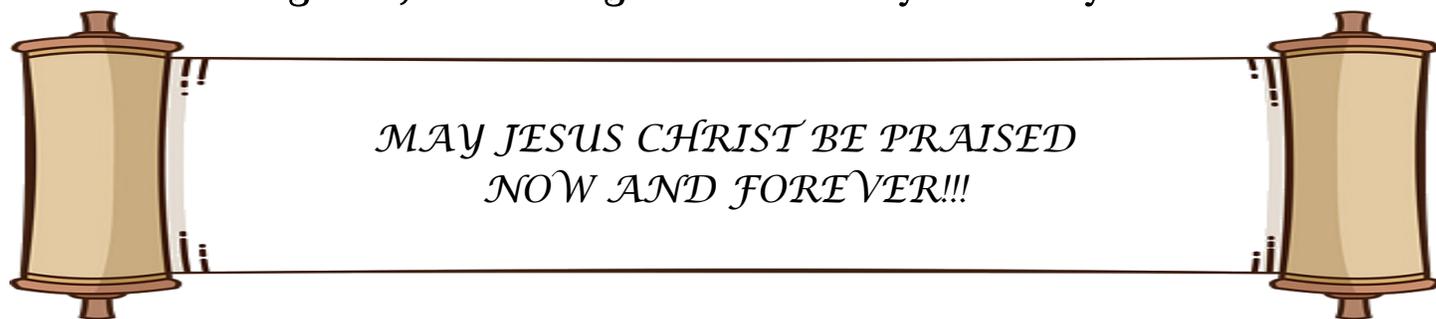


## August 4, 2019 - Eighteenth Sunday Ordinary Time



### SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

#### Spiritual Randomness

Someone shared with me the following story called the "Deck of Cards Prayer Book".

Upon finding that the *War To End All Wars* was actually at an end, a soldier wandered away from his barracks and into town. As he passed a small church, he stopped and looked in and saw that the townsfolk had gathered for worship. The soldier wandered in, down the aisle and slid into a pew. He took his seat next to some worshipers who were at that moment sitting with their heads bowed in prayer. The soldier having no prayer book took out a time-worn deck of playing cards. He fanned the cards before him and started to mumble to himself. His fellow worshipers, amazed at the soldier for displaying a deck of cards, the "Devil's Tickets," in the house of the Lord, nudged him and whispered, "Put those away, you can't do that here!"

The soldier paid little attention to them and carried on with his cards and mumblings. Soon the fellow worshipers became alarmed and sent out for the constable and the poor man was arrested. He was placed in the jail for the night and the next morning was brought before the town magistrate, charged with disorderly conduct for displaying a deck of cards in a place of worship. The Magistrate asked what he had to say for himself, "Guilty or not guilty?"

The soldier standing before the bar of justice replied, "Not guilty, Your Honor, and with your kind permission, I would like to present this defense for my actions."

With that, he took out his old time-worn deck of cards, fanned them out before him, and then he began:

- "Your Honor, to me this deck of cards is my prayer book and Bible. When I look into these cards and see an Ace, it reminds me that there is only one God.
- When I see the Deuce, it reminds me that the Bible is divided into two parts, the Old and the New Testaments.

- When I see the Trey, it represents the three persons of the Blessed Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.
- When I see the Four, it reminds me of the four great Evangelists, who wrote the Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- When I see the Five, Your Honor, I think of the five virgins who kept their lamps trimmed in waiting for the coming of the Lord.
- When I see the Six, it reminds me that in six days God made this great Heaven and Earth.
- When I see the Seven, it represents the Sabbath, a day of rest and worship.
- When I see the Eight, it reminds me of the eight righteous persons who were saved from the Flood—Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives
- When I see the Nine, I'm reminded of the nine lepers who were cleansed of their sins, but did not give thanks, such was their ingratitude.
- When I see the Ten, I think, not only of the tenth leper, who did give thanks, but of the Ten Commandments handed down by Moses on the stone tablets, each spot for one Commandment.
- Now, Your Honor, the Jack reminds me of the Knave of the Devil and to shun his temptation.
- When I see the Queen, I think of the blessed Virgin Mary, who is Queen of Heaven.
- The King is, of course, the King of Heaven and Earth and All Things, to whom we should all bow down and give thanks."

He folded up the deck of card, shuffled them once, and fanned them out before him. Then he continued:

- "Your Honor, when I look into this deck of cards, I see that there are 365 spots, as there are 365 days in the year.
- The Joker stands for Leap Year, 366 days.
- There are fifty-two cards in the deck, there are fifty-two weeks in a year.
- There are twelve face cards in the deck representing the twelve months of the year.

- Actually, there are thirteen lunar months in the year represented by the thirteen cards in each suit.
- Speaking of the suits, the deck is divided into four suits - Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts and Spades; and we know that the year is divided into four seasons - summer, winter, spring and fall.
- Lastly, Your Honor, this deck of cards has two colors, red and black; the red stands for the daylight and the black for the night.

So you see, Your Honor, not only is this deck of cards my prayer book and Bible, it is also my Almanac!" With that, His Honor said, "Case dismissed!"

I now invite you to find different ways to see God in your life today through the ordinary things you encounter each and every day –especially the people you will meet.



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

### *Sunday*

If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed. - Adolf Hitler

### *Monday*

"I've been painting pictures of Egypt Leaving out what it lacks the future feels so hard And I want to go back but the places that used to fit me Cannot hold the things I've learned Those roads were closed off to me While my back was turned" - Sara Groves

### *Tuesday*

Christ did not enchant men; He demanded that they believe in Him: except on one occasion, the Transfiguration. For a brief while, Peter, James, and John were permitted to see Him in His glory. For that brief while they had no need of faith. The vision vanished, and the memory of it did not prevent them from all forsaking Him when He was arrested, or Peter from denying that he had ever known Him. - W. H. Auden

### *Wednesday*

You can conquer almost any fear if you will only make up your mind to do so. For remember, fear doesn't exist anywhere except in the mind. - Dale Carnegie

### *Thursday*

I want to change my circumstances. God wants to change me. - Rick Warren

### *Friday*

The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love. - Pope Francis

### *Saturday*

It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions. - Pope Francis



## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**August 4 2019 // Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time //**

**Lectionary: 114 // Gospel LK 12:13-21**

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." Then he told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus, will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God."

**Spiritual Reflection:** "Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others." - Saint Augustine. Being a Christian means relating to material things in a whole new way.

### **Spiritual Questions**

1. How much control does material things have over your life?
2. What do you do with your surplus?
3. What do you think about the saints that gave everything away?
4. How can wealth lead us way from God?
5. How should a Christian deal with material possessions?



### A HEALING PRAYER.

O Jesus, Good Shepherd, You heal the sick and needy. We ask you to heal all those who have been wounded by the sin of abortion and the culture of death. You know what it is like to endure pain and to be unjustly put to death. Look kindly upon them today and heal their broken souls. Please offer them your forgiveness as you did to the people who put you to death on the cross because they too do not fully understand what they are doing. Convert them so that they can become warriors for the culture of life.



Give Your gift of wisdom to physicians that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all they do. Bless those nurses who feel like they are helping women by helping them get abortions. Instead let their hands become Your hands as they touch me. O Jesus, grant us all Your healing grace of love and peace. Amen.



## St. Monica Society

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

### THE PRAYER ABLAZE WITH THE FIRE OF YOUR SPIRIT

O Lord, You have mercy on all, take away from those who are estranged from your Church their sins, and mercifully set them ablaze with the fire of Your Holy Spirit. Take away from them the heart of stone, and give them human heart that know they are loved so that they may have hearts to

love and adore You, and hearts to delight in You, to follow and enjoy You. Amen.



## Catholic Prayer

### PRAYER OF SELF-ABANDONMENT

Father, I abandon myself into Your hands; Do with me whatever You will. Whatever You may do, I thank You. I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only Your will be done in me, And in all Your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into Your hands I commend my spirit; I offer it to You, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into Your hands, without reserve and with boundless confidence, For You are my Father. Amen.



## Humor

1. What did the Buddhist ask the hot dog vendor? - "Make me one with everything."
2. You know why you never see elephants hiding up in trees? - Because they're really good at it.
3. What is red and smells like blue paint? - Red paint.
4. Where does the General keep his armies? - In his sleeves!
5. Why aren't koalas actual bears? - The don't meet the koalafications.