in revisiting the place where my husband and I spent our Catholic marriage retreat. I felt "pulled" or "drawn" that is the best way I can describe it. It was deep in the recesses of my mind or perhaps it was the stirrings of the Holy Spirit I was feeling.

I ignored it for a couple years, though did a few things like looking up the retreat house on the web and learning more about it. I would eventually go back to the retreat house and spend a silent retreat that led me to this blog. All of a sudden around Christmas 2011, I began to feel more strongly that I'd like to try going to Catholic Mass. So we packed up the whole family and off we went.

My husband is a cradle Catholic, though has not been engaged with the church since living at home. Never had I been interested in Catholicism and in fact was turned off by it. But when I went this time, it didn't seem so bad. In fact, if I dared admit it, it felt kind of good.

We came back for Christmas Eve Mass and sometime thereabouts I decided to give it my full effort, kneeling, singing and reading the responses.

The first positive feelings I experienced besides "not so bad" were complete and utter peace, something I really feel was lacking in my life as the mother of two boys and owner of my own small business. This simple respite of peace once a week was delightful. The positive feelings grew from there into a great "thirst" and unquenchable desire to learn everything I could and attend Mass as often as possible, and then complete and utter "joy." I feel like perhaps this happened at Christmas because this is when we celebrate Christ's conception and coming into the world. I feel like the Holy Spirit allowed Christ to be conceived in me at this time. I think after Christmas Eve Mass 2011 I have never missed a Mass since. And it's less because I'm obligated to go as a future Catholic and more because I can't stand to miss.

To me, this is utterly a miracle and I can explain it no other way. I still stop and say "is this me?" and begin to question myself a bit, but when I go back to the feelings I receive when in communion with the Lord, I "get it" again and again and again.

As an advice for those of you considering Catholicism, pray that you experience a "conversion of heart" like I did and that you are given the "eyes of faith." I am not sure why I was called now and suddenly given this gift; I suspect I had some people — both on earth and in heaven — praying for me :). Open your heart, participate in Mass, read about Catholicism and see where it leads you. I hope it leads you to the place of peace that I have found. ☐

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

SEEKING INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THROUGH THE BIBLE

LIFE IS A CHALLENGE

By Victor Araneta



A lot of times we meet our crossroads and view life that is about to end with hopelessness and desperation. But God has a much wider vision, and He knows it's only a bend. The road will go on and get smoother, after we

have stopped for a rest. The path that lies beyond us is often the path that is best. So, rest and relax and grow stronger. Let go and let God share your load and have faith in a brighter tomorrow; you have just come to a hump on the road. ☐

I AM YOUR MOTHER MARY

**THIS IS THE START OF ALL CHANGES IN WORLD
SOCIETY AND AMERICA.**

**PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, MY CHILDREN FOR THIS WILL BE
THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S WILL.**

MARY, YOUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
10062018

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

THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

IN LOS ANGELES:
THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES
OF THE DIVINE MASTER
BEGINNING WITH A MASS AT 8:30 AM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018

IN LAS VEGAS:
AT THE CENACLE HOUSE
8455 WEST SAHARA AVENUE
UNIT 172, LAS VEGAS, NV 89117

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