



The Word

Mary Undoer of Knots,
Bless you today and
forever. Amen!

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR JULY

JULY: for Lapsed Christians.

That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.

Liturgical Reflections

The Month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood. This is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation, and that not only for priests, but for every follower of Christ. I really believe that one of the symptoms of modern society (and I would even include, sadly, modern Catholic society) one of the symptoms of a growing, gnawing secularism is the lessening and the weakening of devotion to the Precious Blood. Devotion, as we know, is a composite of three elements: It is first- veneration, it is secondly- invocation, and it is thirdly- imitation. In other words, devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain, is first of all to be veneration on our part, which is a composite of knowledge, love and adoration. We are to study to come to a deeper understanding of what those two casual words, Precious Blood, really mean.



I found this passage in the oldest document, outside of sacred scripture, from the first century of the Christian era – to be exact, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D. Says Pope Clement: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious It is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world."

To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must get some comprehension of the gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God, because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. We are living in an age in which to sin has become fashionable.

This veneration of the Precious Blood, which is the first element in our devotion to the Precious Blood means that we have a deep sensitivity to the awfulness of sin. Sin must be terrible. It must be awful. It must be the most dreadful thing in the universe. Why? Because it cost the living God in human form the shedding of His Blood.

Lord Jesus, You became Man in order by your Passion and Death and the draining of your Blood on the Cross, might prove to us how much You, our God, love us. Protect us, dear Jesus, from ever running away from the sight of blood. Strengthen our weak human wills so that we will not only not run away from the cross, but welcome every opportunity to shed our blood in spirit in union with your Precious Blood, so that, dying to ourselves in time we might live with You in Eternity. Amen

Excerpted from [The Precious Blood of Christ](#), Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

This is a summary of Richard Rohr's thoughts on contemplation and action. I hope you find these thoughts helpful.

Summary: Sunday, June 25-Friday, June 30, 2017

I believe that learning to do compassionate acts from a contemplative foundation is the greatest art form. ([Sunday](#))

The job of religion is to help people act effectively and compassionately from an inner centeredness and connection with God. ([Monday](#))

If your spiritual practice doesn't lead you to some acts of concrete caring or service, then you have every reason not to trust it. ([Tuesday](#))

As compassion and sympathy flow out of us to any marginalized person for whatever reason, wounds are bandaged—both theirs and ours. ([Wednesday](#))

Humanity was given three different sets of eyes, each building on the previous one. The first eye was the eye of the flesh (*thought or sight*), the second was the eye of reason (*meditation or reflection*), and the third was the intuitive eye of true understanding (*contemplation*). ([Thursday](#))

Instead of presenting a guarded self to the moment, prayer stops defending or promoting its ideas and feelings, and waits for, expects, and receives guidance from Another. *Prayer is about changing you, not about changing God.* ([Friday](#))

Practice: Moving from a Still Center

Action and contemplation need and feed each other. Without contemplation, our actions will be unconsciously rooted in ego. Without action, our "inner work" may be narcissistic and ineffective.

Each Saturday I offer an invitation to contemplative practice.

There are many different ways to meditate or pray such as [Centering Prayer](#), yoga, walking meditation, or simply focusing on your breath. [1] If you haven't yet found a regular practice, I encourage you to choose one and stay with it for a while, practicing each day for as little as twenty minutes or as long as you're able. Over time—months, years, a lifetime—contemplation gradually opens our hearts, minds, and bodies to Love as our True Self.

Each week, I also suggest a different "Gateway to Silence," a phrase to help lead you into openness to God's presence. You might repeat the phrase to set an intention at the beginning of your practice. Explore the words through journaling or art. Or you could choose a single word from the phrase to use as a touchstone in Centering Prayer, for example "Be" or "Move". As you go about your day-to-day routines, recall and return to your intention and open-hearted presence. Listen and look for ways of embodying your most loving and True Self. How are you called to move outward from your still center in ways of compassion and courage?

Gateway to Silence:

Be still and still moving.

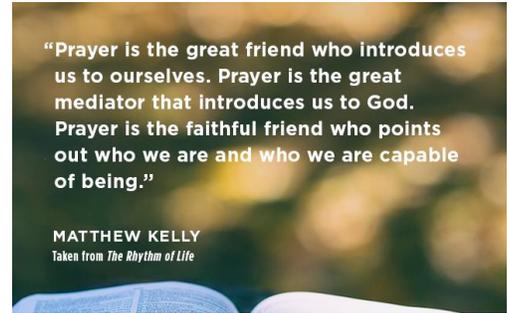
Reference:

[1] See The Center for Contemplative Mind in Society for additional contemplative practices:

<http://www.contemplativemind.org/practices/tree>.

For Further Study:

Richard Rohr, [Dancing Standing Still: Healing the World from a Place of Prayer](#) (Paulist Press: 2014)



Important Items

Please help one another pick up messages from the cupboard office, especially those without computers. If you don't get back there often please check at least twice a month for messages.



Third Week Ministry Enrichment is Saturday July 15 in Rm. 221 at 9:15 a.m.

Pastoral Care Training will be held at St. Elizabeth of Hungary on Hampton RD. October 14, October 28 and November 11.

Thanks for your GREAT EFFORT in covering vacations, illness and family events. You are very dedicated to our fragile brothers and sisters.

The Holy Father's intention for July is for many people and family members we know. Continue to pray fervently in their behalf and pray in thanksgiving for those who have rekindles their belief.

SNOW CONE FRIDAYS

Begin this Friday under the bell tower.

