

September 1, 2019 - Twenty-Second Sunday Ordinary Time

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



## SPiritUAL PONDERINGS

### Pinterest Church

The year before I came to St. Joseph Parish, I decided that I needed a new hobby and so I began woodworking. At the time I was content to make different size crucifixes. It was a simple project cut two pieces of wood and then join them together using a dado blade and glue. I was also blessed that I had a good friend who was good at using tools and the parish maintenance person was also willing to teach me a few things.

When I first began my woodworking hobby, I never would imagine that one day I would be making tables, bookcases, etc. Eventually though I began to look for new projects to do and someone suggested that I look at Pinterest. If I had to describe Pinterest for those who do not know what it is, I would say it was something like Google for hobbies. I just typed in woodworking and all these different woodworking websites popped up.

A few months ago, I decided to type in the word "Church" into my Pinterest search bar and found some interesting articles about ways people are trying to make their parish Church better. For the month of September, I am going to share some of these with you. Quotes from the Pinterest Sites will be in Bold and my commentary will be in regular font. Sadly, I did not think at the time to copy the actual website address.

The first Pinterest site I came across that caught my attention was titled: *5 Ways to Help Make your Church Visitors feel Welcome.*

I (the author) **was reading in a book today and it inspired me to make this blog post for you. Every church wants (or should want) visitors! Always be wanting to grow.** Sometimes I wonder, if we truly want visitors at Church. We have all heard the jokes about "don't sit in my pew". How often though do we invite people to go to Mass with us on Sunday.

#### 1. Smile at people.

**A smile can change a person's day and make them feel connected. When you don't smile, people can assume you are too arrogant or mean, even though you may be just thinking about something else. So do your best to smile at people you meet, walk past, or look at.**

For those of you who know me well, know that I have a problem smiling. I feel that my default facial expression is more of a frown than a smile. There have been many times where I have been having an awesome time and I think I am smiling the biggest smile and people will come up and ask me "What is wrong?" because my actual facial expression appears to be more frown than smile. This is something I struggle with every day because I know that I am more likely to approach someone or feel more comfortable around someone who has a smile on his or her face than a person who does not.

#### 2. Look them in the eyes.

**Looking people in the eyes is kindness. It says to them, "You count." And it reminds them that we are all part of the same human race. When you avoid looking people in the eyes, you seem cold and unattached, and that doesn't help to spread the love of Christ but hides it!**

I have found also that most of the time the reason I do not look people in the eyes it because I am feeling inadequate but I have also discovered that most of the time the person mistakes my own feelings of inadequacy for me being proud and snooty. I try very hard to trust in God's teaching that everyone is His child.

#### 3. Offer a hand.

**When someone is struggling with something heavy, offer them a hand. When someone looks lost, ask them if you can help. When you offer to help people, you share kindness with them and lighten their load.**

We do not always have to find someone beat up on the side of the road to take on the role of the Good Samaritan. Sometimes it is the small acts of helpfulness that help people connect with the larger Church. I can remember

my first time at a Life Teen Camp outside of Missouri and how appreciative I was of a man Sean who kept making sure I felt included.

#### 4. Say hello.

**In today's busy world it's easy to become isolated from the others, oblivious to the pain and concern of the people around us. But kindness gets involved; it steps into the lives of others, even if only to say hi. It WILL make a difference. Say hi to anyone that looks you in the eyes. Even if they don't look at you, interrupt their isolation and say hello. Remember, People remember Kindness!**

Be the first to offer kindness. You have permission to be kind and welcoming.

#### 5. Go above and beyond the normality.

**Here are 'rituals' visitors usually do at church. Go into the building, find a seat near the back, (they wouldn't dare sit up front!) sing, listen to the preacher, get up and go.**

Take time to introduce yourself and share with the visitor why it is that you love the parish you go to. What is it about the Mass that strikes you? Let the other person know that you are excited that they are here.

**Make sure your church is Alive in Christ! Be Joyful in the Service of Your Lord and King. We need each other to do this!**

Remember to be happy that you are at Church because it is a chance to grow closer to God and that attending Mass is a blessing. Don't spend a lot of time complaining especially to visitors.



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

### *Sunday*

Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. - Saint Augustine

### *Monday*

We were anointed priest prophet and king at our baptism.

### *Tuesday*

The moment you experience self-satisfaction in your ministry is the most dangerous moment. This is when the devil will concentrate all his forces to take you by surprise. - Cardinal Thuan

### *Wednesday*

In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us.

### *Thursday*

Remember, never give up and always believe in yourself in spite of rejection.

### *Friday*

Skills and abilities are only useful if you are in the right place at the right time. Otherwise they go to waste.

### *Saturday*

"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things." -- Ronald Reagan



## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**September 1 2019 // Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time // Lectionary: 126 // Gospel LK 14:1, 7-14**

On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully. He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say,

'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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**Spiritual Reflection:** "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less." - C. S. Lewis. When I am in a gathering of people, if I am not careful, I can find myself searching for my friends instead of looking to see if there is someone who may be in need of a friend.

## Spiritual Questions

1. What besides pride might have motivated the Pharisees?
2. How can climbing the social ladder lead you away from God?
3. How can you think of yourself less?
4. How often do you look to find ways to help other people in new situations?
5. How does humility and trust in God work together?



### A HEALING PRAYER.

THE PRAYER HEALING THE SPIRIT SPECIAL INTENTIONS.

Gentle Jesus, with faith in Your healing powers and confidence in Your constant compassion, I ask you to heal the great suffering in our world. May my soul find rest in Your comforting love and relief from sorrow and anguish. Relying on Your love, I especially ask Your help in creating a culture of life I place my trust in Your power to heal my spirit from feelings of hopelessness, unrest, and despair. Amen.



## St. Monica Society

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

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY.

O Jesus, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, well-beloved Son of the Blessed Virgin and foster Child of St. Joseph, we most fervently implore Thee, through Mary Thine ever-blessed Mother and St. Joseph Thy foster father, take our fallen away brothers and sisters under Thy special charge and enclose them in the love of Thy Sacred Heart. They are the children of Thy Father in Heaven, created after His own image; they are Thy possession, for Thou hast purchased them with Thy Precious Blood; they are temples of the Holy Spirit, who sanctified them in Baptism and implanted in their hearts the virtues of faith, hope and charity.

O most loving Jesus, rule and guide them, that they may live according to the holy Catholic Faith, that they may not waver in their confidence in Thee and that they may ever remain faithful to Thy love.

O Mary, Blessed Mother of Jesus, grant to our fallen away brothers and sisters a place in thy pure maternal heart! Spread over them thy protecting mantle when danger threatens their innocence; keep them firm when they are about to stray from the path of virtue; and should they have the misfortune of falling into mortal sin, oh, then raise them up again, reconcile them with thy Divine Son and restore them to Sanctifying Grace.

And thou, O holy foster father St. Joseph, do not abandon our fallen away brothers and sisters!

Protect them from the assaults of the wicked enemy and deliver them from all dangers of soul and body.

O dear parents of the holy Child Jesus! Intercede for the parents of fallen away Catholics also, that they may continue to strive to inspire our fallen away brothers and sisters in the love and fear of God and one day attain with them the Beatific Vision.

Amen.



## Catholic Prayer

### PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH FOR SUCCESS IN WORK (by Pope Saint Pius X)

Glorious St. Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my many sins; to work with thankfulness and joy, considering it an honor to employ and develop, by means of labor, the gifts received from God; to work with order, peace, prudence and patience, never surrendering to weariness or difficulties; to work, above all, with purity of intention, and with detachment from self, having always death before my eyes and the account which I must render of time lost, of talents wasted, of good omitted, of vain complacency in success so fatal to the work of God. All for Jesus, all for Mary, all after thy example, O Patriarch Joseph. Such shall be my motto in life and death. - Amen.



# Humor

😊 How does NASA organize a party? // They planet.

😊 What's a pirate's favorite letter? // You think it's R but it be the C.

😊 Have you heard about corduroy pillows? // They're making headlines.

😊 Never criticize someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes. // That way, when you criticize them, you'll be a mile away, and you'll have their shoes.

😊 What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common? // Same middle name.