

August 18, 2019 – Twentieth Sunday Ordinary Time



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



SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Spiritual Randomness

The following comes from a prayer that Pope Francis composed for World Communications Day (January 24, 2018). He was inspired by The Peace Prayer which is often misattributed to St. Francis of Assisi.

Lord Make Us Instruments of Your Peace by Pope Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion.

Help us to remove the venom from our judgments.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy; May our words be seeds of goodness for the world:

Where there is shouting, let us practice listening;

Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;

Where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;

Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;

Where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;

Where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;

Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;

Where there is hostility, let us bring respect;

Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth. - Amen.

I have found the following helpful also when thinking how best to use the Internet and Social Media

10 Commandments for the Internet Age

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh, from 'The New Media and the Work of Evangelization' – May 20, 2014

"The internet has become like the nervous system of our culture, in which more and more people are expressing and exploring their identity, picking up and discarding their values and attitudes, expressing their feelings and prejudices, befriending and unfriending each other, measuring each other's status and importance, relevance and appearance. If our young people and people are living in this gigantic network, then we, as people of faith need

to be in there, dialoguing with the inhabitants of this world, with the men and women who dwell in the web."

1. Be positive and joyful. Offer 'digital smiles' and have a sense of humor. Remember that it is the 'joy of the Gospel' that we are communicating, so, as Pope Francis says: no 'funeral faces' or 'sourpusses'!
2. Strictly avoid aggression and 'preachiness' online; try not to be judgmental or polemical – goodness knows, there is enough of this online already! Instead, try Pope Francis' approach of 'tenderness and balm'.
3. Never bear false witness on the internet.
4. Remember 'Ubi caritas et amor' (where charity and love are). Fill the internet with charity and love, always giving rather than taking. Continually seek to broaden and reframe discussions and seek to include a sense of charity and solidarity with the suffering in the world.
5. Have a broad back when criticisms and insults are made – when possible, gently correct.
6. Pray in the digital world! Establish sacred spaces, opportunities for stillness, reflection and meditation online.
7. Establish connections, relationships and build communion. Church has always been about 'gathering'. In this, it is worth considering an ecumenical presence for the Christian churches online. The internet tends to be a place of ethical and intellectual relativism, and often of aggressive secularism. The scandal of disunity among Christians can be easily exploited and exaggerated. Therefore, we must seek to share resources so that we can have a powerful Gospel witness. Wouldn't it be wonderful if people started noticing online: 'See how these Christians love one another'?
8. Educate our young to keep themselves safe and to use the internet responsibly.
9. Witness to human dignity at all times online. Seek, as Pope Benedict once said, to 'give a soul to the internet'. We are well aware of the pervasive

prevalence of pornography on the internet which can 'pollute the spirit', destroy and degrade human sexuality and relationships, reduce persons to objects for gratification, draw millions into the commodification and commercialization of sex, feed the monster that is human trafficking.

10. Be missionary, be aware that with the help of the internet, a message has the potential to reach the ends of the earth in seconds. In this regard, let us foster and call forth charisms in younger committed people who understand the power and potential of the net to bear witness.

On 5 May Pope Francis tweeted: @Pontifex: What does "evangelize" mean? To give witness with joy and simplicity to what we are and what we believe in. That is our challenge and our privilege as Christians. Freely we have received the joy of the gospel now let us freely give it.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

A good role model is someone who is always positive, calm, and confident in themselves. You don't want someone who is down or tries to bring you down. Everyone likes a person who is happy with their achievements, but continues to strive for bigger and better objectives.

Monday

Authentic love is obviously something good... When we love, we become most fully ourselves, most fully human... People often think they are being loving when actually they are being possessive or manipulative. People sometimes treat others as objects to satisfy their own needs... How easy it is to be deceived by the many voices in our society that advocate a permissive approach to sexuality, without regard for modesty, self-respect or the moral values that bring quality to human relationships! This is worship of a false god. Instead of bringing life, it brings death.

Pope Benedict XVI

Tuesday

It matters little what form of prayer we adopt or how many words we use. What matters is the faith which lays hold on God, knowing that He knows our needs before we even ask Him. That is what gives Christian prayer its boundless confidence and its joyous certainty.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Wednesday

Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right. - Max Lucado

Thursday

Let us learn from the Virgin Mary how to be bolder in obeying the word of God. - Pope Francis

Friday

Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Saturday

Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts. Mother Teresa



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**August 18 2019 // Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time //
Lectionary: 120 // Gospel LK 12:49-53**

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Spiritual Reflection: "...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. Just a fire changes the landscape so Jesus wants to change the world.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Why does Jesus want the world to change?
2. Do you want the world to change?
3. Are you an advocate for changing the world?
4. What are you on fire for?
5. How are you spreading the fire of God's love?



PRO-LIFE

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 ST. GREGORY THE GREAT
Acclaim To The Suffering Christ

O Lord, You received affronts without number from Your blasphemers, yet each day You free captive souls from the grip of the ancient enemy.

You did not avert Your face from the spittle of perfidy, yet You wash souls in saving waters.

You accepted Your scourging without murmur, yet through your meditation You deliver us from endless chastisements.

You endured ill-treatment of all kinds, yet You want to give us a share in the choirs of angels in glory everlasting.

You did not refuse to be crowned with thorns, yet You save us from the wounds of sin.

In your thirst You accepted the bitterness of gall, yet You prepare Yourself to fill us with eternal delights.

You kept silence under the derisive homage rendered You by Your executioners, yet You petition the Father for us although You are his equal in Divinity.

You came to taste death, yet You were the Life and had come to bring it to the dead. - Amen.



Humor

☺ What's brown and sticky? → A stick.

☺ What does a pepper do when it's angry? → It gets jalapeño face!

☺ What's a foot long and slippery? → A slipper.

☺ Two gold fish are in a tank. One looks at the other and says, "You know how to drive this thing?!"

Two soldiers are in a tank. One looks at the other and says, "BLUBLUBBLUBLUBBLUB."

☺ As a scarecrow, people say I'm outstanding in my field. → But hay, it's in my jeans.

A man is walking in the desert with his horse and his dog when the dog says, "I can't do this. I need water." The man says, "I didn't know dogs could talk." → The horse says, "Me neither!"