

July 7, 2019 – Fourteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

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

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Faith & Film: Avengers Infinity War



Synopsis: The Avengers Infinity War movie is the first of two movies that place the Avengers (Earth's Mightiest Heroes with allies) against Thanos. Thanos is an evil Titan (god-like creature) who desires to collect the six infinity stones to destroy half the life in the universe. To make a long story short the only way for the Avengers to prevent Thanos from getting the last stone is for them to destroy it. Unfortunately destroying the last stone would mean killing the superhero named Vision. Refusing to kill Vision, they attempt to separate the stone from his person unfortunately Thanos arrives before this can be done and he gets the last stone. With all six stones in his position Thanos snaps his

finger and activates all the stones. The resulting spell (for lack of better word) results in half of all life in the universe turning to ash. There seems to be no rhyme or reason as to whom dies. The movie ends shortly after that with our heroes defeated.

Spiritual Insights:

The first spiritual insight comes from the idea that Thanos believes that he is actually a humanitarian – a protector of life despite the fact that he is out to destroy half the life in the universe. It is revealed that there was a great famine on Thanos's home world when he was younger and the famine was blamed on over population. He now believes that he needs to activate the stones in order to stop the universe from being over populated. He also believes that this is humanitarian since the stones will destroy life with no consideration to wealth, power, prestige, etc.

St. Thomas Aquinas believed that no one ever did evil for the sake of evil. Instead he believed that the person committing evil committed evil because he mistakes the wrong thing for the good. In this case Thanos's childhood trauma blinds him from seeing that the real good does not consist in destroying half of all the life in universe. Often we assume that another person does evil for the sake of evil instead of seeing their evil action resulting from some sort of woundedness. This is important because often we try to reason with these people instead of helping them heal and when they won't listen to reason we become angry and hurt ourselves.

The second spiritual insight follows in that it is easy to see wiping out half the life in the universe is an evil act. Sadly, our country is wiping out half of the world's population through abortion and euthanasia. (If you had an abortion or supported someone in getting an abortion, please check out Project Rachel or Project Joseph in order to begin your journey of healing). More people have died through abortion than through war. On the other hand we see how our heroes are unwilling to sacrifice one life (Vision) and do everything in their power to save him.

The third spiritual insight comes about from watching our heroes trying to work together to stop Thanos. We know that each of them are special in their own way but often they are unaware of how their pride prevents them from being a more cohesive unit. It is nice though to see the heroes work together against the greater threat after the events of Captain America Civil War.

The final spiritual insight comes from the realization that there are people out there who see God as someone who is more like Thanos than like the Blessed Trinity. I am becoming more and more convinced that there is a lot of people infected with a subconscious form of paganism. Paganism simply meaning that one sees his or her deity as someone who has to be kept happy otherwise the deity will inflict bad things upon them. Whenever we say "why is God punishing me" we are practicing this modern form of paganism. Jesus reveals to us that our God is a loving God who cares deeply for His creation and desires to spend eternity with us.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

If you aren't doing these three things, the other steps won't matter. Commit right now to praying 5-10 minutes each day for your child's return. Jesus' parable of the persistent widow (Lk 18:1-8) confirms that God loves tireless prayer — even if you pray for the same need every day. Don't give up, and don't think your prayer is unheeded or pointless. Look at what St. Monica's prayers did for St. Augustine.

Also, fast and sacrifice for your child. Skip a meal, give up Facebook or Netflix for a week or willingly bear a small pain. Then offer your sufferings to God on behalf of your child. Unite them to the cross and ask that he send new grace into your child's life. — Brandon Vogt

Monday

Find the Lord in unexpected places

Tuesday

Do the Good that God desires you to do and don't worry about what others are thinking or doing.

Wednesday

No bribing, and forcing you way into the Kingdom of Heaven or into other's hearts.

Thursday

You have the power to build someone up today or to ruin them today with your words. What will you do today?

Friday

You have the power to build someone up today or to ruin them today with your words. What will you do today?

Saturday

God simply desires to love you



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

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Lectionary: 102 //

Gospel LK 10:1-12, 17-20

At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so, ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you; it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town." The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to 'tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Spiritual Reflection: "The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose." - C. S. Lewis. God

send them out despite the dangers because He knows they will be successful and that is why He called them to himself.

Spiritual Questions

1. What are your thoughts when you hear the word "Evangelization?"
2. How important is Evangelization to the Church?
3. What are some simple ways that you can Evangelize?
4. What are some big ways that you can Evangelize?
5. What holds you back?



PRO-LIFE

Grant Success

Prayer for our Courts and Judges
Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of our nation. You alone rule the world with justice, yet you place in our hands the solemn duty of participating in the shaping of our government. I pray today for our President and Senators Who have the responsibility of placing judges on our courts. Please protect this process from all obstruction. Please send us men and women of wisdom, Who respect Your law of Life. Please send us judges with humility, Who seek Your truth and not their own opinions. Lord, give all of us the courage we need to do what is right And to serve you, the Judge of all, with fidelity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!



St. Monica Society

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

Jesus Christ, Lord of all things, You see our hearts; You know our desires. Possess all that we are, You alone. We are Your sheep; make us worthy to overcome the devil Amen.



Catholic Prayer

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION (U.S.A.)

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Humor

