



# Jacob's Well

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August 2019

A Membership Newsletter of Catholic Divorce Ministry, North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics, Inc.

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## CONFERENCE CATHOLIC DIVORCE MINISTRY

Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63119

**Saturday, September 14, 2019 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**(Includes lunch)**

Visit [www.nacsd.org](http://www.nacsd.org) for the flyer and registration form or see page 6.

**Co-Sponsors:** St. Joseph Catholic Radio  
Archdiocese of St. Louis, Office of Marriage and Family Life

**Cost** \$25 if registration received **before** September 1; \$35 **after** September 1.

**Lodging** available at a discount rate **BEFORE** August 23

**Topics:** Falling in Love with God after Divorce  
Annulments  
Catholic Divorce, Healing with God and the Church  
Forgiveness

**Email:** [region9@nacsd.org](mailto:region9@nacsd.org) if you have questions.

**RUSH: Discounts end soon.**





# Responsibility

**Rev. Albert A. Grosskopf, S.J.**

*A native San Franciscan Rev. Al Grosskopf was a friend of Father James J. Young, a Paulist Priest who founded NACSDC. He has ministered with divorced people for many years. Fr. Grosskopf is pastoral minister at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center, Los Gatos, California. Fr. Al is a Priest Consultant to CDM and a regular contributor to Jacob's Well.*

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*Here we present his homily for August 11, 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday C (Luke 12:32-48)*

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Our Gospel reading today ends with the statement: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." Jesus had told a story about a man who had gone away from home to attend a wedding. While he was away, he had left his servants in charge of his household. One might surmise that while the master was away the servants would become negligent in their duties, but such wasn't the case. Everyone went right on with their work. They lived responsibly and cared for their duties in a business-like way. When the master returned he found everything in order, just like when the master was present. I think he was a little surprised. You know what he did? He became servant to the servants. He seated them at a table, put on an apron, and served them. At this point, Simon Peter said, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?" Then Jesus answered in effect that the parable was for everyone.

The parable reminds us of how responsibility can be thrust upon us, sometimes without being our choice. This is part of how life is. When we're little babies in the crib, someone else is responsible for taking care of us, meeting our every need, getting us potty trained. At 2 o'clock in the morning, mom or dad gets up and meets the baby's needs, no matter how tired the parent is. But it doesn't stay that way for us. We grow up, learning to feed ourselves, to dress ourselves, and to control ourselves. More and more, we become responsible for our lives. That's what it means to grow up, to become mature, and it seems most of us do this, even at an advanced age, for we can grow up at any age.

Some of us become parents, and we assume responsibility for our children and care for them as we were cared for. Sometimes we may have to take responsibility for our aging parents. Whether we like it or not, responsibility is often thrust upon us, even if it may be a huge burden. The parable reminds us that responsibility is often a privilege. The servants in the parable took care of their responsibilities and the master of the house put on an apron and began to wait on them. To accept responsibility is to increase privilege. Parents know about that. They eagerly look for signs of responsible behavior in their children. Sometimes children get the mistaken impression that parents enjoy controlling every aspect of their lives. Rather, parents would much rather children learn to control themselves, and as children begin to do that, they earn increased privileges, like getting to use the family car as responsible drivers. To accept responsibility is to increase privilege. And the same thing can work in reverse. Neglecting responsibility is to lose a privilege, like never taking responsibility for voting for people who can make a political difference in our world, politicians who are committed to social justice, protection of the environment, health care for all, the value of human life at every stage. We have a responsibility for each other and for our larger world. That's our privilege as mature disciples of the Lord Jesus, who calls us to grow and to follow him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. For Jesus and his love for us, we give thanks.

For every person in every organization, there comes a moment when he or she must have the courage to step forward and meet the needs of the time. Regardless of whether your moment is now or sometime in the future, you must be ready.

~ David Cottrell



# Praying Through Divorce – and After

*How the rosary is saving my soul*

by David Dzienna

How do you pray when you are angry? How can you pray for those who oppose you? When I can't find my own words, the traditional prayers of our Catholic faith can help.

When I was going through my divorce, I had a very difficult time praying. I wasn't sure of the words to use. I faced a lot of anger, fueled by gossip and detraction (the sin of revealing another person's faults to a third person without a valid reason). Dealing with my children's hurt and confusion also contributed to my inability to pray.

I began to realize how much this negativity was having an effect on my life and the lives of those around me. I often became consumed with my own feelings of anger, resentment, and bitterness. While I needed to accept responsibility for my part in the breakdown of my former relationship, I knew that receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and seeking reparations for any past sins would not be enough. I needed to be at peace with myself, and I had to let go of anger, period.

Most Catholics would agree that the rosary is one a powerful prayer. In fact, some say it is a spiritual weapon against evil. Praying through Mary to Jesus helps us to place our trust in Mary as the Mother of the Church as well as the spiritual mother of our children. Praying in this way also keeps us humble and reminds us that we are only caretakers of our children, who belong to God.

With this in mind, I began to once again pray the rosary daily. While I found it helpful, I knew I needed to dig deeper to move past my anger and frustration. I developed what I now call the Rosary for the Separated and Divorced:

Keeping the structure of the rosary intact, I added the following intentions for each decade.

**First Decade: *Praying for your children*** first is important because they are the innocent victims of divorce. Placing their intentions and needs first in prayer helps you to do the same in daily life.

**Second Decade: *Praying for your former spouse*** is probably the most difficult to do. I realized that the best way to deal with my anger, guilt, and suffering was to pray for her. Praying in spite of hatred or when someone tries to turn your children against you is difficult, but it is also powerful. I believe it is important to do this toward the beginning of the rosary as a way to let go of anger and find peace. This decade can indeed be the most difficult to pray, and I've often found myself resisting or even getting more angry as I prayed. But the formal structure of the Rosary helped me stay on track and have the words to pray. This decade also can be the most humbling because you need to pray for your former spouse without prejudice. That is, you aren't praying for a particular outcome; instead, you're just praying for that person!

**Third Decade: *Praying for friends and family who have drifted from you because of divorce*** is also very challenging. Jesus said to pray for your enemies and for those who persecute you. With divorce, many people feel the need to choose sides. People often lose friends and family, especially in-laws and the extended family of the former spouse. Like in the second decade, praying for forgiveness, acceptance, as well as another person's intentions (and not yours for them) is important for true peace.

**Fourth Decade: *Praying for your new relationship and/or the family and friends who have stuck by you.*** Praying the rosary should not be only about grief and sadness. It should be a prayer of thanksgiving as

well. True friends stick by you, call you out when you do wrong, but love you anyway. We should thank God for friends like this.

**Fifth Decade: *Praying for your needs and intentions*** last is a form of humility. Being humble can keep your mind clear of anger and bitterness as you pray to God for your needs.

As I stated in *Catholic Prayer Book for the Separated and Divorced*, “Praying for those whom you love and those who love and support you is easy. Praying for your former spouse and those affected by your divorce can be challenging, and at times, seems to be impossible. Praying through this difficulty can be a sign of healing and forgiveness.” If you are separated or divorced, I encourage you to give this a try. If you know of someone in this situation, consider passing this along to that person. This form of the Rosary has been a great help to me. I hope it can do the same for others in my situation. ■

*David Dziena holds an M.A. in Pastoral Theology from St. Joseph College in Maine, and has worked in catechetical ministry for over 20 years. He is the co-author of the Catholic Prayer Book for the Separated and Divorced (Our Sunday Visitor). He has four children from a previous bond. After receiving an annulment, he was married in the Church last year to Catholic author and editor Gloria Shahin. They live in The Woodlands, Texas.*

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### **Rosary Ending Prayer**

O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant we beseech you that meditating on these mysteries, of the most holy Rosary of the blessed virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Patron Saint of the Divorced and Separated  
St. Helena, Feast Day, August 18



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**Memberships** are available at Individual, Sustaining, Parish/Group, and Diocesan levels in the U.S. and Canada. International memberships are also available— contact the CDM/NACSDC Central Office for details.

**Catholic Divorce Ministry Conference**  
**Saturday, September 14, 2019**  
**9 am – 4 pm**

**Conference Location:** Cardinal Rigali Center  
20 Archbishop May Drive  
St. Louis Missouri 63119

**Cost:** \$25 **before** September 1; \$35 **after** September 1, 2019  
**Includes Lunch**

**REGISTRATION:** Make checks payable to **Catholic Divorce Ministry Region 9**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** CDM Region 9 Representative  
2063 Dohack Drive  
Arnold MO 63010



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Additional details our website [www.nacsd.org](http://www.nacsd.org) .  
Questions: Email [region9@nacsd.org](mailto:region9@nacsd.org) or leave a message at 314-608-3347. Calls will be returned.

**SPEAKERS and TOPICS:**

Joseph S. Miller – Falling in Love with God after Divorce  
Deacon Turf D. Martin – Catholic Divorce, Healing with God and the Church  
Rev. Aaron Nord - Annulments  
Bishop Robert J. Hermann - Forgiveness

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**Lodging:** Holiday Inn Route 66 SW  
10709 Watson Road  
St. Louis, MO 63127

**Reservations: Call 1-314-821-6600**

**Rooms blocked: “Catholic Divorce Ministry” Discount on rooms ends on August 23.**

Two Queen Beds Non-smoking **Includes Breakfast.** \$103 + taxes per night.

*Standard two queen beds complimentary wifi and cable 42 inch led TV, large work desk with ample electrical outlets throughout room, coffee maker and mini fridge.*

*Buffet breakfast in the T-Bird Cafe included only if registered at this rate with “Catholic Divorce Ministry” by voucher given at Check-In.*



**Catholic Divorce Ministry Conference**  
**Saturday, September 14, 2019**  
**9 am – 4 pm**

**SCHEDULE, SPEAKERS, TOPICS**

9:00 – 9:10	Housekeeping
9:10-9:15	<b>Opening prayer – Rev. Albert A. Grosskopf, S.J.</b>
9:15 -9:30	Ice breaker
9:30 – 10:30	<b>Joseph S. Miller TOPIC: Falling in Love with God after Divorce</b>
10:30 – 10:40	CDM’s James J. Young award to Rev. Albert A. Grosskopf, S.J.
10:40 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – noon	<b>Deacon Turf D. Martin TOPIC: Catholic Divorce, Healing with God and the Church</b>
Noon – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	<b>Rev. Aaron Nord TOPIC: Annulments</b>
2:00 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 3:30	<b>Bishop Robert J. Hermann TOPIC: Forgiveness</b>
3:30 – 3:55	Q & A, Wrap up, Evaluations
3:55 – 4:00	<b>Closing prayer – Rev. Albert A. Grosskopf, S.J.</b>

**LOCATION: Cardinal Rigali Center**  
**20 Archbishop May Drive**  
**St. Louis, MO 63119**