

August 25, 2019 – Twenty First Sunday Ordinary Time

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



SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Spiritual Randomness

The following was sent to me by a priest friend who knows that I do a lot of writing. It is titled Ten Pathways to Positive Speech and was written by Lori Palatnik with Bob Burg.

Gossip may be defined as any form of communication that harms another. It can ruin lives, assassinate reputations, split families, alienate friends and destroy businesses.

On the other hand, a gossip-free environment leads to peaceful lives, healthier relationships, and overall prosperity.

Yes, the gift of speech is a marvelous one, depending upon how it is used. Would you like your words to soothe instead of sting? Heal instead of hurt? And build instead of burn? Following these ten pathways will help:

1. **Speak No Evil.** Say only positive statements. Let words of kindness be on your tongue. This means to respond instead of react. And, even, to edit your speech before you speak.
2. **Hear No Evil.** Refuse to listen to gossip, slander and other negative forms of speech. Hint: If avoiding the conversation is impossible, have another topic of "positive" interest you can quickly bring up in order to change the subject.
3. **Don't Rationalize Destructive Speech.** Excuses like "But it's true" or "I'm only joking" or "I can tell my spouse anything" just don't cut it. Gossip is gossip, anyway you cut it. Besides, the fact that it is true is what qualifies it as gossip. If it were not true, it would be libel or slander.
4. **See No Evil.** Judge people favorably, the way you would want them to judge you. If you've ever been accused of doing something for which you know you were innocent, then you know how it feels to be misjudged. Remember, if you weren't there, you don't know. And, even if you were, you may have missed what actually happened in context.
5. **Beware of Speaking Evil Without Saying An Evil Word.** Body language, and even positive speech, can bring tremendous destruction. Yes, telling someone you know takes advantage of others' kindness that a particular person will give you "the shirt off his back," although it seems like positive speech, is not an act of kindness.
6. **Be Humble; Avoid Arrogance.** These will be your greatest weapons against destructive speech. As Rabbi Noah Weinberg teaches, "Take pleasure in your accomplishments, not pride." This way you recognize the Ultimate Source of your accomplishments. And those who are arrogant are so filled with themselves, there is no room for their Creator in their lives.
7. **Beware Of Repeating Information.** Loose lips sink ships. Even positive information needs permission before being repeated. Telling someone who's out of a job that your mutual friend, Julie, got a raise, does not constitute proper speech.
8. **Honesty Really Is The Best Policy—Most of the Time.** Be careful to always tell the truth unless it will hurt others, break your own privacy or publicize your accomplishments. Strive for honesty in everything you do. But if it's between honesty and unnecessarily hurting another's feelings, it's better not to be so truthful. Those who boast about being "brutally honest" are usually more brutal than honest.
9. **Learn to Say, "I'm Sorry."** Everyone makes mistakes. If you've spoken badly about someone, clear it up immediately. It might be embarrassing, but get it over with quickly. Apologize, ask for forgiveness, and let him or her know it won't happen again.
10. **Forgive.** If you have been wronged, let it go. Forgive for your sake, if not for theirs. Those who can forgive live healthier, happier, and less stressful lives. Those who say they'll forgive but

not forget are actually saying that they'll neither forgive nor forget.

Try this for the next month. The good news is, if you slip up now and then, it only means you are human. Try again. I congratulate you simply for making the effort.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

Each person with his or her history of being accepted or rejected, with his or her past history of inner pain and difficulties in relationships, is different. But in each one there is a yearning for communion and belonging, but at the same time a fear of it. Love is what we most want, yet it is what we fear the most. - Jean Vanier

Monday

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.

Thomas Aquinas

Tuesday

Don't have to do all the good but try doing at least some.

Wednesday

The quality of the Sacraments depend not on the minister but on God.

Thursday

Herod was enslaved by so many people and desires that he could no longer do the good.

Friday

Always be ready to love.

Saturday

Rejoice!



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**August 25 2019 // Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
// Lectionary: 123 // Gospel LK 13:22-30**

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong

enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from. And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Spiritual Reflection: "Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our church. We are fighting today for costly grace." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Cheap grace is like eating all you want on a diet and never exercising. It just wont work.

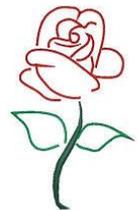
Spiritual Questions:

1. How many people do you think will be saved and why?
2. What about the many who ate with Jesus but still did not make it into heaven?
3. What does "wailing and grinding of teeth" mean to Jesus?
4. How do you know you are on the narrow path?
5. Could God be expecting more of you?



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

THE PRAYER LOOK UPON THE FACE

O Almighty and Eternal God,
look upon the Face of Thy Son Jesus.
We present It to Thee with confidence to implore Thy

pardon.

The All-Merciful Advocate opens His mouth to plead our cause;

hearken to His cries,

behold His tears, O God,

and through His infinite merits

hearken to Him when He intercedes

for us poor miserable sinners.

Amen.



Humor

☺ A guy goes into a lawyer's office and asks the lawyer: "Excuse me, how much do you charge?" - The lawyer responds: "I charge £1,000 to answer three questions." "Bloody hell – That's a bit expensive isn't it?" "Yes. What's your third question?"

☺ What is the resemblance between a green apple and a red apple? -They're both red except for the green one.

☺ I have an EpiPen. - My friend gave it to me when he was dying, it seemed very important to him that I have it.

☺ How did the hipster burn his mouth? - He ate the pizza before it was cool.

☺ An atheist, a Crossfitter, and a vegan walk into a bar. - I know because they told me.