

September 8, 2019 - Twenty-Third Sunday Ordinary Time



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



## SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

### Pinterest Church

For the month of September, I am sharing with you some interesting articles I found on the internet using Pinterest. Quotes from the articles will be in bold and my commentary will be normal font.

This week's Pinterest article was titled: **10 Things Church Visitors Never Want to Hear** and was written by Ben Reed.

**1. Our pastor isn't normally this \_\_\_\_\_. Insert whatever you want in this blank: loud, obnoxious, offensive, long-winded. If you have to explain part of your pastor's style because you know outsiders won't like it, you've got a problem. Talk with your pastor about that.**

As a newly ordained priest before I was assigned to a parish, I was told many times "do not to sack your own quarterback." This saying from football was meant to remind us young priests how much harm we could do if we spoke badly about our pastor in public and how important it was that any issue, I had with the pastor needed to be dealt with between the pastor and I. So many times, I hear people speak negatively about their parish in such a way that makes me never want to be assigned there. If we are not speaking positively about our Church how can we ever expect our pews to be full again. On a side note, I think it is important to always approach problem people (including pastors) with love and patience. I am a big fan of Dale Carnegie's book *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

**2. We're full. Sorry. Always have a backup plan. Always. If someone sees your service is full once, they'll deal with it. But they probably won't come back if they don't see a plan you have in place.**

I wish we had this problem in our parishes more than twice a year. It is important to see Christmas and Easter as opportunities to get fallen away Catholics back into the life of the Church and not a time to complain about them taking up all the good parking spots.

**3. What are you doing here? Never say this. Never. Your shocked, open mouth reveals your judgmental spirit...at least in the eyes of visitors. When you say this, all they can think is, "God couldn't really love someone like you."**

One of my biggest pet peeves is men wearing hats inside the Church. I just want to scream at them especially if it a young boy with a ball cap on. I stop myself though and remind myself that maybe this person does not know that wearing a hat in Church is considered disrespectful. I therefore take the time to approach him and gently ask him to remove his cap. Most of the time they do so with no problem and they often seem grateful for knowing that what they were doing was wrong so now they can avoid doing it in the future.

**4. You can't serve now...you've got to be a member first. Why would someone want to become a member if they've never had the chance to serve?**

It is more crucial now than ever to welcome and serve people first and then hope that they will join the group. We serve them not because they are Christians but because we are.

**5. We don't believe in serving coffee on Sunday mornings. If you say this, I can only assume you are leading a church in the pit of Hell.**

I don't really know what to do with this one because we do not serve coffee on Sunday. We do take time once a month to have a donut Sunday and serve coffee. I am taking away from this point, the need for some sort of fellowship. We should do more together as a community than just worship God. This is why we have donut Sunday, festivals, and more.

**6. What's your address? I didn't catch it on the first six forms I had you fill out. Try to streamline the "first-time visitors check-in process." Nobody likes to feel like they're visiting HR on their first church visit. We need to better at this.**

**7. You want to join a small group? You'll have to wait until next fall. If you ask people to wait more than a month to join community, they'll often look elsewhere.** One of the great things about St. Joseph is that we have a lot of actives for people to get involve with. Do you know what they all are? Have you ever directed someone to a ministry that you think they would be good at? For example if someone loves sewing have you suggest they go to "Cases for Smiles" ministry which makes pillowcases for sick children.

**8. Here we just care about the Truth. If you don't like it, you can leave. I get it. You love the Bible. You love preaching the Truth. But don't love that more than you love people.**

It is important for people to know that you care for them for who they are and not for who you hope they will become.

We all know that spending time with Jesus changes us for the better. Don't expect the end produce today. Give Jesus time to work on them.

**9. Here are the 38 things we do each week as a church. Simplifying is the key, otherwise you'll give people decision paralysis.**

We have a lot of things that go on in the parish. Maybe to start, just take time to do one activity to get started. Chances are you will find people at the one activity that will connect you to other groups.

**10. Next time, could you make sure to wear \_\_\_\_\_. Fill that in with "something nicer," "something more relaxed" or "something that's clean," and you've offended someone unnecessarily.**

Instead of suggesting how someone you just met can improve, simply thank him or her coming and being themselves. Compliment then without adding anything else to it.



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

### *Sunday*

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" -St. Catherine of Sienna

### *Monday*

On the Sabbath day, we are remembering that my relationship with God did not begin with what I've done, it is not sustained by what I do, and it is not guaranteed to the end by my effort or work. I'm saved from beginning to end by Jesus' work. - Mark Driscoll

### *Tuesday*

Through discipline, discipline is the other side of discipleship. If you want to follow Jesus, you have to have discipline. - Henri Nouwen

### *Wednesday*

"I have often wondered why people never want to put a stone monument of the Eight Beatitudes on a courthouse lawn. Then I realize that the Eight Beatitudes of Jesus would probably not be very good for any war, any macho worldview, the wealthy, or our consumer economy." — Richard Rohr,

### *Thursday*

Some Christians are heroic because they fought back against evil. But today we'll learn about a hero who was great because he didn't fight back. – Movie about Jackie Robison.

### *Friday*

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. - C. S. Lewis

### *Saturday*

You'll never find the solution if you don't see the problem. - Gilbert K. Chesterton



## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**September 8 2019 // Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time // Lectionary: 129 // Gospel LK 14:25-33**

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."



**Spiritual Reflection:** The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand. - Vince Lombardi. People playing sports professionally have to put team obligations like practice first and family fun second. Jesus desires us to put Him above all because doing so will not only allow us to achieve prize of heaven but also improve the lives above us.

### Spiritual Questions

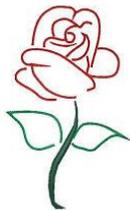
1. How will putting God first improve the rest of your life?
2. How will putting God first improve your relationships with others?
3. What do you need God to give you in order to follow Him?
4. What spiritual enemies do you have that you need God's help for?
5. What possessions keep you from following God's will?



### 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 BEFORE A CRUCIFIX

Behold, O good and sweetest Jesus, I cast myself upon my knees in Thy sight, and with the most fervent desire of my soul I pray and beseech Thee to impress upon my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a most firm desire of amendment: whilst with deep affection and grief of soul I consider within myself and mentally contemplate Thy five most precious Wounds, having before mine eyes that which David, the prophet, long ago spoke in Thine Own

person concerning Thee, my Jesus: They have pierced My hands and My feet, they have numbered all My bones  
[Psalm 21, 17, 18]

Next, say the

"Our Father..." "Hail Mary..." "Glory Be..."

for the Catholic Church and the intentions of the Holy Father.



**I invented a  
new word!**

**Plagiarism!**