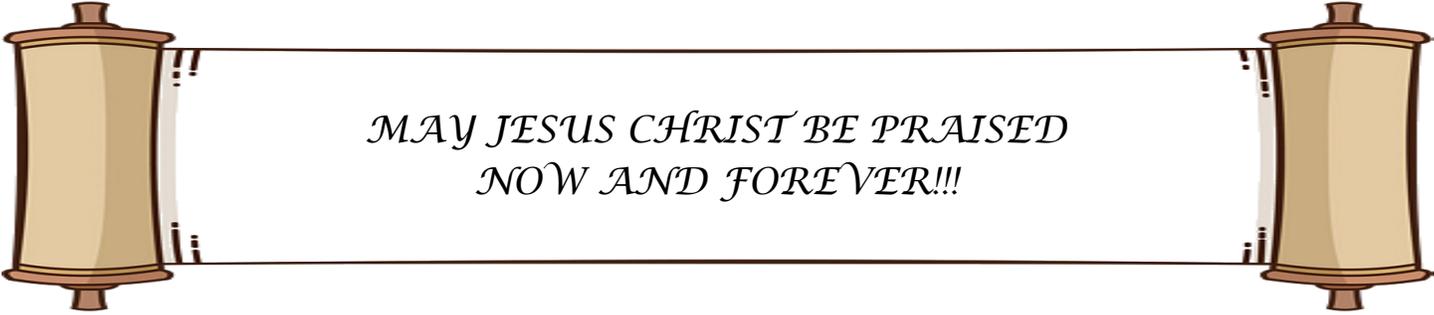


May 12, 2019 - Fourth Sunday of Easter



*MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED
NOW AND FOREVER!!!*

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

“The Riddles of God” Part II

What advice would you give to the young men and women who are graduating high school, college, or graduate school this month? During the month of May, I will be sharing with you some of the “rules of my life” as wisdom and advice hoping it will help everyone live better lives. The title for this month’s Spiritual Ponderings comes from the following quote from Catholic writer G.K. Chesterton: “The riddles of God are more satisfying than the solutions of man.”

Rule 6: “Nearly all vices are rooted in the future.

Gratitude looks to the past and love to the present; fear, avarice, lust and ambition look ahead.” — C.S. Lewis.

This is a quote that I recently came across that really caught my attention. When I am grateful, I find myself happier than when I am not. When I realize how much God has given me in the past, it makes it easier to trust that God will provide for me in the future. When I trust in God, I do not need to protect myself or rely on material possessions for security. When I love someone, I have to love the person in front of me. I can’t love them if I am constantly comparing them to a past version of themselves and I definitely cannot love a potential version of someone because he or she may never reach that potential. All I can do is love the person in front of me in the presence. When I worry about the future because I do not trust in God, I find myself filled with fear and thus have a desire to protect myself. I find myself wanting to comfort myself by surrounding myself with material things. These things though ultimately fail to lift my spirit.

Rule 7: If we do not fill our mind with prayer, it will fill itself with anxieties, worries, temptations, resentments, and unwelcome memories. - Scott Hahn

This rule goes with Rule #6. The more I pray and build up my relationship with God the more I trust God will be there when I need Him.

Rule 8: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” — Martin Luther King Jr

Many people who cause conflicts do so because they have a deep wound that they are afraid to let people see or touch. The only way to stop these people from doing evil, is by creating a place where the person feels comfortable enough to examine the wound and realize that they do not have to behave the way they do. When you love someone, you show that you want what is best for them.

Rule 9: Don't judge a man by where he is, because you don't know how far he has come. -C. S. Lewis

We all come from different points and we all have different talents. No two people have had the same journey. Look at St. Dismas. St. Dismas, known as the good thief, was the thief who repented at the last moment as he hung on a cross next to Jesus on Good Friday.

Rule 10: The version found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

-this version is credited to Mother Teresa

This rule might summarize all the other rules. Like many of these rules/guidelines it reminds me that the God of the universe wants to be in a relationship with me –WOW!!!



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

May 12 2019 Fourth Sunday of Easter Lectionary: 51

Gospel JN 10:27-30

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.

Spiritual Reflection: God has, in fact, thought of us from eternity and has loved us as unique individuals. He has called every one of us by name, as the Good Shepherd 'calls His sheep by name.' - Pope John Paul II. Do you listen for the shepherd's voice?

Spiritual Questions:

1. How do you prepare to pray?
2. What do you do with distractions?
3. How does God speak to you through the Scriptures?
4. How does God speak to you through the Church?
5. How else does God speak to you?



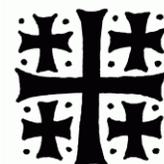
PRAYER FOR STRENGTH AND WISDOM

Lord, give me strength and wisdom to live this day as I ought.

Give me strength... to overcome every temptation which may come to me, to do well every task which is assigned to me, to shoulder every responsibility which is laid upon my shoulders.

Give me wisdom... to know when to speak and when to keep silent, to know when to act and when to refrain from action, to know when to speak my mind and when to hold my peace.

So bring me to the end of this day knowing that I have helped build up the culture of life. Amen.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

Principle 1: Begin with praise and honest appreciation. As Christians we believe that people are good people and when we want them to become Catholic, I think that it best to approach them in a way that shows them that we want them to be a part of our faith family. People want to belong and God is calling them. People though don't want to feel like a burden so if they feel like they have something to offer then they are most likely to give Church a chance.

Monday

The world needs your to share our faith experience

Tuesday

"This I command you: love one another." – Jesus.
How revolutionary this command is?

Wednesday

In our faith we follow in someone's steps. In our faith we leave footprints to guide others. It's the principle of discipleship - Max Lucado

Thursday

Cheap grace is grace without discipleship. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Friday

If our Christianity has ceased to be serious about discipleship, if we have watered down the gospel into emotional uplift which makes no costly demands and which fails to distinguish between natural and Christian existence, then we cannot help regarding the cross as an ordinary everyday calamity, as one of the trials and tribulations of life. We have then forgotten that the cross means rejection and shame as well as suffering. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Saturday

...Christ did not appoint professors, but followers. If Christianity ... is not reduplicated in the life of the person expounding it, then he does not expound Christianity, for Christianity is a message about living and can only be expounded by being realized in men's lives. - Soren Kierkegaard



St. Monica Society

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

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH TO FORGIVE.

Faultless Lord, enduring death for me, You have paid the debt of our sins: Your sacrifice of forgiveness was absolute! Grant us the strength to also forgive others, to excuse their transgressions against us. So, we may truly reflect this spiritual fruit, obliterate any persistent feelings of malice. Let each trespass end as a closing chapter, on our continuing on the road of righteousness. Forgive our sins as we aspire to forgive others. In a special way help our fallen away brothers and sisters forgive those who may have harm them and thus driven them away from the true faith. You are truly archetypical of forgiveness. You are a most forgiving Lord! Amen.



Catholic Prayer

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

God our creator, we come before You and lift up in prayer all mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers and mothers to be who gave the gift of life. We give you thanks for their presence, talents and gifts which they share in our church, society and world. May all mothers know of Your loving and gentle presence and may they always turn towards You in times of joy, sorrow and glory. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.



PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over Your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings. Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly. Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children. Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most. Amen.



Humor

