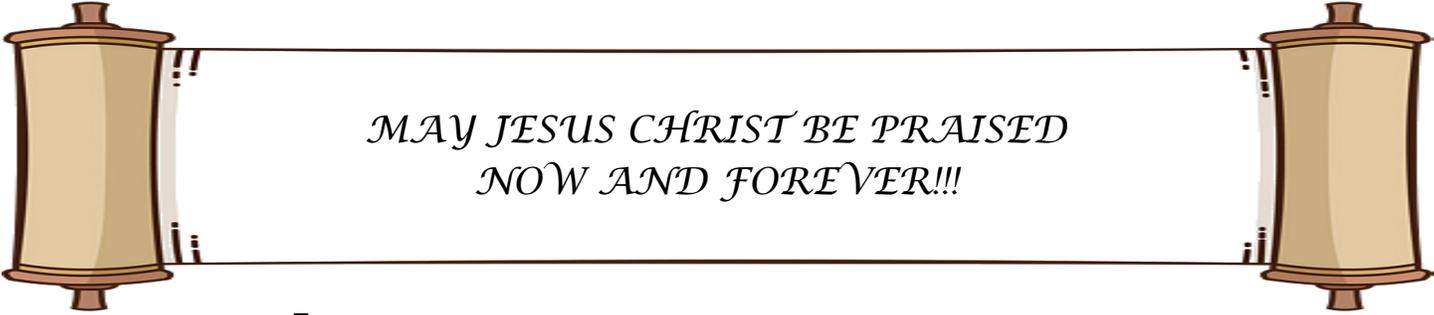
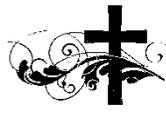


February 24, 2019 – Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time



*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). Fr. Mallon dives a little deeper into the effects of Pelagianism in our Church today. Quotes from Fr. Mallon's book will be in bold and my commentary will be in normal font.

So, this neo-Pelagianism is manifested in two ways. First in the traditionally minded Catholic who sees the Christian life as a kind of scorecard with its own economy of salvation. I do certain things for God (go to Mass, be nice, say my prayers once in a while), then God lets me into heaven. Second, in the post-modern Catholic who bases his or her understanding of grace and salvation not on absolute autonomy and fundamental niceness. God is my buddy who ask nothing of me except to be "true to myself" and with obviously let me continue to party in heaven.

The following quote from Msgr. Pope (a priest who writes for Our Sunday Visitor) is how I answer the question about whether or not heaven exists and who will end up in hell: *"Respect." God has made us free and respects our freedom to choose his Kingdom or not. Now the Kingdom of God is not a mere abstraction. It has some very specific values and these values are realized and experienced perfectly in heaven. The values of the Kingdom of God include: Love, kindness, forgiveness, justice to the poor, generosity, humility, mercy, chastity, love of Scripture, love of the truth, worship of God, God at the center and so forth. Now the fact is that there are many people in our world who do not want a thing to do with chastity, or forgiveness, or being generous and so forth. And God will not force them to adopt and live these values. While it is true that everyone may want to go to heaven, heaven is not merely what we want, it is what it is, as God has set it forth. Heaven is the Kingdom of God and the values thereof in all their fullness. Hence there are some (many?) who live in such a way that they consistently demonstrate that they are not interested in heaven, since they are not interested in one or many of the Kingdom values. Hell "has to be" since God respects their freedom to live in this way. Since they demonstrate they do not want heaven, God respects their freedom to choose "other arrangements."* - Msgr. Charles Pope of the Diocese of Washington D.C.

Three things are consequence of the neo-Pelagianism of our time. If salvation is getting my card punched so I can meet the basic requirements for salvation, it will breed a culture of minimalism. This is not covenant faith. It is not life lived in relationship with God who says, "I am your God and you are my people." This is fundamentally paganism under a thin veneer of Christianity. In the ancient world, the gods were manipulated to provide favors by external acts that bore no reference to the dis-position of the heart.

Religion for the pagans was all about making the gods happy in order to get things from them and had nothing to do with love. Christianity is all about God loving us and wanting us to be happy.

Second, as already mentioned, people who believe themselves to be justified by their own action or "niceness" will

never know the sheer audacity of God's mercy. Amazing grace will simply be a melody that sounds good on bagpipes. The Good News of salvation will never be fully grasped, and, consequently, the joy that is the hallmark of the authentic Christian life will never be known or communicated to others. The joyful song of praise to God for gifts of salvation never rises from lips one who has no need of such a gift. I honestly believe that this is reason why so many lips remain silent in our churches on Sunday morning. Too many people literally have nothing to sing about.

We are in a relationship with God like a child to his or her Father and not as an employee to his or her boss. God desires more from us than "simply" being nice. Remember the stories of the parables of the talents. The one with one talent gets punished for not investing his talent even though he might have been a nice guy.

Third, if we cannot move beyond the bare minimum of religious observance perceived to earn our own personal salvation, and if the authentic Good News is undiscovered, why are we surprised that many in the Church show no evidence of little enthusiasm for the call to the New Evangelization? Obviously, only the Good News as good news can proclaim it to others. Good News is never a burden to share with others—indeed, it is the most natural thing in the world. It becomes a burden only when we cannot share it. In the end, with neo-Pelagianism being so present among the faithful, and even among those in ministry, it is entirely understandable that we would suffer from a deep identity crisis about our missionary nature.

I have only joined organizations or institution for three reasons, I had to (like school), I wanted to like Boy Scouts growing up, and I got something for joining like a pay check from my first job. Pay in the Church stinks according to worldly standards, and no one has to go to Church in our world today so all we can do is make the Church a place where people want to come. When we come together and ask "what can I do for you" instead of "what is the bare minimum" we create a place where everyone wants to go.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Why do you think hell exists?
2. Do your values line up with God's values?
3. Would you let someone into your house who did not share the same values as you do?
4. Do you feel like you have to make God happy?
5. How can Church become a place where people want to go?

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

Do not allowing Evil to change you into someone you are not.

Monday

Standing with Jesus, we have His authority over the devil. But we do not have the right to expect the devil to leave where he has been welcomed. – Unbound

Tuesday

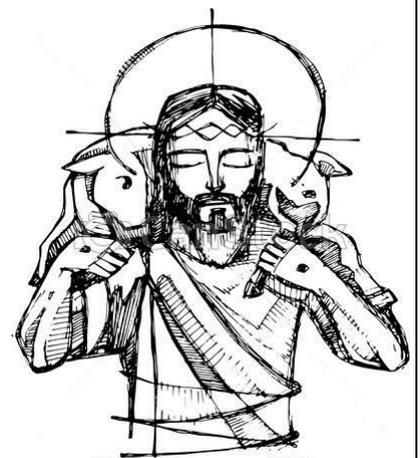
If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under. - Ronald Reagan

Wednesday

The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.' - Billy Graham

Thursday

We Christians bring peace and grace as a treasure to be offered to the world, but these gifts can bear fruit only when



Christians live and work together in harmony. This makes it easier to contribute to building relations of respect and peaceful coexistence with those who belong to other religious traditions, and with non-believers. - Pope Francis

Friday

To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement. - Saint Augustine

Saturday

If we do not fill our mind with prayer, it will fill itself with anxieties, worries, temptations, resentments, and unwelcome memories. - Scott Hahn



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

February 24 2019 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 81 Gospel LK 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Spiritual Ponderings:

I believe there is a difference in assessing a situation and judging others. If I see people, I don't know coming towards me I am going to be more afraid than if they were people I know. What I try not to do is make a judgement about the quality of person they are. I give them a chance to be themselves and try not to put them into a box or stereotype.

Spiritual Questions

1. How do you try to love your enemies?
2. What do you think of when you see someone who is different than you?
3. How do you deal with others finally?
4. How do you forgive others?
5. What other forms of service do you do?



A Prayer For Our Leaders

We pray that government leaders in the United States may heed 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.



This Week's Trivia

Match the following Saints Day with its calendar Date

- 1. Joseph the Husband of Mary 2. Joseph the Worker 3. Sts Cyril and Methodius 4. Mary the Mother of God.

- A. ___ May 1st B. ___ February 14 C. ___ March 19 D. ___ January 1st.

DUC IN ALTUM:



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



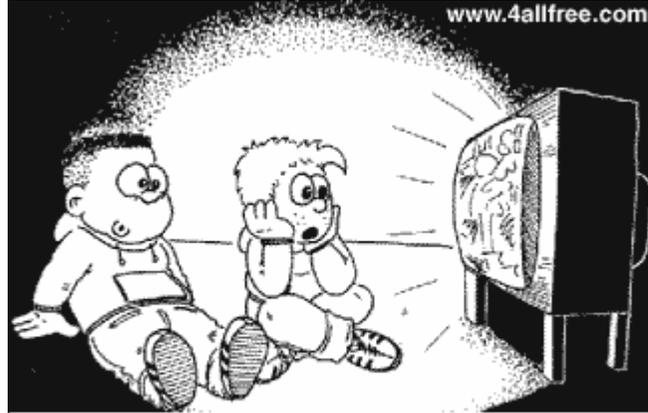
This week's challenge will be hard for some people. It is simply do not read the bulletin at Church. Yes, there is a lot of useful information in the bulletin but God is present in the Tabernacle. It is better to spend your time in Church praying than reading from the bulletin.

CATHOLIC PRAYER:

Base Ball Player Prayer

God grant me wisdom, to tell a strike from a ball, to know where to throw and never to fall.
Keep me always in the base line, running straight and true and I'll look for your sign, to stretch one into two.
God give me vision, to see every pitch, so if a player needs help, then I will see which.
Let me always hustle, so I'll be at my best and take pride in myself, in sports and the rest.
God be my strength, when I throw the ball when I'm far from home plate, or against a wall.
So I never miss a base, please guide my feet, bring me home safely, so my job is complete.
When I help younger players, let me always give praise, so they'll see you in me, in all of my ways.
God please guide our coach, to be fair and smart, to teach us to be good, let it come from his heart.
Let me take a loss, just as well as a win, to do any less, is surely a sin.
As long as I can play, let me make my parents proud, as proud as I am, when they yell MY name out loud.
However my games end, let me always have fun and if Heaven has All Stars,
I want to be one.re are over and my seasons are done, let me play on your team. Just like your son. Amen.

 Humor



**Wow! They must have spent hours back then,
painting everything black and white like that!**

