



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

August 2016

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HEALING THE FATHER WOUND

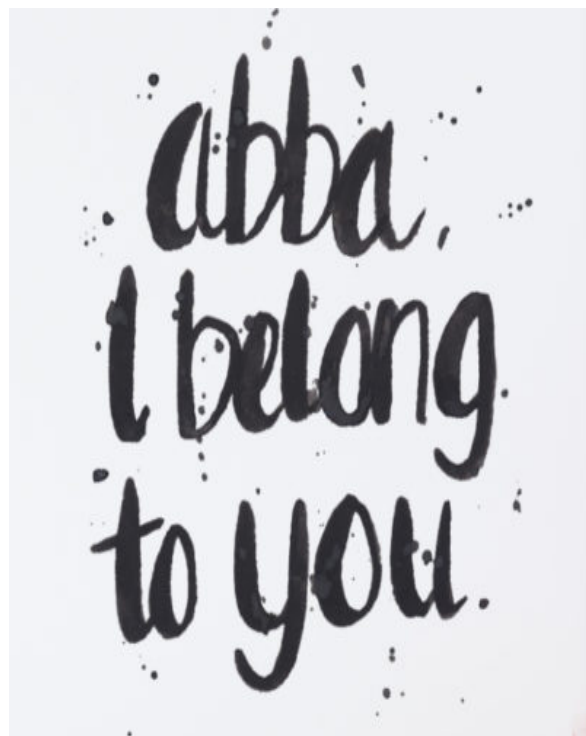
By: *George Montague, SM*
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I am going to speak here about the father wound because for me this was, and for many others still is, the biggest block to experiencing intimacy with the Father, Abba. For many others it is the mother wound that is deepest.

Some have experienced both the father and the mother wound. I once presided at a Mass for children who had been taken away from both parents because of abuse. At the prayers of the faithful, one of the boys prayed for his dog. Touched by that, I shared it with one of the supervisors at the orphanage. He replied, "Yes, that's probably because his dog is the only one who ever showed him love." Something inside me screamed at this tragedy.

Compared to this little boy's horrible launch into life, my experience was like the annoyance of a gnat. It made me grateful for the father and mother I had. Yet as a boy, I lacked that appreciation of my father because of the woundedness I felt. And I pray that my father will forgive me for sharing his faults in a public way. I do so only so that my experience -- and his -- will help others.

Papa was a big man, big in many ways. He stood six feet tall without his boots and Stetson hat, and it took a size fifty-five belt to circle his two hundred and eighty pounds. No wonder his grandchildren would call him "Big Daddy." In contrast to his slender son, Frank Junior, everyone knew him as "Big Frank." He was wonderfully good in many ways -- in the gifts that he gave me and in the time that he spent with me hunting or fishing or taking me with him to the small-town bank, of which he was president. One scene has always reminded me of how really big he was.



Continued on Page 6

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

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The month of August is dedicated to The Immaculate Heart of Mary. 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 Church in her holy wisdom has provided a cycle of events in its liturgical year which allow the faithful to

celebrate the major feasts in the life of Christ and Mary. Most notably, during August, we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the feast of the Assumption (August 15). □

FEASTS FOR AUGUST

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Alphonsus Liguori, Memorial | 20 Bernard, Memorial |
| 2 Eusebius of Vercelli; Peter Julian Eymard, Opt. Mem. | 21 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 4 John Vianney, Memorial | 22 Queenship of Mary, Memorial |
| 5 Dedication of St. Mary Major, Opt. Mem. | 23 Rose of Lima, Opt. Mem. |
| 6 Transfiguration, Feast | 24 Bartholomew, Feast |
| 7 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 25 Louis of France; Joseph Calasanz, Opt. Mem. |
| 8 Dominic, Memorial | 27 Monica, Memorial |
| 9 Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Opt. Mem. | 28 Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 10 Lawrence, Feast | 29 Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Memorial |
| 11 Clare, Memorial | |
| 13 Pontian and Hippolytus, Opt. Mem. | The feasts of St. Sixtus II and Companions and St. Cajetan (August 7), St. Maximilian Kolbe (August 14), St. Pius X (August 21), and St. Augustine (August 28) fall on a Sunday so they are superseded by the Sunday Liturgy. □ |
| 14 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 15 Assumption, Solemnity | |
| 16 Stephen of Hungary, Opt. Mem. | |
| 19 John Eudes; St. Bernard Tolomei, Opt. Mem. | |

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

EXTRA MARITAL SEX AND COHABITATION

THESSALONIANS-4-35

GALATIANS 5:16

CORINTHIANS-6-13

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

GOD IS YOUR LOVING FATHER

By Rick Warren

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Acts 17:27 NIV)

God, your Heavenly Father, loves you more than you will ever know. You can turn to him when you need acceptance, when you need approval, and when you need attention.

God has seen every single moment of your life. He has witnessed every word you've ever said -- good or bad -- and every hurt you've ever experienced. God knows every fear, every sin, and every sorrow you've ever felt.

Unlike your human father, God has known every thought you've ever had, and he's understood you completely. Today, you can turn to him because he's a caring, consistent, close, and competent Father. He will never leave you.

Maybe you've allowed experiences with a human parent to warp or cloud your view of your heavenly Father, and that has made you think God is unreasonable or unreliable or unconcerned. You were wrong. You need to turn to the truth today.

Would you pray this prayer in your heart?

"Dear God, I want you to be my heavenly Father, and I want to be your child. I ask you to adopt me into your home. I want to be spiritually born into your family through Jesus Christ. Jesus, I don't understand it all, but I accept you as the way to the Father. I want you to be in charge of my life to guide me and direct me. Thank you that you are a loving, caring, and consistent Father. Thank you that you are competent and that you can handle all the problems that I give to you. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."

Talk It Over

- How has your relationship with your earthly father affected how you view God?
- How do you think God wants us to use the model of the heavenly Father with our own children? □

OUR LADY'S ASSUMPTION: THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING PROCREATION

Msgr. Charles M. Mangan
www.catholicherald.com

Today, it has often been said that most Catholics have already made up their minds about contraception. Either one believes, as the Catholic Church does, that contraception is intrinsically evil and, therefore, must not be practiced or one believes that contraception is permissible, given, among other reasons, the diverse economic, political and societal pressures that currently exist.

To be clear, contraception is a refusal to be open to life by means of pills, devices or other willful acts that seek to prevent the egg and the sperm from uniting. (Certain pills, injections and devices even work after conception by trying to stop the implantation of the newly conceived human person. In these cases, we speak not about contraceptives but instead abortifacient, "abortion-inducing," agents.)

Some hold that it is best to leave the decision to use contraception to Catholics themselves rather than to appeal to the church's longstanding opposition to contraception. (In its nearly 2,000-year history, the Catholic Church has never voiced any support for contraception.)

Various voices have stated that the Catholic Church has lost the battle in persuading Catholics not to contracept. Others maintain that the vast majority of Catholics who use contraception are not aware of its sinfulness and, hence, cannot be considered guilty of sin. Subsequently, these men and women should be "left alone." Still others recommend that the mere subject of contraception not even be addressed so as not to embarrass anyone.

As a priest, I am conscious of my sacred responsibility to adhere to Catholic teaching, to proclaim it fully and to bring understanding to those who do not presently have it.

Explaining the church's teaching

For decades, the church's Magisterium (the "teaching authority" of the pope and the bishops in union with him) as well as incredibly brilliant philosophers, theologians and spiritual authors have convincingly made the case that the very nature of the marital act demands openness to the possible transmission of human life. If that openness is knowingly and willingly rejected, then mortal sin results, and one forfeits the privilege of receiving holy Communion. Thus, God is deeply offended, and the soul of the individual is greatly harmed. One has placed

himself in the perilous position of not being able to enter heaven unless he repents.

What more can we do to encourage our Catholic brothers and sisters to look again at the matter of contraception?

The mystery of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary body and soul into heaven illumines the discussion about contraception in at least two ways: It presents how our Creator considers the beauty of the human body that He Himself created; and it provides an incentive to live virtuous lives here on earth, regardless of temptation, that will be transformed into the life of glory in paradise.

Our Lady's Assumption and the beauty of our bodies

When we begin to reflect on the dogma of the Assumption, we justly fixate on its first and most basic meaning, that the Ever-Virgin Mary, upon the end of her life here on earth, was assumed body and soul by God into heaven.

One conclusion we draw from the Assumption is that the human body is filled with splendor and dignity because it was fashioned by God, who created it not to be abused or for selfishness but for the glory of everlasting life. Our bodies are not mere shells that "house" our souls. Instead, our bodies are beautiful and have as their purpose to praise God in their movements and deeds on earth and one day to be with Him in heaven. Imagine this: The Son of God, who is the second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity, took the same flesh that you and I have. And Our Lady's virginal body is the same as our bodies, too.

If our Creator welcomed Mary's pure body into paradise, then we rightly infer that her human body and, by extension, our bodies are important to Him.

We often think of our souls as being destined for heaven. We perform multiple charitable acts in the Holy Name of Jesus, knowing that the good we do on earth increasingly transforms our souls into the image of Christ. Then, one day our souls will be rewarded in heaven.

But we seem to forget that heaven is also the everlasting home for our bodies, which, like our souls, also must respond to God's invitation to everlasting life. Thanks to the resurrection of the body on the last day, which we refer to when we sing or chant the Apostles' Creed during the recitation of the rosary or the Nicene Creed during Mass, our bodies will rejoin our souls, this time for all eternity near the throne of the Living God.

What we do with our bodies now, whether good or bad, has future implications for us. Do our bodies glorify their Creator? Or are they caught up in a sorry web of self-gratification and egoism?

Human bodies that have been involved in unrepentant sensuality and in rebuking God's call to procreate as the Lord intended are hardly fit for the same reward that Our Lady now enjoys.

Our Lady's Assumption and our lives of virtue

The goal of our earthly existence is heaven. We humbly recognize that it is not always easy to do the right thing — and that we have not always done the right thing. We are convinced of our sinfulness. But more than that, we are convinced of God's kindness. As St. John wrote, "God is love" (Jn 4:16). Our Lord created us for heaven, which is our only true and abiding home.

We will do what is necessary to enter paradise. In doing so, we may be judged as "odd" or "fanatics." But who cares? We want what Our Lady possesses: complete and lasting happiness with the Most Blessed Trinity.

Mary's Assumption is proof positive that a fully human person can be admitted to the Father's kingdom. She is there because of her love and dedication in fulfilling God's will.

Yes, we have many hard choices before us. And we may be tempted to think that God has abandoned us ... He has forsaken us ... He has not granted to us the strength to persevere. Perhaps we may even believe that it is impossible to do the moral thing.

Pope Francis has shared with us his tender devotion to Mary under the title, "Undoer of Knots." Just when we think that all is lost, the Mother of God steps in to resolve a most complex problem.

What if Catholics who use contraception would invoke Our Lady for a "way out?" Now assumed into heaven, she would craft some solution that is currently unforeseen.

We turn to Our Blessed Mother

Our Lady is so good. She is Our Blessed Mother. She desires our company in paradise. Let us fly to her for help.

Holy Mary, Undoer of Knots and assumed into heaven, we pray for all Catholics who have used contraception, are using it or are tempted to use it. Please immediately resolve this difficulty for them. We have confidence in you, O Mary. ☐



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GOD TOUCHED ME

ONE FATHER IN HEAVEN

*... And do not call anyone on earth "Father,"
for you have one Father, and He is in heaven. (Matthew 23:8-10)*

By a Devotee

I grew up without a father. And I have always told people that my father passed away when I was two months in my mother's womb. I do not recall who gave me that information. Looking back, it must be the most plausible "excuse" for not having a father!

I have siblings – seven of them. The eldest, less than 18 years younger than Mom; his eldest child exactly a year and 20 days younger than me. My now only living sister is 10 years older than me. I can count with my one hand the happy moments in my childhood; the painful moments in my teenage years and young adulthood is countless.

One of my younger brothers was a gifted artist. He didn't have any professional training or studies – but he made that gift his livelihood. And he had a sign at the main entrance of our house – his name and underneath it, "artist". His last name was different than mine. I don't think I really make any thought of it growing up, until that time when I was in my elementary years, when at least three of my classmates who came on playdates or sleepovers asked me why I have a different last name. I don't recall what answer I gave. I remember, however, how it hurt each time I was asked.

Mom was very strict! And so were my siblings! I was raised to just obey -- no questions asked. I had house chores and other responsibilities -- that had to be completed at my mother's or sisters' "standards." Otherwise, I had to repeat and no playtime or TV for me until I satisfied the set yardsticks! Infractions came with serious consequences. Belt whipping on the butt or kneeling on a bed of mung beans with hands up to be kept no lower than shoulder level! Or my brother ramming down those veggies in my mouth because I detested those green edibles! I remember Mom was quick to give a slap on my face when I try to reason out. I seldom felt loved!

And during all these times -- yes, I thought about my father -- would he come to my rescue? Would I be treated differently if he was still alive? I longed for his hug – conversations I could have with him. I even had daydreams of me falling asleep on the couch watching TV and he taking me in his arms, tucking me to bed and kissing me goodnight.

One day, the pain was too much to take to the point that I had the courage to ask Mom why my last name was different. She said it was my godmother's mistake. She was the one who registered my birth. And it would cost her money she doesn't have to have it corrected. And so

I believed. And I loved my Mother so. I was so afraid to lose her, just like I lost Dad shortly after I was conceived.

In high school, I heard Mass daily at the church a block away from school. After Mass, I would go to my Jesus nailed to the cross by the entrance of the church. I would beg Jesus to take care of my mother and to give her long life. To watch over me and to prosper me so I could realize the dream of a nice, big house for Mom. A housekeeper for her. Or maybe even just a washing machine. And yes, I ask if I could at least know who my father is.

One day, while putting clothes away in Mom's closet, I found a baptismal certificate. It was mine. It had Mom's name but with grandma's last name as the mother. And grandpa's name and surname as the father -- not the name of the man who I was made to believe was my father and that of all my siblings! How do you expect a thirteen-year old girl to feel then?

Why did Mom lie to me? Why wouldn't anyone even want to speak to me about me? My siblings would have known? I must have been an unwanted pregnancy for Mother. A disgrace to her and my siblings. A mistake. I left it at that -- including the hurt that would snowball each time someone, anyone -- would find out I didn't have the same surname as my siblings.

At 18, I had a full-time job, a working student and a university scholar. I never had the chance to visit my Jesus on the cross at that church near my high school anymore. But I did pray a lot to Mother Mary -- and I knew she was always with me and interceded for me.

As the pain dwelt and at every instance of my identity needing to be brought up [real estate loans, passport application, etc.], I found myself drawn to fathers and father-figures. I was blessed to be "adopted" as the eldest child of a family of two sons and two daughters. I took to heart father's words of wisdom and experience. The way he provided for his family and his mother. He gave me self-worth every time he tells me I am a role-model for my "other" two brothers and two sisters. Mother was so affectionate. I cannot forget her checking on my fever one of the many sleep overs at their home. I pretended to be soundly asleep but I cried in the silence of my heart as soon as the bedroom door closed on her! I felt so much love!

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HEALING THE FATHER WOUND

For some reason, my mother was not at home, leaving my Aunt Margaret as her replacement to cook supper. We stood at the table to say grace, Papa at the head of the table and Aunt Margaret opposite me. After grace, it occurred to me to act like the gentleman I wanted to grow up to be, so I moved around to pull out the chair for Aunt Margaret. But in the split second between pulling it out and pushing it back, a little devil sat on my left shoulder and whispered, "What would happen if you wouldn't push the chair back?" My guardian angel commandeered my right shoulder, but not in time to win. Aunt Margaret went down, not quite hitting the floor because I caught her in time. But like a rattler striking, a sting hit my left cheek -- Papa's reflexive slap. Aunt Margaret, whose regard for me was unconditionally positive, came quickly to my defense: "But he was only trying to be helpful." Papa grunted, about the only sound for the rest of the meal. I toyed with my food, happy when done to escape to my bed upstairs, only to be choked there by guilt and confusion.

But the drama was not over. I heard the sound of Papa's boots, announcing all two hundred and eighty pounds of him coming up the stairs. I could count each step, and yes, he reached the one that creaked; and on he came until his huge frame filled the doorway, and it was time for me to say the Act of Contrition. But suddenly his huge frame collapsed to his knees at my bedside, and he said, "George, I'm sorry I struck you. I shouldn't have done that. Please forgive me." Stunned, all I could say was "That's all right." Then Papa kissed me on the forehead and wished me goodnight.

As I said, Papa was a big man. [Footnote: By a series of rare circumstances, in my elder years I was given the opportunity to share that story on National Public Radio.]

And yet, despite all that, I had a fear of my father. I was pigeon-toed from birth, and this seemed to anger my father, who would shout at me, "George, walk straight!" And there were a few times that this embarrassing correction happened in public. His anger could flare in an instant, and while that slap on my face was the only flash of physical violence I ever saw in my home, still Papa was a volcano that could explode, and we were careful to tiptoe around it. As a result, my transfer of my father image to God was quite unlike that of Jesus in relation to Joseph. God, to my child's mind, was simply Papa to the nth degree -- meaning, tiptoe around God.

Healing through Forgiveness

That father wound crippled me for a long time by leading me to transfer my father image to other authorities. But that, too, was part of my healing as I encountered other father figures in my religious life who freed me from the volcano myth. And in the process, God himself has freed me from seeing him as a volcano. God the Father has taught me that he is a God of liberation, a God of exodus. He does not want us to live in bondage to the Pharaohs of our memories. Years

later in a midnight prayer -- my Gethsemane -- I was able to confront my deceased father, forgive him, and allow him to forgive me. Yes, forgive me for the things I had done to hurt him, for full reconciliation is a two-way street. For there were things I did to hurt my father. If only this reconciliation could have happened while he was alive! Still, I could be assured that in God, Papa had seen all of our story in perfect light, and his forgiveness was already there, waiting for me to receive it. If I am writing this book about the Father's embrace, it is because of the transformation that healing prayer has worked in me. Not that I know fully what that embrace means, but I know what it is to be delivered from the pain of unhealed memories and the clutch of unforgiveness.

Forgiving your father? Forgiving your mother? How about your spouse or your brother or sister or that employer who fired you or blamed you for what someone else did? Or that person who injured or killed your child? Though parental relationships are the deepest, forgiveness is not limited to them. In the prayer to "Our Father," we ask to be forgiven, promising to forgive others, and that means anyone who has hurt us. There is no limitation. Jesus tells us to love even our enemies.

How can that be if justice is not served? Justice, yes, but not recrimination, not retaliation. It does not mean we have to say that what that person did was right. If it was right, we don't need to forgive. No, it was wrong. But what good does it do to hang on to our bitterness, our grudge, our resentment? It is in our own interest that we need to forgive. Recently, the news media carried the story of a survivor of the Holocaust who, having lived for decades in hatred of the Nazis, said she chose to forgive, not for their sake, but for hers. She said the Holocaust was torture enough; she didn't need the continuing torture of hatred. As one old rancher quoted to me: "Hatred, like acid, eats the containing vessel."

But Jesus gives a different reason for forgiveness and love of our enemies: "That you may be children of your heavenly Father" (Matthew 5:45). Children bear the genes of their parents. Christians bear in their hearts the genes of their heavenly Father. Jesus shared the same divine nature as his heavenly Father, and so he forgave his enemies from the cross. We do not become God, of course, but we share in Jesus' relationship with the Father when, like Jesus, we are held close to the Father's heart in the divine embrace. We are too close to the furnace of all love to hold the ice of hate. Forgiveness must be part of our new nature as God's children. Forgive because God forgives. You are God's child.

And God has forgiven you.

Jesus, from the cross you gave the supreme example: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34, my translation). I kneel at the foot of your cross, asking you to reveal to me anyone I have not forgiven. I know it is only with your grace that I can forgive. But with your grace, I will. Amen. ☐

Excerpted from *Living in the Father's Embrace*
by George T. Montague, SM (The Word Among Us Press, 2014).

ONE FATHER IN HEAVEN

I had relationships -- with all the highs and lows. Two of them, I was to find out later, were married men. But someone up there was always looking after me! These two married men knew in their hearts I had too good of a future ahead of me to be wasted with them. It is only after-the fact that I now realize they had to wreck and shatter me emotionally to choose to break free from them! The first one was my first love!

To this day, I regularly communicate with my father confessor. He's now nearing 90. He knew all my secrets -- and all my offenses against God! He advised against my plan to look for my father. He said I may not like what I will find. And so I listened and left everything to God.

Mother was blessed to have met my then future husband. She loved him and I believe she knew he was the one from God for me. He loved her in return. Our relationship was open to her. She would loan him date money when she feels we're bored at home watching old movies on TV with her. This man assured me that soon, one day, I wouldn't have to deal with the pain and questions of my identity -- because he would give me his name!

Mother left for her eternal residence taking her "disgrace," her "mistake" to her grave. Several years after her death, people started talking to me about their "notions" about my father. One of my sisters-in-law told me how my eldest brother dumped me in the garbage right after I was born. And how my favorite brother took me back home! A very close family friend also told

me she thinks she knows who my father is -- a public official, a governor. She said that I carry a strong resemblance with his daughters in facial features and gestures. She told me my mother worked for this man's household as a cook. My mother was in her 40s when I was born and had been a widow then for more than 10 years. I agreed to a plan to go and check out this notion but I never was in a hurry to do so. As my father confessor has forewarned, I may not like what I find; that I might cause his family or even myself trouble and heartaches. But even before we can set a date for this Sherlock mystery quest, our family friend passed away.

I have had a new last name in the last 30 years -- Mother's discernment was accurate. Our God, my Father, has indeed given His princess her prince -- and together a family He keeps close to His heart. As my heavenly Father reveals Himself to me each day, I am assured that His timing is always perfect, never early nor late! His plans for us are perfect -- and with His grace, we will fulfill the future He has prepared for us. And as for my earthly father, I know my Father God will introduce him to me, in His perfect time in heaven!

P.S. In July last year, out of sheer curiosity, my husband and I Googled the public officials/governors around the time of my birth. We printed the man's photo -- and lay it alongside one of my expired passports. And yes, there are distinctive similarities -- the eyes, the shape of the face and the mole, which eerily appears on the very same spot! ◻

.... I am your Mother Mary.

Pray unceasingly as your lives will be greatly affected by people whose souls are influenced by beliefs with false god in their hearts.

My children, the errors are becoming more glaring in the eyes of those who see this as the battle between good and evil. Prayers before the true God, the Eternal One must be sought by His creation .

The evil one is about to unleash one of his biggest atrocities to humanity. Prayers or instruments of destruction by evil forces, your choice my children.

My Immaculate Heart is most willing to accept each soul without reservation. Pray with all your hearts before the throne of God through the passion and death of my son Jesus.

I am always with you in the prayer of beads".

*- Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary
07162016*

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE ME?

By S. Michael Houdmann, Supporter
Got Questions Ministries

In John 15:16 Jesus says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last-and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." Ephesians 1:4 says, "He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." First Peter 2:9 says, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." It is undeniable that God has chosen those who are believers in Jesus. But why? Is there something special about me that led God to choose me? The short answer is, no, God did not choose us because of anything inherent in ourselves. He chose us out of His love and mercy, and for His glory.

Ephesians 1 goes on to say, "In love he predestined us for adoption to son ship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves" (verses 5-6). We see that God's choosing of us is linked to His love. God's choice is something that gives Him pleasure and brings Him praise. God's choosing of us highlights His gracious character, not our merit. As we know from Ephesians 2:8-9, we are not saved because of our good works but solely because of God's grace. We are all sinners who fail to measure up to God's glory (Romans 3:23). Apart from Jesus all deserve death (Romans 6:23). But in Jesus we can have life. It is not because of who we are that God chooses us but because of who He is. As 1 Peter 2:9 indicates, the proper response to being chosen by God is to declare God's praise and give Him worship.

God also chose us so that we could join in His work in the world. Ephesians 2:10 says God has prepared good works in advance for us to do. Jesus spoke of His followers' bearing fruit that would last. Ephesians 1:4 links election to being holy and blameless in God's sight. God chose us because He has a purpose in mind for our lives.

The Old Testament focuses on Israel as God's chosen people (Deuteronomy 7:6). In Deuteronomy 7:7-9

Moses tells the children of Israel why God chose them: "The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh King of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments." Once again, we see that God's choice

is not based on the merit of a particular person or nation, but solely on His love and faithfulness.

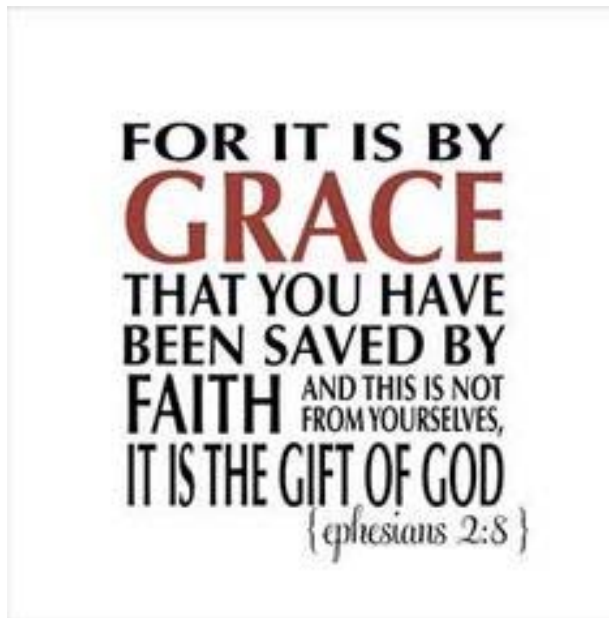
Just as God chose Israel out of love and not because of something impressive about the nation, God chooses us out of love. As 1 John 3:1 says, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" Why did God choose me? Because of His great love, His lavish love.

The doctrine of predestination is difficult to grasp. We naturally tend to think that those who are predestined are chosen because of some merit of their own. After all, that is how we tend to choose.

We remember picking teams for

P.E. -- everyone chooses the tallest, fastest, most athletic, most popular, etc., to be on their team. But God is not like that. His criterion for choosing is not based on us. "Consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world . . . God chose what is weak in the world . . . God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not . . . so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:26-30, ESV).

Why did God choose me? He chose you to demonstrate His character. He chose you that you may know Him and love Him. He chose you because He is love (1 John 4:8), He is gracious, He is merciful, and He has a glorious plan for you. ☐



SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION WILL NOW BE UPON REQUEST

Starting in September, 2016, our monthly newsletter will no longer be automatically emailed for mass distribution. Individual copy of the newsletter may be received only when either one of the following will be done on a monthly basis:

1. Access our website the Thursday before First Saturday at; www.spiritualarmyofgod.org; or
2. Send an E-mail request to Ms. Evelyn Pua at: evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org.

Please take note that if you choose either accessibility, it must be renewed every month.

We are taking this direction in order to determine the sincerity of our devotees to read the newsletter for their own spiritual growth and/ or impart its content to others in the Christian spirit of EVANGELIZATION.

We will, however, provide limited copies during the Cenacle depending upon the generosity of our devotees who committed themselves earlier to print the newsletter every month. Along this line, we would like to welcome all other devotees to volunteer for this printing endeavor.

Thank you and God Bless.

HOLY LAND | JORDAN PILGRIMAGE UPDATE

We are now counting the days to our departure date on Monday, December 5, 2016!



Please note the following dates:

- August 4, 2016 – date up to which to register at the guaranteed pilgrimage cost of \$3,299.
- September 5, 2016 – your balance of \$2,799 is due.

Thank you all for responding to our call to join us in this another journey seeking God in His holy places!

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PLEASE DROP OFF
YOUR NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS
EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS AT
THE CONVENT OF
THE SISTER DISCIPLES OF
THE DIVINE MASTER

FEAST OF GOD THE FATHER

THE HOLY OCTAVE
OF CONSECRATION TO
GOD THE FATHER BEGINS
ON JULY 31, 2016.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016
THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
ON CARMEN & GOWER
IN LOS ANGELES AT 12:30 PM

ST. BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH
220 N. 14TH STREET
IN LAS VEGAS AT 11:00 AM

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND & JORDAN

DECEMBER 5-15, 2016
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER
INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous August sponsors of the 800 Our Father Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of God the Father.

Las Vegas, Nevada
Lucien & Mila Lumba

Los Angeles, California
Susan Angelo | Carmi Caro
Pop Melo | Marivic Punzalan
Marilyn Saraza | Clara Velasquez

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

HOW DO WE RESPOND WHEN OUR CRY FOR MERCY RECEIVES ITS LOVING ANSWER FROM OUR MASTER?

WE NEED TO PRAISE AND THANK JESUS FOR HIS HEALING POWER, MERCY, AND GRACE.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU FELL FACE DOWN AND PRAISED JESUS?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU PRAISED AND THANKED THE LORD

FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU

WITH A GENUINE HEART AND A PROSTRATE POSTURE?

Father God, thank you for helping me see myself the way that you do! And thank you for blessing me much more than I deserve!

- LH

Thank you, Lord, for enlightening me to take the right approach in solving a problem without burning any bridges.

- A Devotee

God The Father, in Jesus' most Holy Name, we thank you for your enduring love, mercy, blessings, and strong presence in our lives manifested by the kind and loving people you surround us, especially, the Devotees of The Spiritual Army of God The Father. We are grateful, happy, and blessed to be in their company.

Oh, Lord Jesus Nazarene, thank you for our personal encounter with you which touched our souls with your love, mercy, and compassion. You are the way, the truth, and the life. We will follow you all days of our lives.

-Gary and Maria Sheets

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
12:30 P.M. - Rosary to the Father | 1:15 P.M. - Holy Mass
2:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

800 Our Father Devotion – August 20, 2016

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 CHINO HILLS:

Sacred Heard Devotional Group for Departed Souls

Every 1st Friday of the Month | 16657 Tourmaline Street | Chino Hills, CA 91709
Devotional Prayers start at 8:30 P.M.

IN LAS VEGAS:

Sacred Heart and Precious Blood of Jesus Devotion for Departed Souls

Every 1st Friday of the Month
at The Cenacle House in The Enclave 8455 W. Sahara Avenue #172 | Las Vegas, NV 89117
Devotional Prayers start at 2:30 P.M.

1st Saturday Devotion

at Saint Frances de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108 at 8:00 AM
Devotional Prayers follow.

and

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

800 Our Father Devotion – August 20, 2016

*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.*

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena & Rosary Prayers

Every Wednesday after the 7:30 A.M. Mass
St. Francis de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108

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.