



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

November 2019

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HOW YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE NOT PIOUS ENOUGH

By Tom Hoopes

www.aleteia.org

The opposite of "you know you're too pious when ..." is at least as important.

Last week, we discussed: "You know you're too pious when ..."

On second thought, I should have called it, "You know you're too religious when." Piety is a virtue — and we need more true piety, not less.

As promised, here's my follow up: How you know when you're not pious enough.

First, Jesus made it very clear that lack of piety is as problematic as being too religious.

He repeatedly asks us to "watch and pray," and said to "pray and not lose heart." How much? He spent all night in prayer.

He wants us to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, which only happens through prayer — and if people don't like it, he says we are blessed by their persecution.

On the other hand, he said, "Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Ouch. So it's important to be pious — more pious, probably, than we are now.

You know you aren't pious enough if you are afraid to put up a crucifix on your wall.

In 1991, I served as the guide to an Albanian priest who, after years in solitary confinement for his faith, was doing a fundraising tour of the United States.

We were having a nice little visit to an Albanian home when he suddenly began angrily challenging the family. "You have no crucifix on your walls! Why no crucifix? How do people know that you are Catholic? The police, they took our crucifixes. We hid them so we could keep them up. Men died for their crucifix on their wall, and here in America, you have none?"

Double ouch.

Continued on Page 5

FEASTS FOR NOVEMBER

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 All Saints, Solemnity | 22 Cecilia; Memorial |
| 2 All Souls, Feast | 23 Clement I; Columban; Bl. Miguel Agustín Pro (USA), Opt. Mem. |
| 3 Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 24 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Solemnity |
| 4 Charles Borromeo, Memorial | 25 Catherine of Alexandria, Opt. Mem. |
| 9 Lateran Basilica, Feast | 30 Andrew, Feast |
| 10 Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 11 Martin of Tours; Veterans Day (USA), Memorial | |
| 12 Josaphat, Memorial | |
| 13 Frances Xavier Cabrini, Memorial | |
| 15 Albert the Great, Opt. Mem. | |
| 16 Margaret of Scotland; Gertrude, Opt. Mem. | |
| 17 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 18 Churches of Peter and Paul;
Rose Philippine Duchesne (USA), Opt. Mem. | |
| 21 Presentation of Mary, Memorial | |

The feasts of St. Martin de Porres (November 3), St. Leo the Great (November 10), and St. Elizabeth of Hungary (November 17), 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>800 Our Father Devotion November 9, 2019</p> <p>Mila Lumba</p>	<p><u>Los Angeles, California</u></p> <p>800 Our Father Devotion November 16, 2019</p> <p>Miles & Edith Avanzado Adriana Arguello Gertrudes Asuncion Norma Fuentes Alice Ng Celia Tiguelo</p>
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OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

OBEDIENCE – KEY TO HUMILITY

WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT OBEDIENCE
PART 1

1 SAMUEL 15:1-35

GOD TOUCHED ME

EULOGY TO MICHELLE ANTOINETTE "MILLET" LUMBA

By Evelyn Pua, a devotee

But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Corinthians 54-57

I am Evelyn Pua, not related to Michelle by blood but through the strong bond of friendship I have with her parents, Gil and Mila. So her passing on feels like I, too, have lost a daughter.

My relationship with Millet was quite complicated. She was a unique lady who gave herself aliases such as Stephanie Saunders, duh! or her Facebook name, Reagan J. Miyagi. Her sense of humor was steeped with sarcasm. Her "colorful" language was her trademark. Her tantrums were not fleeting; yet when all these layers were peeled off, one will find a very lovable, caring and heartwarming girl. This was my Millet, my dearest Millet.

I choose to remember the times when she would repeatedly text me about anything and everything and would send me photos such as her selfie with a caption "my constipated look," or her messy room marked before and cleaned up room marked after, or her Dad's newly pedicured toenails.

I choose to remember the time when I was out of the country and she texted me that her sisters were out of the country, too, so she said she was going to Pahrump. Why Pahrump? – well, that's her sense of humor!

I choose to remember how she could remember the dates of everyone's birthdays and other events, including the dates when we bought our car and when the Cenacle House was purchased; yet her sense of direction was a lot to be desired for.

I choose to remember how happy she was when I made her some Jap Chae on her birthday - taking a picture and sending it to me. This was her way of saying "thank you."

I choose to remember that when I was in Japan, she made an effort to find her picture when she was 6 years old, wearing a Japanese kimono and posing with her parents giving the caption "First Family of Osaka circa 1982."

I choose to remember when she said that she was saving money so she can send her mom and I on a cruise.

I choose to remember the time when Mila, Cherrie and I visited her at the rehab facility and told us she loves us.

Millet, I love you, too, even during those times when you were being a brat to everyone. I know you liked being called a brat.

Be at peace for your passing on has touched several people and have been moved towards better relationships with God and their fellowmen.*

Millet, know that you will always be alive in my heart. ☐

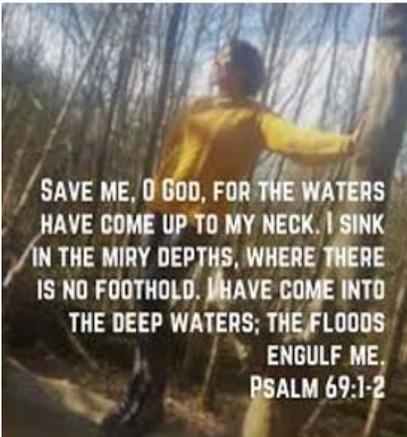
* God has touched several people through the death of Michelle: a mother has been inspired to enroll her daughter in RCIA for Confirmation and Holy Communion; two friends who were not talking with each other, were reunited as they decided to go together to Michelle's funeral; a family who were once divided have reunited.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

SEEKING INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THROUGH THE BIBLE

THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE WITHIN OURSELVES

by Victor H. Araneta



When the Lord puts you into deep waters of transformation, He has a purpose. His plan is deeper than any ocean in the world. Our understanding is limited and we feel like we are drowning in the deep sea of tribulation in a bottomless pit of problems, feeling hopeless, anxious and as though in the quagmire of desperation.

Prayer: Lord Almighty, I pray you would reach out and rescue me. I am in danger right now in the midst of hopelessness. I pray you would hear my supplication and set me free from my

abuser and enemy. Hide me in your shadow, enable me to find a place of spiritual safety and also allow me to bring others to you in the promise of your loving embrace of hope, in Jesus name I pray, Amen. ☐

I am your mother Mary

My children pray, pray, pray

for your faith will Be tested in the days to come.

I tell you my children be faithful to our God for in your struggle. The best way to endure this is through your relationship with my Son Jesus. Your hearts may grow weak, but the way of regaining it is through the strength of your relationship with God's providence and reliance in His Divine will.

*Be strong in Spirit and your Resolve
to serve Him and Him alone.*

Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary
10052019

PROJECTS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER IN LOS ANGELES AND LAS VEGAS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CONTINUING AND INITIATING PROJECTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL – ONGOING
2. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO:
 - MICHAEL BALUYOT – 2ND YEAR COLLEGE STUDENT AT JOSE RIZAL UNIVERSITY, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
 - JOSHUA JARABEJO – SEMINARIAN AT OUR LADY OF PENAFRANCIA SEMINARY IN THE DIOCESE OF SORSOGON, PHILIPPINES
3. ST. SHARBEL MARONITE CHURCH, LAS VEGAS – INSTALLATION OF GOD THE FATHER PICTURE ON THE WALL OF THE CHURCH – ONGOING
4. ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH LAS VEGAS - FUNDS TO SUPPORT ANNUAL CHURCH FESTIVAL
5. INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST – FUNDS FOR THE REPAIR OF CHICAGO CHANCERY.

How Do You Know When . . .

I would note that the opposite problem might easily be the case in some homes: Too much religious imagery on the walls might make non-religious people uncomfortable and unwilling to get close to us.

But of too much or none, I think I would pick too much.

You know you're not pious enough if you are afraid to seem religious in front of others.

Do you make the Sign of the Cross and pray with your family before you eat? What about when you're in a restaurant?

Whenever I have avoided crossing myself and praying at a restaurant, it was because I thought it

would offend others — but then I found, on further self-reflection, that what I was really afraid of looking odd, not offensive.

You may not be pious enough if you're pretty sure you're a pretty virtuous person, quite virtuous even.

It isn't unusual to be reading through the autobiography of a great saint and find a place where he or she claims to be among the world's greatest sinners. As I mentioned when St. Paul did this recently in the Sunday readings, this isn't false humility. Saints know how blessed they are and how much is expected of them, and they feel their failings sharply.

On the other hand, I meet people all the time whose reaction to confession is, "What would I confess? I'm not that bad."

"But, I don't do bad things": Pope Francis explains why that's not enough

Pray more. Read the Bible more. You'll find plenty to confess. Speaking of which ...

You know you aren't pious enough if you make something other than prayer your day's top priority.

I know how it is. You set out to pray first thing in the morning, but then you check headlines, or Facebook, or YouTube. You plan a Rosary for after dinner, but dishes and phone calls happen and the Rosary never does.

That doesn't mean you are too busy to pray, it means you choose other things in prayer's place.

You may not be pious enough if you don't follow the precepts of the Church.



Precepts of the Church are the "indispensable minimum" that a Catholic has to do, according to the Catechism.

They include going to Mass every Sunday and on holy days of obligation, and confession once a year at minimum. But they also mean abstaining from meat every Friday (for Americans, an equivalent substitute for this is allowed by the bishops outside of Lent) and giving money to provide for the needs of the Church.

The minimum is actually not very minimal. Speaking of which ...

You may not be pious enough if you ignore the poor.

The bottom line of serving God, in Jesus' Last Judgment account, is serving the poor. Commenting on how Jesus welcomes those who served the needy and rejects those who don't, Archbishop Charles

Chaput said, "I've said many times over many years that if we ignore the poor, we will go to hell: literally."

This is an impiety that the pious can fall into. "The Holy Hour before the Eucharist should lead us to a 'holy hour' with the poor," said Mother Teresa. "Our Eucharist is incomplete if it does not make us love and serve the poor."

So, pray for more piety.

It's one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit — and these always produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which include joy, patience and peace. □

Tom Hoopes is writer in residence at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, and author most recently of *The Rosary of Saint John Paul II*.