

February 17, 2019 – Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED
NOW AND FOREVER!!!

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Divine Renovations Old Heresies Made New

As we continue to look at the different heresies that the Church needs to get rid of in an effort to rebuild the Church according to Fr. Mallon in his book: *Divine Renovation: From a Maintenance to a Mission Parish*, let us ask the Holy Spirit to recognize the ways these heretical (erroneous) ways of thinking may be affecting our spiritual life and the life of the larger Church). Quotes from Fr. Mallon's book will be in bold and my commentary will be in normal font.

3. "The Gnostic Solution": Gnosticism in its various forms, ancient and contemporary, proposes salvation through the attainment of secret knowledge (gnosis). It is essentially elitist and created a class of "enlightened Catholics" who identify their allegiance to a certain "higher spirituality" or fixation on particular disputed pastoral issues. Pope Francis does not get more specific than this, but one can think of certain expressions of liturgical traditions that fit this description.

The term "Gnostic Heresy" refers to a group of different heresies with one thing in common. People who believed in the Gnostic Heresy believed that there was some sort of secret knowledge that people had to discover in order to be saved and if you knew the "secret" then it did not matter how you behaved morally. They were basically saying that entrance into heaven had nothing to do with one's behavior but instead depended upon whether or not someone knew the secret password that would unlock the gates of heaven. The early Church quickly denounced this way of thinking.

A modern example of a Gnostic heresy would be something like those people who believe that by going to Mass on Sunday they can behave any way they wish during the week. When I see someone arguing about a particular liturgical reform that they would like to see in an unchristian way, I think of that person as suffering from being under the influence of Gnosticism. Another example of the Gnosticism is the idea that God wants me to love my brothers and sisters but yet I have the right to think evil thoughts about them when they only show up at Christmas and Easter.

4. "The Pelagian Solution": For Pope Francis, this is a form of "restorationism" that is closely associated with moral and disciplinary rigorism that seeks to recover a lost past.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

Fallacies do not cease to be fallacies because they become fashions. - Gilbert K. Chesterton

Monday

Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong. - Theodore Roosevelt

Tuesday

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me. St. Ignatius of Loyola

Wednesday

Taking the time to meditate is as important as taking the time to breathe. One pumps oxygen into the body, the other pumps peace into the mind. - Marianne Williamson

Thursday

The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us? - Dorothy Day

Pelagius was a bishop who taught that it was possible for a human being to make his or her own way to heaven without divine assistance. He agreed that it was almost impossible for a person to do this but nonetheless if a person tried hard enough, he or she could live a holy enough life to EARN their way into heaven. The Catholic Church, through St. Augustine declared this to be an erroneous way of thinking. The Church says that no one can earn salvation no matter how holy he or she is. The only way we get into heaven is if God chooses to let us in. We need God's grace (unconditional giving of his love) in order to make it into heaven. Catholics do not talk about "earning" God's love but rather we talk about being open to receive God's love. The image of a vessel maybe helpful—an empty vessel can hold more water than a vessel that is filled with rocks (sins).

Pelagianism takes God and transforms Him in our mind from being the loving Father that Jesus reveals Him to be and turns Him in our mind into a merciless judge, a coach whom we can never please, or a boss who only cares that we do the bare minimum. find Pelagianism is at work in our world today when people think that they have "earned" something in the Church. Someone might say, "I have done so much work for God that I am allowed this little sin."

When a person feels that he or she must talk about how long he or she has been a parishioner in order to get something from the parish or I hear someone say "I've done my part." These are all people who are under the influence of Pelagianism.

One last problem with enthusiasm, is that it produces a sense of competition between Christians instead of a spirit of cooperation.

Questions to Ponder:

1. How does Gnosticism manifest itself in the Church today?
2. How do faith and works together?
3. What happens when people think they can earn salvation?
4. How would life change if everyone believed in God's unconditional love for them?
5. What can we do to avoid competition between Christians?



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

February 17 2019 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 78 Gospel LK 6:17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

Spiritual Ponderings:

The Beatitudes are like a map towards the treasure of joy. Do you believe following them will lead you to happiness?

Friday

"When Christ at a symbolic moment was establishing His great society, He chose for its cornerstone neither the brilliant Paul nor the mystic John, but a shuffler, a snob, a coward – in a word, a man. And upon this rock He has built His Church, and the gates of Hell have not prevailed against it. All the empires and the kingdoms have failed, because of this inherent and continual weakness, that they were founded by strong men and upon strong men. But this one thing, the historic Christian Church, was founded on a weak man, and for that reason it is indestructible. For no chain is stronger than its weakest link." — G.K. Chesterton

Saturday

Listen to Jesus and follow him. That's the message of the Transfiguration. - Pope Francis



Spiritual Questions

1. Did Jesus follow the Beatitudes?
2. Why are we blessed if we do what Jesus wants?
3. Why are we not blessed if we do not do what Jesus wants?
4. How does hearing these beatitudes make you want to change your life?
5. Who lives these Beatitudes in your life now?



A Prayer For Our Leaders

We pray that government leaders in the United States may head the words of Thomas Jefferson who said: "The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government." May our leaders stop working to build up a culture of death and begin to build up a culture of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

THE PRAYER, MAJESTIC QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Majestic Queen of Heaven and Mistress of the Angels, thou didst receive from God the power and commission to crush the head of Satan; wherefore we humbly beseech thee, send forth the legions of heaven, that, under thy command, they may seek out all evil spirits, engage them everywhere in battle, curb their insolence, and hurl them back into the pit of hell. "Who is like unto God?"

O good and tender Mother, thou shalt ever be our hope and the object of our love guide our lost brothers and sisters back to your Son.

O Mother of God, send forth the holy Angels to defend me and drive far from me the cruel foe.

Holy Angels and Archangels, defend us and keep us.

DUC IN ALTUM:

CAUTION

Only read this section if you want to go deeper in your faith

CAUTION

Choose a daily devotional book and read from it each day. You may even write a response to it in your journal asking yourself what would you like to change about your relationship with God and others after reading the devotional.

The word "TRIVIA" is written in a colorful, blocky font where each letter is a different color (T: green, R: purple, I: pink, V: blue, I: yellow, A: red) and set against a red rectangular background.

This Week's Trivia

True or False:

1. Jacob was Abraham grandson?
2. David had a non-Jewish grandmother?
3. Nehemiah was the King of Persia Poison tester?
4. Noah did not commit any sins after he survived the great flood.

Last Week's Answers

Identify the following items:



- A = 4 = Alb B = 1 = Amice
C = 3 = Chasuble D = 2 = Stole

CATHOLIC PRAYER:

CHAPLET OF FAITH

How to pray the Chaplet of Faith - The regular Rosary of five decades is used as the Chaplet of Faith. On the large beads, you say the Apostles' Creed, on the small beads, you say, "Jesus, Mary, I love you, save souls, save the consecrated."

At the end, after having completed the 5 decades, say 5 times the following, *Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.*

Humor

Do you ever wonder what the food is going to be like in Heaven? I wonder if they ever serve deviled eggs? Since we'll probably have wings, maybe they give us airline food!



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Pastor Larry had been watching too much "Seinfeld."

