

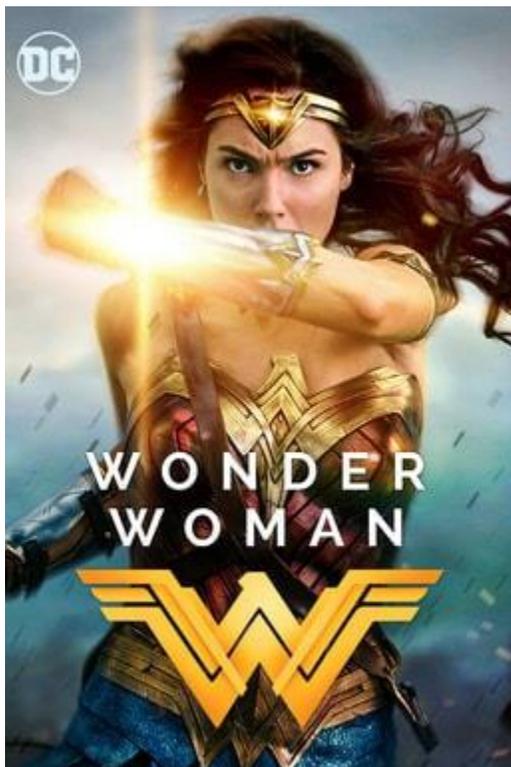
July 14, 2019 – Fifteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

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



SPiritUAL PONDERINGS

Faith & Film: Wonder Woman



Synopsis: Wonder Woman tells the story of an Amazon princess named Diana quest to stop the ancient Greek God during World War I. According to the movie, Zeus and Ares battled for control of humanity and in the midst of the battle Ares was severely wounded and Zeus killed. Before Zeus dies he created a group of warrior women called the Amazons and placed them on a magically hidden island.

During World I, Steve Trevor a US spy at a secret German Base steals the notebook of an evil scientist that includes the instruction for an evil chemical weapon. As he flees the island with the book he is shot down and crash lands on the Amazon's island. The Germans that were pursuing him were soon defeated by the Amazon but not before they were able to kill a few of the warrior women.

Diana, feeling that it is her destiny goes to England and then to the front. At the front she engages the German General who she thought was Ares and kills him only to discover that Ares was really disguising himself as a British political leader who had been promoting an armistice. Refusing to join Ares, Diana defeats him but not before Steve Trevor has dies heroically saving the world by preventing the chemical weapon from being dispersed.

Spiritual Insights:

The first spiritual insight that I saw in the movie was that sometimes evil can disguise itself under the cloak of appearing to be good. Wonder Woman assumes that the German leader Ludendorff is really Hades in disguised. She kills him only to discover that he was not Hades. He was only a normal man high on a special steroid type drug. Sir Patrick Morgan, an English diplomat who talks about the need for an armistice to be signed, reveals that he is really Hades in disguised. This revelation in the movie reminded me that sometimes the devil has no problem using any tactic to get what he wants. He will make us think that prayer is too easy to accomplish anything or he will make us think it is too hard to pray all the time. Either way, the devil does not care as long as he prevents us from praying.

The second spiritual insight in the movie follows along the idea that the revelation that Hades was really a person talking about peace. I think it reminds us that what is morally right does not depend upon what we think. There is such a thing as an objective truth. This plot line from the movie also reminded of the following quote from Abraham Lincoln: "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

A third spiritual insight from the movie comes from the part of the movie where Steve Trevor puts together a special team to help him take Diane to the battle line front. He recruits Sameer, Charlie, and Chief Napi. As Catholics, we need to remember that our Church teaches us that God does not save us as individuals but rather as a group (as a

Church). Jesus sent out his disciples two-by-two. The early Church in the Acts of the Apostles followed Jesus example and sent Paul and Barnabas out as a pair. A reminder that the Catholic Faith was never meant to be lived alone. The fact that this team is really a group of misfits, is also a bonus because the Church is not filled with perfect people.

The fourth insight in the movie is a reminder that we should not look forward to war. Growing up Diana looks forward to seeing battle but then seeing the cost of war, she quickly becomes to dislike the idea of war.

The last spiritual insight from the movie, is that a truce is not the same as forgiveness. Hades desires the German and the Allies to sign a peace treaty called an armistice. He believes that simply stopping the fighting and not addressing the underlying issues of the war will lead to a future war. True peace means more than just stopping the physical violence. It means learning to forgive and allowing God to heal the underlying causes of the conflict.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

"The Church is a perpetually defeated thing that always outlives her conquerors." — Hilaire Belloc

Monday

"In almost nine cases out of ten, those who have once had the Faith but now reject it, or claim that it does not make sense, are driven not by reasoning but by the way they are living" — Fulton J. Sheen

Tuesday

Bad things happen when we turn away from Jesus because we are turning away from love.

Wednesday

When a person doesn't have gratitude, something is missing in his or her humanity. - Elie Wiesel

Thursday

The yoke you wear determines the burden you bear. - Edwin Louis Cole

Friday

Are you ready to do good like an on-duty fire fighter is ready to fight fires?

Saturday

See Jesus gentleness despite the anger that was directed toward Him.



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

July 14 2019 // Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time //
Lectionary: 105 // Gospel LK 10:25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*" He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Spiritual Reflection: "Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible." - Maya Angelou

Spiritual Questions:

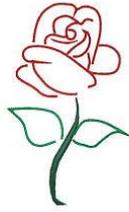
1. How does this man's prejudice threaten his future?
2. Why must we love those that we find difficult to love?
3. Why does Jesus use the example of a Samaritan and not a Roman?
4. What is the role of the inn keeper in the story?
5. How does Jesus pay for our wounds?



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 Peace

Father God, my heart is filled with chaos and confusion. I feel as if I am drowning in my circumstances and my heart is filled with fear and confusion. I really need the strength and peace that only You can give. Right now, I choose to rest in You. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen. ~ Mary Southerland.

Prayer for the Broken-Hearted

Lord, my heart is broken but You are near. My spirit is crushed, but You are my rescuer. Your Word is my hope. It revives me and comforts me in especially now. My soul faints, but you are the breath of life within me. You are my help, the One who sustains me. I am weak but You are strong. You bless those who mourn, and I trust You to bless me and my family with all that we need. You will rescue me from this dark cloud of despair because You delight in me. In Jesus' Name, Amen. ~ Jennifer White

Prayer for Perseverance

Holy Lord, Thank You for grace. Please help me move beyond the hurdles that trip me up and give me the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope I run toward in Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen. ~ Gwen Smith
 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

Afraid of the Dark

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

- Author Unknown -