



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

July 2013

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

By Dr. Adrian Rogers

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1

When the Mayflower first touched America's shore, those Pilgrims who survived the ocean voyage gathered below deck to compose The Mayflower Compact. It began, "In the name of God, amen." In it they stated their purpose for coming to this new land: "for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith."

I believe God put a hedge of protection at that time around this country. The Bible teaches a doctrine of hedges. We can see it in the life of Job (Job 1:9-10) and in ancient Israel (Isaiah 5:1-5). And for the next three centuries America was strong — because America's first line of defense has not been the military, but God Himself.

But in the last 50 years we've politely told God, with the aid of the ACLU and others, that we can handle things ourselves. He can take His hedge and go back to heaven. If you want to read the signs of our times, see in Scripture what it was like before God destroyed the world with a flood — a day of secular philosophy, scientific progress, sexual immorality, selfish indifference, and stunning violence. Sound familiar?

THE AUTHOR OF HOPE IS GOD

Our nation was shaken to her knees this time nine years ago, but the fear that once gripped every heart has now turned to apathy. There are some things, however, that cannot be shaken:

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (ROMANS 11:36)

You and I dwell in time. God dwells in eternity. Past, present and future are all alike to Him. "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." (Colossians 1:16-17)

GOD'S KINGDOM (HEBREWS 12:28-29)

Some sailors were trying to steer their boat one night in the middle of a storm. They didn't know which direction land was. Then the clouds opened and a sailor saw the North Star. "Now I know the direction to land!" he said. They manned the oars and began to pull toward shore. "Keep your eye on that star," he continued, "for if we lose sight of it, we're lost." There is a star in the heavens — God Himself, and His kingdom cannot fall.

GOD'S WORD (1 PETER 1:23)

When things are unsure and there's bad news all around, the solid, sure Word of God stands firm and will never fail. I'm not so interested in what some philosopher, politician, or scientist has to say about current events. I want to know what God says.

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OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

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The month of July is dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

The Blood that coursed through the veins of Christ was a part of that Sacred Humanity made possible by the maternity of Mary, whose parents, St. Joachim and St. Anne are honored this month. (July 26). Our Lord's blood poured out on the Cross purchased our salvation, washed clean the robes of the martyrs, and gave birth to the Church as it flowed from his wounded side. The Precious Blood of

Christ -- now pulsing through his Mystical Body -- continues its salvific work, preserving and purifying, repairing and providing nourishment for regeneration and renewal of its members.

July's longer and warmer days also provide us with the opportunity for renewal, both interior and exterior. Schedules relax and pressures ease, inviting travel. But, whether we travel or not, like the missionary, Bl. Junipero Serra (July 1), we preach to others -- by our conduct, our speech, even the clothes we wear. May we be modest in everything we do, imitating St. Maria Goretti, the young martyr for purity (July 6), and "preaching" Christ to everyone we meet.

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FEASTS FOR JULY

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of July are:

- 1 Bl. Junipero Serra (USA); St. Oliver Plunket, Opt. Mem.
- 3 Thomas the Apostle, Feast
- 4 Independence Day (USA), Opt. Mem.
- 5 Anthony Mary of Zaccaria; Elizabeth of Portugal, Opt. Mem.
- 6 Maria Goretti, Opt. Mem.
- 9 Augustine Zhao Rong and companions, Opt. Mem.
- 11 Benedict, Memorial
- 13 Henry, Opt. Mem.
- 15 Bonaventure, Memorial
- 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Opt. Mem.
- 18 Camillus de Lellis (USA), Opt. Mem.
- 20 Apollinaris, Opt. Mem.
- 22 Mary Magdalene, Memorial
- 23 Bridget, Opt. Mem.
- 24 Sharbel (Charbel) Makhloof, Opt. Mem.
- 25 James, Feast
- 26 Joachim and Anne, Memorial
- 29 Martha, Memorial
- 30 Peter Chrysologus, Opt. Mem.
- 31 Ignatius of Loyola, Memorial

The feast of The feast of Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha (July 14) is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

OUR CENACLE CORNER

Seeking a deeper relationship with God through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures

ACCEPTANCE OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES USING OUR FREE WILL/RIGHT TO CHOOSE WILL MAKE US MOVE ON TO RECEIVE GRACES FROM GOD

ACCEPT GOD'S WILL

- Psalm 91:2

MOVE FORWARD

- Isaiah 43:18-19

MAKE OUR CHOICE

- Matthew 7:13-14

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

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Since that day at Calvary, when Jesus shed his blood for us, countless hymns have sung the praises of this wonderful, life-giving gift. As we ponder all that Jesus' blood has won for us, God wants to fill our own hearts with a hymn of praise and adoration as well. What do you think such a hymn would proclaim?

First, it would sing of Jesus' blood cleansing our minds and hearts (Ephesians 1:7). When we ask God's forgiveness, we are washed clean. We are made pure and holy before the Father. He takes our sins and casts them into the sea. He washes away the guilt and sorrow. But even more, he transforms us so that we love his ways rather than the ways of sin.



Second, it would sing about the cup of life offered to us at every Eucharist. As we receive this cup, we are allowing Jesus to fill our hearts with nothing less than his very life. Scripture tells us that life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11), and so we believe that the life of Jesus -- the obedient Son who sought the Father in everything and did only what the Father told him -- is in his blood. What a precious gift this is! Day after day, week after week, we can be filled, and filled again, with the mercy, the power, and the comfort of divine life. Nothing ever has to separate us from Jesus. He offers himself to us again and again!

Finally, this hymn would sing of the power of Jesus' blood to overcome the lies and accusations of the devil (Revelation 12:11). Whenever we find ourselves bombarded with accusations over past sins, with demeaning reminders of our weakness, unworthiness, or uselessness, we can turn to the blood of Jesus for protection -- and Satan must flee! His temptations, his accusations lose their grip, and we are restored to the truth once more of who we are in Christ. Deliverance is ours, even as Jesus rejoices over us -- all because we have called upon the power of his blood!

“Lord Jesus, thank you for your precious blood. Because of your sacrifice, I am cleansed, I am set free from Satan, and I receive your very life. When I receive the cup of your everlasting covenant, let a hymn of praise rise in my heart!” ☐

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY AMERICA!

CONSECRATION OF AMERICA TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER

www.alwayscatholic.com

Immaculate Mary, most Holy Mother of God and of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we the people of the United States of America at this historic moment stand before you in a humbled condition of love, loyalty, affection, and thankfulness. To your Immaculate Heart we recommit and dedicate ourselves throughout the entire American nation.



To your Son Jesus Christ we pledge to serve His teaching, His church, and to work for His kingdom on earth. O Mary, to you do we flee for protection. Surround the American family with your maternal care; enfold us in your arms. Give to this American land, built on the blood and tears of so many faithful forebears, a peaceful and praiseworthy existence in truth, love, justice, and freedom.

O Mary, we submit to you as the Patroness of our beloved country. O Mary, Help of Christians, enfold the Holy Father and the Catholic Church within your protective cloak; be our shield in the days ahead. Give to the Church true holiness and freedom. Obtain for our leaders holy zeal, the ability to face the truth, and the courage to correct all abuses. Stop the flood of atheism, greed, heresy, impurity, lukewarmness, materialism, and selfishness that threaten our nation. Show to those who have strayed from the Church the way to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mother of God, accept our personal consecration to you and, through you, bind us forever to the Holy Trinity. Gather us all into your Immaculate Heart and unite us forever with Jesus.

O Mary, we love you. Amen. ☐



OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL FEAST DAY – JULY 16

Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace, Pius Parsch

Sacred Scripture celebrated the beauty of Carmel where the prophet Elijah defended the purity of Israel's faith in the living God. In the twelfth century, hermits withdrew to that mountain and later founded the Carmelite order devoted to the contemplative life under the patronage of Mary, the holy Mother of God.

Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is worldwide, and most Catholics are familiar with the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular.

Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock on July 16, 1251, and gave him the scapular with the following words, which are preserved in a fourteenth century narrative: "This will be for you and for all Carmelites the privilege, that he who dies in this will not suffer eternal fire." The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was instituted for the Carmelites in 1332, and extended to the whole Church by Benedict XIII in 1726.

July 16 is the principal feast day of the Carmelite Order. Through the efforts of the crusader Berthold, a group of hermits living on Mount Carmel were organized into an Order after the traditional Western type about the year 1150. Oppressed by the Saracens, the monks slowly emigrated to Europe. During the night preceding the sixteenth of July, 1225, the Blessed Virgin is said to have commanded Pope Honorius III to approve the foundation. Since the Carmelites were still under constant harassment, the sixth General of the Order, St. Simon Stock, pleaded with the Blessed Virgin for some special sign of her protection. On July 16, 1251, she designated the scapular as the special mark of her maternal love. That is why the present feast is also known as the feast of the Scapular. The scapular, as part of the habit, is common to many religious Orders, but it is a special feature of the Carmelites. A smaller form of the scapular is given to lay persons in order that they may share in the great graces associated with it. Such a grace is the "Sabbatine privilege." In the so-called Bulla Sabbatina John XXII affirmed that wearers of the scapular are soon freed from the flames of purgatory, at least by the Saturday after death. The confirmation of the Bulla Sabbatina was promulgated by the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, July 4, 1908. □



... I am your Mother Mary.

This day of my 1st Saturday, I ask you my children to go and stay in adoration before the Eucharistic exposition and feel the presence of my son Jesus.

The adoration that you do is a commitment of love that invites your heart to be as one with the body and blood of my son Jesus.

This communion will be an assurance that you belong to a living God whose intention for creation is for you to be happy in His kingdom.

My beads of Rosary, the adoration of the Eucharist and love for others in thoughts, words and deeds are works of spiritual and physical intentions that unite heaven and earth in the glory of the Eternal God.

Thank you my children for listening to me. I love you my children.

Mary, Your Lady of the Eucharist

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... I am your Mother Mary.

Focus everything to God and the blessings and graces you will receive. The misery and discomfort you experience are ways by which God calls your attention to rely on Him for help and source of healing physically and spiritually.

On this day of continuous prayers, offer your prayers to people who are undergoing physical and mental distress and other sickness for God is calling their attention. When they accept their condition, difficult as it may be, only then that the true representation of God's work of Hope and inspirations will be in their hearts.

My children, I am here for you as your Mother always opening my arms to assist and intercede for you before my son Jesus in the glory of Eternal God's throne.

Thank you my children for adhering to my call.

I love you my children.

Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary

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KNOWING OUR SAINTS

THE SAINT OF THE FIRST RED CROSS HOW CAMILLUS OF LELLIS BECAME AN AMBASSADOR OF MERCY FEAST DAY – JULY 18

By: Louise Perrotta

If you've ever been tempted to think that you're not cut out for sanctity, consider the case of Camillus of Lellis.



Here is a saint—the patron of hospitals, health care workers, and the sick -- whose burning love for God effected a widespread reform of patient care. "I'll never forget the sight," wrote one person who saw six-foot-six Camillus in action. "When he was attending a sick person, he looked like a hen with her chicks or like a mother at her child's bedside."

And yet for the first third of his life, nothing about Camillus suggested a saint in the making. The man who would become such a gripping image of God's mercy started out as a weak and disadvantaged character who was in pitiful need of mercy himself.

Expecting the Worst. The story of Camillus begins auspiciously enough. His devout mother, Camilla, was childless and nearly sixty when he was born, on May 25, 1550. Wondering neighbors in her small Italian town called her St. Elizabeth, after John the Baptist's mother, and saw the pregnancy as a miraculous answer to her prayers. And like other expectant mothers of saints, Camilla had a prophetic dream: She saw her son wearing a big red cross on his chest, leading others who were dressed the same way.

But here the pious story takes an unexpected turn. Because prisoners of the day wore a cross as they were led to execution, Camilla misinterpreted her dream to mean that Camillus was likely to meet a bad end as a criminal gang leader.

She fretted as he grew into a wild and moody boy who was easily influenced by the wrong crowd. Often before her death, when Camillus was thirteen, she would tell him her dream in order to warn him away from the fate she foresaw. We can only imagine how her gloomy predictions affected him.

At nineteen, Camillus joined his father, a professional soldier who had been fighting for various armies in their incessant regional wars. Before Camillus saw action, however, both fell sick, and his father died.

Suddenly sobered, Camillus decided to pursue a better life. He even vowed to become a Franciscan. But his resolve was short-lived, and he came away from his brief military experience with two more liabilities: an addiction to gambling and a festering leg sore that refused to heal.

No Angel of Mercy. If you were wealthy in Renaissance Italy, your ailments were treated at home by private doctors and nurses. If you were poor, like Camillus, you traveled to one of the urban charity hospitals founded by pious benefactors and overseen by religious groups.

Many of these hospitals were grand buildings with large, high-ceilinged wards dominated by beautiful altars where the sick could easily attend Mass. But given the volume of needs and the limitations of funds and medical knowledge, they were also noisy, smelly, unhygienic places where patients sometimes slept two to a bed. Many of the hospital attendants were unfeeling and incompetent, ignoring patients' basic needs. Some they hauled away for burial without checking to make sure they were really dead!

Because the work was messy, risky, and poorly paid, these aides had a high turnover rate. Anyone who applied was generally hired on the spot, no background check, no questions asked. This was especially true at the "hospitals for the incurables," which treated patients so ravaged by disease -- most especially, syphilis -- that no one else wanted them.

Camillus made his health care début as an aide at one of these hospitals, Rome's St. James of the Incurables, in exchange for treatment of his leg injury. He was soon fired for picking fights and slipping away to play cards whenever his supervisors turned their backs. As he regretfully told a friend much later, he lived for gambling then and cared nothing for the sufferings of the sick.

"Give Me Time, Lord." A soldier of fortune once again, Camillus fought and gambled throughout Italy for the next four years. One November day, as he stood shivering and begging in front of a church, he learned that the local Capuchin friars were hiring workers for a building project. Remember that vow you once made? the young man's conscience said. Here's your chance to reform. But when his traveling and gambling buddy, Tiberio, said to forget it and began walking in the opposite direction, Camillus followed meekly behind.

They had covered twelve miles when, late at night, Camillus could resist God's call no longer. He shook

himself free and began running back to the Capuchins. The grace of the moment was so strong, he said afterwards, that he covered the distance "like a greyhound," despite his ever painful leg.

The next months were rocky, especially when Tiberio appeared and tried to lure Camillus away. He held on -- just barely -- until February 2, 1575: "the day of my conversion." It happened as Camillus was riding back to the monastery on a packhorse loaded with provisions. He was mulling over what one of the Capuchins had told him about living for God and fleeing sin, when he was suddenly overcome by two overwhelming realizations: the miserable state of his soul and God's great mercy.

Camillus knelt on the deserted road for a long time, racked by sobs. "Lord, I have sinned. Oh my God, for so long I have ignored you and have not loved you! Forgive me, and give me time to make amends."

The First Red Cross. From that moment, Camillus made his life an expression of love for God and neighbor. He discovered prayer, fasting, and works of mercy. He tried - - three times -- to join the Franciscans, but was regretfully refused because of his leg ailment. His new confessor, St. Philip Neri, helped him to recognize this seeming setback as a sign of where God wanted him.

The "new" Camillus returned to Rome and St. James Hospital; by 1579 he inspired such confidence that he was named administrator and personnel manager. Knowing now that serving the sick was a way to love and serve Jesus present in them, Camillus put a priority on teaching the aides to respect the dignity of their patients.

But progress was slow, and Camillus knew it -- for one thing, because he hid between the beds to observe the aides' behavior when he wasn't in sight. Pondering the problem on the feast of the Assumption in 1582, he finally saw a solution: a congregation of well-trained men who would tenderly serve the sick for love of God and not for money. As the idea evolved, Camillus decided that he could do this best as a priest.

Five co-workers joined enthusiastically in this new venture, and it quickly became reality. Within just a few years, newly ordained Fr. Camillus was overseeing a growing and officially recognized religious order, the Ministers of the Sick.

On their habits, they wore the great sign of the Father's love for his children: what else but a red cross?

"I Will Help You." Twice in those challenging early years, Camillus heard Jesus encouraging him to persevere: "Why are you troubled, you coward? Go on and I will help you, for this is my work and not yours."

Taking Jesus at his word, Camillus instilled his group with a "go anywhere, do anything" spirit of dedication. "If no sick and needy people could be found in the world," he said, "we ought to go in search of them and dig them up from underground to do them good and be merciful to them."

It was not a group for the faint-hearted. Ministers of the Sick took a vow to serve regardless of possible danger to their own lives. In 1589, three of them made that sacrifice after contracting typhus from Spanish soldiers miserably quarantined on galleys near Naples. They were the first of many.

In 1590, five more died in Rome, as they worked among the thousands of beggars who had been rounded up and crammed into one of the hospitals during a famine and plague epidemic. "Sixty thousand people died in the city that year," wrote Fr. Sandro Ciccattelli, who worked alongside Camillus and wrote his first biography. Fr. Ciccattelli's vivid descriptions of conditions are not for the fainthearted either.

Tender Mercy. Mercy was at the heart of the health care reform that Camillus introduced, and Camillus exemplified it best. It started at the hospital door, where he met new patients, with special attention to those who seemed sad or distressed. He hugged them, washed their feet, made sure they had a clean bed -- anything to make them feel at home.

Their spiritual health was his first concern. Were they right with God? Did they know he loved them? Did they want confession? Could they receive Communion?

Camillus conferred with the doctors to learn about medical treatments and procedures. He found out which foods were suitable for specific illnesses and what needed to be done on rounds. He made up lists of tasks to carry out -- practical points regarding patient comfort and hygiene. Going from bed to bed, he adjusted linens, bandaged wounds, comforted, clipped toenails, waved away flies. No need was too small.

"Father, rest yourself!" some of the sick begged Camillus, seeing him weary and in pain from his leg sore. He would answer with a smile, "My children, I am your servant and must do whatever I can to help you."

The Precious Blood of Jesus. Camillus was known and deeply loved for his holiness, but he never did become a picture-perfect saint. "He was melancholy by nature," wrote Fr. Ciccattelli -- except when he was serving his beloved Redeemer in the sick: "Then he would shake off his dullness and be merry and cheerful. Sometimes, carried off into ecstasy, he would go leaping and dancing through the hospital."

Camillus had never been moderate by nature either, and one can imagine that his impassioned expressions of love for God and neighbor could be disquieting. Once, lost in prayer at a patient's bedside, he levitated into a heavy curtain rod and canopy, which fell onto the sick man and severely injured him. Fortunately, Camillus also had the gift of healing.

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GOD TOUCHED ME

MORE THAN ADEQUATE

*I know that You can do everything,
and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.*

Job 42:2

By Abbe Joel Joseph Estrada

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, I grew up in a Roman Catholic family with two loving parents and a younger sister. Our Catholic lifestyle was the cradle type kind – going to Mass every Sunday and practising occasional Filipino devotions from time to time.

Having attended Catholic school from kindergarten until my completion of high school, I had inklings of becoming a priest ever since the second grade. Of course, having other pursuits such as wanting to grow up as a computer engineer, I decided to put the thought of priestly calling in the backburner, so to say, and focused on pleasing my family and myself with a promising electrical engineering and computer science career formation at the University of California in Berkeley.

Before I entered college, I had previously explored different religious orders, such as the Canons Regular of the Immaculate Conception as well as the Brothers of the Christian Schools of Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle. Those pursuits were quite helpful in enriching my Catholic faith, but none of them seemed right for me.

A vocation is something indescribable, as it is a divine calling from our Lord. During college, I searched for a right parish in the Berkeley area, but was shocked at the liberal, progressive, and even illicit liturgical practices at certain churches. Later did I find out that the Free-Speech Movement started in Berkeley; no wonder why the Catholics in that area started developing falsely interpreted ideas of worship and doctrine during the '60s, with innovations of non-scholastic theology.

This made me search for a more “conservative” parish. I came upon Saint Margaret Mary Church in Oakland, about thirty minutes away from my dormitory. I attended my first Latin Mass in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite and was truly impressed by the reverence and due respect for the liturgy and for our Lord.

At the end of the Mass, I continued to give thanks to the Lord for having finally found a parish where I can go weekly. I found out that there was another Mass right after. Thinking that I would pray some more and leave the church during the first few minutes of the next Mass, I was suddenly captivated by the Roman fiddle-back chasuble of the celebrating priest, who was wearing a black square hat called a biretta.

I decided to stay and as I saw the priest celebrating facing away from us and towards the cross, I suddenly realized that he was not celebrating the new Mass in Latin, but the more ancient Latin Mass that was celebrated before the liturgical reforms of Pope Paul VI.

An indescribable yearning suddenly filled my being. I felt that moment a call from God, much stronger than the experience I had when I was younger, to serve Him as a priest.

A few weeks later, I expressed my desire to the priest of my vocation. I was later introduced to the Vicar General of the society that the priest belonged to, and told me of the process and requirements of the priestly formation.

The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest is an Apostolic Society of Pontifical Right based in the Tuscan region near Florence, Italy, where I entered in 2007. The formation process usually takes seven years to complete and comprises one year of spiritual formation, two years of philosophy, and four years of theology.

I am now currently in my sixth year as seminarian. On July 3, 2013, I will be ordained a deacon -- just one step before receiving the holy order of the Priesthood.

As we all know, not all things are free, except the grace of God. There are expenses such as tuition fees that my family has to shoulder in order to pay for my formation. I have a few relatives who help pay for part of the tuition. Relying on Divine Providence, I have been praying to our Lord for His assistance in helping me cover the expenses.

It was last December during my vacation, that I indeed received God's help. I stepped into a local Filipino grocery store to talk to the owner about my situation, having been an acquaintance of hers and a frequent customer of her store. Later on, as if by mere coincidence, I came upon a man and his daughter who seemed hurried to pick up their order. It all happened so suddenly, as if God did plan it all out in His eternal wisdom (which is true after all), that he expressed his desire to help me, just like that. A truly God's providence that this person has placed his full confidence and trust in me, a stranger, and was willing to help pay for my formation at the seminary, with the help of a ministry that he leads, The Spiritual Army of God the Father.

Truly with God's benevolence He has extended amazing graces that make us realize His great love for all of us. With my experience I have seen His works and how He touches my life as I progress in this formation to be an ordained priest in about a year from now!

We, who are sinners, are unfaithful to Him; but He remains faithful to us in His promises. All we have to do is to follow Him, and His Church, and remain faithful until we are called by Him at the end in this journey of life. ☐

*If you have any personal articles
or God's miracle in your life
you want to share with the devotees,
we may be reached at
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OVERVIEW OF THE MONTH

The summer Readings of Ordinary Time remind us that our earthly pilgrimage is also a journey, a great adventure towards union with Christ, the Beginning and the End of our journey. Each Sunday with its Easter renewal becomes a mile marker along the way, linking where we have been with where we are going. May the Precious Blood of Jesus sustain us as we journey to our true home, with Mary and the angels as our companions on the way. ☐

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ONE NATION UNDER GOD

GOD'S GRACE (2 CORINTHIANS 9:8)

There are twin towers of God's Word which can never be shaken: one is faith, the other hope. Both stand upon the foundation of the grace of God. God is a loving God. He wants to forgive and heal America. How I thank God we can stand on His grace.

THE CALL TO RESPOND TO GOD

We need to:

TRUST GOD (PSALM 56:3-4)

It's time to "stay upon [our] God." (Isaiah 50:10) Believers know we cannot exist without God, yet we're often overcome with the cares of this world because we question whether God is enough. What does it mean to "stay upon" God? Cast yourself completely upon Him.

SEEK GOD (2 CHRONICLES 7:14)

It's time for every person to seek God. We could host a prayer meeting every hour for the next 100 years, but all the prayer in the world won't

do any good unless we humble ourselves before God, seek Him, and repent! "Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34) We as individuals must repent. We as a nation must repent.

SHOW THE LOVE OF GOD (ROMANS 1:16)

It's time to call upon God for holy boldness, divine appointments, and open hearts. To get out of our comfort zones and make sacrifices. To tell a neighbor about the God who cares. Would to God that every person reading this article would live the truth, tell the truth, speak the truth, believe the truth, and love the truth. This is an opportunity for the diamond of God's love to shine on the dark velvet of terrible wickedness.

UNITE AND WORK FOR PEACE (PROVERBS 14:34)

It's time to unite for the cause of Christ. There was a time when our enemies would look at this nation and say, there's something different. Has that time passed? Or can we unite and work for peace as one nation under God? Before the world falls apart, believers need to come together. ☐

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THE SAINT OF THE FIRST RED CROSS

Camillus was keenly aware of his faults and sincerely believed that he was a great and undeserving sinner. At the same time, he had absolute confidence in the Father's mercy, revealed in Jesus' death. This is why, during his last illness, he commissioned a painting of Jesus on the cross, between two angels offering chalices of his blood in atonement for sin.

To give him greater confidence, Camillus wanted the blood "bright red" and plentiful. The image may not be to everyone's taste. But its effect on Camillus was anything but somber. As a priest friend said: "When he turned his thoughts to the precious blood of Jesus Christ, such hope would spring up in him! He felt sure he would be saved by the power of that blood and would be allowed to go straight to heaven."

Camillus went to that reward on July 14, 1614, with the painting before his eyes. ☐

Louise Perrotta is an editor for The Word Among Us. Information about St. Camillus and his followers today is available at camillians.org and ctfmercy.org.

MEDITATION AND COMMENTARY

BLOODY SWEAT

Part of the Conference Transcription from a retreat that Fr. Hardon gave to the Handmaids of the Precious Blood

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Finally, The Bloody Sweat. "... and his sweat became as drops of blood running down upon the ground." This short sentence has been commented on now in thousands of pages over the centuries and will receive exegetical and mystical commentary until the end of time. It has challenged the Church's scholars and inspired her saints.

The bloody sweat of Jesus in the Garden of Olives reveals, in the words of the physician Luke, the intensity of Christ's agony. Known to medical science, it is the most extreme form of suffering of which a human being is capable. The bloody sweat was induced by interior suffering, which is always the worst. Animals can have pain, but it is all in their bodies. Strictly speaking, only the human spirit can suffer because, even when the pain is bodily-caused, it is the soul that experiences the pain. But when the source of the suffering is from within, this is the acme of human endurance.

We are bidden by Saint Paul to join our sufferings to add, supplement, the sufferings of Christ for the redemption of the world - mysterious words. Among these sufferings that we are bidden to share with the Savior, let us be sure we include the spiritual tribulations to which human nature are always subject. The more sensitive the nature, the more intense the suffering, and today it is raised to an acute degree.

Think of the sorrow of parents seeing their children lose the Faith in which they were reared. "Why did I bring him or her into the world, when from all appearances their souls are estranged from God?" mothers will ask. Think of the sorrow of a husband over his wife's infidelities - pure suffering, because he loves her, but evidently she does not love him; or a wife's sadness at her husband's drunkenness or debauchery or sheer irresponsibility.

Think of the sorrow in so many Catholic hearts today, seeing their priests unfaithful to their calling. Sometimes as I stand at the altar, I think to myself for just a moment, "How is it possible for a human being who believes what he is-a priest of God!-to give this up? For what? Or think of the anguish of the faithful at seeing so many religious turn their backs on the Spouse to whom they had vowed themselves until death."

Think of the sorrow of uncertainty, and that caused by the betrayal of friends. Think of the sorrow of millions of our fellows Christians, suffering persecution for the Name of Jesus. Add to all these sufferings all that we know from experience, and we begin to better understand why Jesus sweat blood. He foresaw all the sins of all mankind from the dawn of history to the end of time.

Let us not forget that the Precious Blood that poured out of the skin of Christ was the blood of the Son of God. It was hypostatically united to the Word of God. Every single drop of that blood was adorable; it was united to the divinity. And it is this blood that, because of the miracle of the Holy Eucharist, we are privileged to worship today on our altars and at Communion receive into our veins.

I would like to close with just a few invocations from the Litany of the Precious Blood. They bring out the Church's clear understanding of what this blood that Jesus poured out of His body really means. In the mind of the Church, the blood of Christ stands for the Incarnate Son of God, suffering for our sins.

***Blood of Christ,
only begotten Son of the Eternal Father,
save us.***

***Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God,
save us.***

***Blood of Christ,
of the New and Eternal Testament,
save us.***

***Blood of Christ,
falling upon the earth in the agony,
save us.***

Almighty and Eternal God, you have appointed your only begotten Son the Redeemer of the world and willed to be appeased by His blood. Grant, we beg of you, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of this present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in Heaven, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. □

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

- You are enjoined to practice Eucharistic Adoration at least an hour a week. Let us render God adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition. Kindly check with your respective parishes for schedules. Some churches are open 24-hours for Eucharistic Adoration.
- Pray at least one rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary daily.
- Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 3:00 PM and at 9:00 PM daily.
- Pray the Angelus at 6:00 PM daily.
- Pray the Pro-Life Scriptural Rosary [www.rosaryoftheunborn.com] to make reparation for the crime of abortion.
- Think of ways to make reparation to Mary for the sins committed against Jesus and Mary. A very good one is to join the **First Saturday devotion**; another is the **2000 Hail Mary devotion**.
- On St. Thomas' feast day, July 3, you may wish to reflect on our own failings in your faith? So often do we make the firmest resolutions to avoid this or that fault, and yet how easily we repeat it. Give some thought to God's ultimate purpose in permitting your faults and to how valuable for our soul's progress is the realization of our weakness and wretchedness.
- If you have not already done so, have a priest enroll you in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, or popularly known as the "Brown Scapular" and begin wearing it as a sign of your love for Our Lady. A priest enrolls people in the Brown Scapular only once. The Scapular can then be replaced afterwards by other scapulars or the scapular medal, which has on one side the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the other, the image of Mary. The medal needs to be blessed by a priest, but the cloth scapulars do not require a blessing (separate from enrollment).

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

From Giovanni's Sister, Nancy

I am extending my appreciation to you praying for my brother. I don't ever see him and we rarely speak but my heart is filled with so much joy from hearing that my brother is doing remarkably well. He has put on more weight and his hair has started to grow in again. I would appreciate continued prayer for a full recovery. I never lose faith that he will beat this disease. Thank you so much!

Thank You to Our Benefactors

All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. (James 1:17). So every prayer of gratitude must be directed ultimately to the Father in heaven who knows and fulfills all of our needs. Through the generosity of our benefactors, we have come to understand more deeply that our Heavenly Father meets our needs through the hands of His children.

**To GOD OUR FATHER
and to ALL THE BENEFACTORS of
The Spiritual Army of God the Father,
we heartily say "THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous **July** sponsors of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of our Blessed Mother. The devotion continues to be a constant success.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Mila Lumba | Evelyn Pua | Nicet Santos

Los Angeles, California

Tessie Almero | Frank & Lorma Batino

Loreto Melo | Carmen Mora | Evelyn Real

Rowena & JJ Ramos |

April Araneta & Marilyn Batino
Coordinators

SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

THE SPIRITUAL ARMY READY FOR ITS 4TH JOURNEY SEEKING GOD IN HIS HOLY PLACES

Join Spiritual Army of God the Father on a Pilgrimage to
**Lisbon, Fatima, Spain,
Lourdes & Paris**

Lisbon - Santarem - Fatima - Salamanca - Albi de Ternes - Avila - Burgos - San Sebastian - Garabandal - Santo Toribio de Liebana Monastery - Logola - Lourdes - Montserrat - Manresa or Barcelona - Avignon - Grenoble/Gap - La Salette - Ars - Faray Le Monial - Nevers - Paris - Lisieux

December 4 - 21, 2014
\$4,950 from Los Angeles
18 Days/16 Nights

www.pilgrimages.com/spiritualarmyofgodthefather

206 TOURS

LEARN MORE
Scan this code
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smartphone's
camera app
to learn more
about this
pilgrimage

The Spiritual Army of God the Father is sponsoring an 18-day Marian pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain and France on December 4, 2014 thru December 21, 2014. Highlights of the pilgrimage are visits to the apparition sites of our Blessed Mother in Lisbon, Fatima, Spain, Lourdes and Paris, with tours to other celebrated sacred memorials en-route to the apparition sites.

Tour brochures detailing activities for each day of the pilgrimage and registration forms are ready for distribution.

To register or for more information, please call Yaritza or Carol at **206 Tours** (800) 206-

TOUR (8687) or the worldwide web at:

www.pilgrimages.com/spiritualarmyofgodthefather

www.spiritualarmyofgod.org

Let us start saving and preparing for this wonderful and holy pilgrimage! ☐

THE TRASH TO TREASURE RULE

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” A popular proverbial saying in America since the late 20th century. Its basic meaning is that something which seems worthless to one person is often deemed valuable by another.

This is the theme of our fund raising event for The Spiritual Army of God the Father, preparations for which are underway. Clean up your closets, garages! Save some fees on public storage! Donate your unwanted but slightly used clothes, shoes, accessories, home décor, small appliances, books, etc. They may be treasures to some who will buy them for a fair price. The Spiritual Army of God the Father is generously sharing the proceeds of this White Elephant Bazaar with the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master.

We will be accepting your *trash to treasure* donations every 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | 501 N. Beaudry Avenue in Los Angeles, California between the hours of 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on 1st Saturdays and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on 3rd Saturdays.

We thank you all for your bounty! ☐

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAY OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2013
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
1977 CARMEN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90068

AND
ST. BRIDGET’S CATHOLIC CHURCH
220 N. 14TH STREET
LAS VEGAS, NV

TOY DRIVE FOR THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL [ONGOING]

WHITE ELEPHANT BAZAAR COMING VERY SOON

SAVE THE DATE
AND SAVE UP FOR A
PILGRIMAGE TO
MOTHER MARY’S
APPARITION SHRINES
PORTUGAL | SPAIN | FRANCE
DECEMBER 4-21, 2014

IN LIFE AND IN DEATH WE BELONG TO THE LORD

Romans 14:8

With prayers and deepest sympathy
to the Family of Mike Susara [our Sto. Nino DJ]
at the passing of their mother

Edda Susara

on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, in Las Vegas, Nevada

MEET YOU AT THE GATE

© *Barbara Bailey*

A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN NOW STANDS ALONE, MISSING THE
ONE WHO NURTURED IT BUT NOW SHE IS GONE, HER
FLOWERS STILL BLOOM, AND THE SUN STILL SHINES,
BUT THE RAIN IS LIKE TEAR DROPS, FOR THE ONES LEFT
BEHIND, THE WEEDS LAY WAITING TO TAKE THE
GARDENS BEAUTY AWAY,
BUT THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES OF ITS KEEPER ARE
IN OUR HEARTS TO STAY,
SHE LOVED EVERY FLOWER EVEN SOME THAT WERE
WEEDS, SO MUCH LOVE SHE WOULD PLANT
WITH EACH LITTLE SEED,
BUT JUST LIKE HER FLOWERS SHE WAS PART OF GOD'S
PLAN, SO WHEN IT WAS HER TIME, HE REACHED DOWN
HIS HAND, HE LOOKED THROUGH THE GARDEN
SEARCHING FOR THE BEST,
THAT'S WHEN HE FOUND ROWENA,
IT WAS HER TIME TO REST,
IT WAS HARD FOR THOSE WHO LOVED HER,
TO JUST LET HER GO,
BUT GOD HAD A SPOT IN HIS GARDEN,
THAT NEEDED A GENTLE SOUL,
SO WHEN YOU START MISSING
ROWENA,
REMEMBER, IF YOU JUST WAIT,
WHEN GOD HAS A SPOT IN HIS GARDEN,
SHE'LL MEET YOU AT THE GATE . . .



ROWENA YLAGAN RAMOS

**BORN ON NOVEMBER 15, 1974
GONE HOME TO THE FATHER ON JUNE 27, 2013**

This poem was written by Barbara Bailey for her sister, Robin Blevins who lost her life to cancer at a young age, leaving behind three children and 10 grandchildren. We chose this poem because it also applies to Rowena. So we changed the name Robin to Rowena to make it more appropriate.

DEVOTION SCHEDULE



THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

IN LOS ANGELES:

1st Saturday Devotion

The Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | 501 N. Beaudry Avenue | (213) 250-7962
Holy Mass starts at 8:30 A.M. | 1st Saturday Devotional Prayers follow.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the Month

The Monastery of the Angels | 1977 Carmen Avenue on Gower | (323) 466-2186
11:20 A.M. - Rosary to the Father | 11:50 A.M. - Holy Mass
1:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confession ongoing from 11:20 A.M. to 11:45 P.M.

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – July 20, 2013

at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | starting at 8:30 a.m.

Please call Victor at (213) 385-7798 if you wish to become a Sponsor of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion.

IN LAS VEGAS:

1st Saturday Devotion

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117 at 1:00 PM
Cenacle will be at 10:00 AM before the devotional prayers.

Please call Evelyn at (702) 274-4315 for entry to The Enclave or for more information.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M.

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117

2000 Hail Mary Devotion – July 20, 2013

Please call (702) 255-9616 or (702) 274-4315 for

dates and venues for the coming months or for more information or if you wish to Sponsor the Devotion.

IN LAUGHLIN, NEVADA:

1st Saturday Devotion

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church | 3055 El Mirage Way
Holy Mass starts at 8:00 A.M. Devotional prayers follow.

IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:

1st Saturday Devotion

2000 Hail Mary Devotion

Please call (650) 766-2071 for dates and venues for the coming months or for more information.

For Sacramento:

Please call Precy Rieta (916) 564-3733 | Caring Sturgill (916) 897-3194 | Maria Rosario (916) 230-7756.

IN SAN DIEGO

Rosary to the Father

Monday – Saturday after the 8:00 A.M. Mass [Look for Iris Haj]
St. Mary's Church | 1160 S. Broadway | Escondido, CA 92025

IN THE PHILIPPINES

2000 Hail Mary Devotion - Metro Manila Area

Letty Rollan has organized the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion in various areas of Metro Manila through the members of the "Mother Butler." Please call her U.S. Vonage phone (510) 779-6652, text her at Manila #916-384-9300, and/or call her Manila landline 939-4677. Mention Mila Lumba's name to be recognized.