



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

October 2015

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SAINT MONICA ON PARENTING: WHEN DO PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES END?

By Marge Fenelon

When I was in Rome attending a seminar for journalists last September, I happened upon the tomb of Saint Monica.

It's in the Basilica of Sant' Agostino, just around the corner (literally) from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross where my classes were held and near Piazza Navona.

I was scoping out places for daily Mass, and discovered the basilica. Once inside, I wandered the aisles and explored the side altars and alcoves, taking in the beauty and history (the original Madonna di Loreto by Caravaggio hangs toward the back).

I found her in a small chapel on the front left side of the church. When I first saw it, I assumed it was just statuary. When I went closer, I saw the inscription. It was truly the tomb of Saint Monica.

Ever since I became a mom – and especially as my kids move further into adulthood – I've felt as though Saint Monica and I are kindred spirits. In particular, we share the same philosophy on raising our children.

Parenting doesn't end when they turn 18. Parents remain spiritually responsible for their children unto death. And beyond.

Saint Monica set the perfect example. She worked hard to raise her children as Christians in spite of her abusively temperamental and pagan husband, Patricius. When Augustine, as an adult, took to carousing and fell into the Manichean heresy, she strongly voiced her concern and disapproval.

She wept, prayed, and fasted for her son's conversion. She followed Augustine, his mistress, and son, Adeodatus, to Rome, even though Augustine had tried to give her the slip. She trailed him to Milan, still patiently praying, fasting, and weeping for her son's conversion.

Finally, Augustine came under the good influence of Saint Ambrose, then bishop of Milan. Ambrose and Monica were friends, and I suspect that had some impact on the relationship between Augustine and Ambrose.

After nine long years of dedication, perseverance and grief, Monica's sacrifices bore fruit. Augustine converted to Catholicism and became one of the Church's most famed and loved saints of all time.

I've asked myself many, many times: What would have happened if Monica, like most modern-day parents, had washed her hands of Augustine when he turned 18?

What if she had said, as I hear parents say time and time again, "Well, he's 18. There's nothing more I can do."?

Saint Monica got it right. She understood something that few other parents do: **Parents are responsible for their children's well-being for their entire lives.**

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OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

www.catholicculture.org

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7. October falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green.

During October, as in all of Ordinary Time, the Liturgy does not focus on one particular mystery of Christ, but views the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. We follow

the life of Christ through the Gospels, and focus on the teachings and parables of Jesus and what it means for each of us to be a follower of Christ. During Ordinary Time we can concentrate more on the saints and imitate their holiness as Christ's followers. ☐

FEASTS FOR OCTOBER

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Memorial | 19 Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf and companions (USA), Memorial |
| 2 Guardian Angels, Memorial | 20 Paul of the Cross, Opt. Mem. |
| 4 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 22 John Paul II, Opt. Mem. |
| 5 Faustina Kowalska, virgin, Opt. Mem. | 23 John of Capistrano, Opt. Mem. |
| 6 Bruno; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher (USA), Opt. Mem. | 24 Anthony Claret, Opt. Mem. |
| 7 Our Lady of the Rosary, Memorial | 25 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 11 Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 28 Simon and Jude, Feast |
| 14 Callistus I, Opt. Mem. | |
| 15 Teresa of Jesus, Memorial | |
| 16 Hedwig; Margaret Mary Alacoque, Opt. Mem. | The feasts of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), St. John XXIII (October 11) and St. Luke (October 18) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. ☐ |
| 17 Ignatius of Antioch, Memorial | |
| 18 Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

OUR JOURNEY BACK TO OUR FAITH

Book of Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
John 10:10

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER: THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

www.stjosemaria.org

On October 7th, the Church celebrates the feast day of Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary.

The feast day was established by Pope Saint Pius V on the anniversary of the victory at Lepanto on October 7, 1571. The naval victory was attributed to the Virgin Mary whose intercession was entreated through the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

The Church then proceeded to dedicate the entire month of October to the Holy Rosary so that individuals, families, and communities would pray the Holy Rosary, if possible, on a daily basis for peace in the world.

"Not only do we earnestly exhort all Christians to give themselves to the recital of the pious devotion of the Rosary publicly, or privately in their own house and family, and that unceasingly, but we also desire that the whole of the month of October (in this year) should be consecrated to the Holy Queen of the Rosary." (Excerpt from the Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, On Devotion of the Rosary, September 1, 1883)

Learning devotion to the Holy Rosary from the Saints

"The experience of the Saints bears witness to it: this popular Marian prayer [the Holy Rosary] is a precious spiritual means to grow in intimacy with Jesus, and to learn at the school of the Blessed Virgin always to fulfill the divine will.

To be apostles of the Rosary . . . it is necessary to experience personally the beauty and depth of this prayer which is simple and accessible to everyone. It is first of all necessary to let the Blessed Virgin take one by the hand to contemplate the Face of Christ: a joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious Face. Those who, like Mary and with her, cherish and ponder the mysteries of Jesus assiduously, increasingly assimilate his sentiments and are conformed to him." (Excerpt from the Meditation of Pope Benedict XVI, On the Recitation of the Holy Rosary, October 19, 2008)

St. Josemaria Escriva

"We should never separate ourselves from Our Lady. How should we honor her? By keeping close to her, talking to her, showing her that we love her, pondering in

our hearts the scenes of her life on earth and telling her about our struggles, successes and failures.

When we do this we discover the meaning of the Marian prayers, which the Church has always used, as if we were saying them for the very first time. What are the Hail Mary and the Angelus if not loving praises of her divine Motherhood? And when we say the Holy Rosary, which is a wonderful devotion which I will never tire of

recommending to Christians everywhere, our minds and hearts go over the mysteries of Mary's admirable life which are, at the same time, the fundamental mysteries of our faith." (St. Josemaria Escriva, Friends of God, 290)

In 1931, St. Josemaria Escriva wrote "Holy Rosary" a booklet which contains brief meditations on the mysteries of the Rosary based on his contemplation of the Gospel scenes of the lives of Jesus and Mary.

"Holy Rosary" captures St. Josemaria's profound desire to transmit to all generations the fact that "the Church encourages us to contemplate its mysteries. She wants to engrave upon our heart and our imagination, together with Mary's joy and sorrow and glory, the spellbinding example of Our Lord's life, in

his thirty years of obscurity, his three years of preaching, his ignominious Passion and his glorious Resurrection." (St. Josemaria Escriva, Friends of God, 299)

Inspired by St. Josemaria's devotion to Mary, following are suggestions to honor the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary during this special month dedicated to her:

Pray the Rosary daily privately or with friends and family.

"Develop a lively devotion for Our Mother. She knows how to respond in a most sensitive way to the presents we give her. What is more, if you say the Holy Rosary every day, with a spirit of faith and love, Our Lady will make sure she leads you very far along her Son's path." (Furrow, 691)



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SERMON ON THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

By St. Bernard of Clairvaux

"He hath given his angels charge over thee." O wonderful bounty and truly great love of charity! Who? For whom? Wherefore? What has He commanded? Let us study closely, brethren, and let us diligently commit to our memory this great mandate. Who is it that commands? Whose angels are they? Whose mandates do they fulfill? Whose will do they obey? In answer, "He hath given his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." And they do not hesitate even to life thee up in their hands.

So the Supreme Majesty has given charge to the angels. Yes, He has given charge to His own angels. Think of it! To those sublime beings, who cling to Him so joyfully and intimately, to His very own He has given charge over you! Who are

you? "What is man that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?" As if man were not rottenness, and the son of man a worm! Now why, do you think, he Has given them charge over thee? -- To guard thee!

With what great reverence should you treat this word! What devotion should you proffer it; what great confidence should you place in it. Reverence because of their presence; devotion because of their benevolence; confidence

because of their solicitude. Walk carefully, in all thy ways, as one with whom the angels are present as He has given them charge. In every lodging, at every corner, have reverence for thy Angel. Do not dare to do in his presence what you would not dare to do if I were there. Or do you doubt that he is present whom you do not behold? What if you should hear him? What if you should touch him? What if you should scent him? Remember that the presence of something is not proved only by the sight of things.

In this, therefore, brethren, let us affectionately love His angels as one day our future coheirs; meanwhile, however, as counselors and defenders appointed by the Father and placed over us. Why should we fear under such guardians? Those who keep us in

all our ways can neither be overcome nor be deceived, much less deceive. They are faithful; they are prudent; they are powerful; why do we tremble? Let us only follow them, let us remain close to them, and in the protection of the God of heaven let us abide. As often, therefore, as a most serious temptation is perceived to weigh upon you and an excessive trial is threatening, call to your guard, your leader, your helper in your needs, in your tribulation; cry to him and say: "Lord, save us; we perish!" □



Your Guardian Angel

Your Guardian Angel Is Assigned To You At Birth Keeping Watch Over You Each Day and Night Guiding & Guarding You Until The End Of All Time.

Throughout Your Life Your Guardian Angel Remains As Close To You As You Will Allow Always Ready To Help And Influence You With Gentle Protecting Guidance, Inspiration, Encouragement And Empowerment

Always Ready And Waiting For You To Call On Their Amazing Powers Whenever You Need Them

**Strength, Patience, Integrity,
Faith, Hope, Charity, Grace,
Peace, Joy & Love**

GOD TOUCHED ME

THE CASE OF THE REAPPEARING EUROS

By Frank Lim, a devotee

Does God give you His Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

- Galatians 3:5

On the first stop of our mini-pilgrimage to Santa Fe, New Mexico on September 4, 2015, we stayed at a hotel in Flagstaff, Arizona. The four of us in the room, [my wife, Beth, my sister-in-law, Edith, and Elizabeth, a close family friend] were relaxing after supper when I took out my clutch bag containing toiletries. When I opened it I noticed a stack of envelopes right on top of the pillbox,



toothbrush, eye drop and floss inside the bag. I was a little confused because I did not remember seeing any envelope while packing for the trip that morning. Instinctively I reached for the top envelope and peeked at the contents. My heart raced when I saw what was inside. There were euro bills inside! The envelopes were the kind provided by travel companies for collecting tips for tour guides and drivers. I said, "Oh, we forgot to turn in the envelopes to Tess on our

last Marian sites pilgrimage in 2014." I looked at the contents of the other envelopes and I was dumbfounded! These were the same envelopes that a pickpocket fished out of my shoulder bag at LAX while I was waiting in line at the check-in counter, exactly nine months ago, on December 4, 2014!

My handwriting was on all six envelopes. Four contained tip money and two contained equal amounts of pocket money for Beth and me. When we lost the money before even taking off from LAX, we were devastated. But we decided not to let it ruin our trip. We did not dwell on the loss. Our fellow devotees were kind enough to pitch in with some of their travel money to tide us over. Our friends, Ben and Vincie lent us funds to replace the lost Euros. By the time we reached the first of the many Marian apparition sites in our itinerary, we had completely gotten over the incident. We had a blessed and wonderful time as we soaked in the holiness of the places we visited – Fatima, Garabandal, Lourdes, Montserrat, La Salette.

Except for that one night when low blood sugar caused me to feel faint.

The reappearance of the lost Euros inside my little bag of toiletries nine months after they were lost is mind-boggling. How could it be possible to gather all the euro bills that had all gone their separate ways as they circulated here and there during the last nine months? How could somebody gather them all, sort them and place them in six individual envelopes? And lay them on top of the pillbox, toothbrush, eye drop and floss inside my clutch bag?

You will find the answer to these questions when you believe that with God anything, yes, anything is possible. This, truly, is a manifestation of the awesome power of God! We, devotees of the Spiritual Army of God the Father, are blessed to be part of a group whose spirituality and faith in God have grown stronger through the years as we continue to witness one miracle after another. Thank you, Lord God Almighty! Thank you, Saint Joseph! Thank you, Mother Mary! ☐

A POSTSCRIPT FROM THE EDITORS

All of us pilgrims were distraught when we found out about the unfortunate incident but were overcome by the expression of kindness and support for Beth and Frank!



The hat was passed even before we boarded our flight. Compassion, gentleness and benevolence abound – trusting that no one nor incident will keep us astray from the path that God has willed for us in this journey seeking His presence and love.

Most, if not all, were moved at how Beth and Frank managed the adversity. They were collected and calm. They were grateful and appreciative of the expressions of support they have received. Forgiveness, they gave to the pickpocket and also for whom they prayed their Euros were enough for whatever the need was.

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SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

THE ARMY'S MINI PILGRIMAGE

All 56 of us – devotees and devotees' relatives and friends, boarded the chartered bus at 6:30 a.m. on Friday, September 4 for The Spiritual Army of God the Father's first mini-pilgrimage to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The drive was long necessitating an overnight stay in Flagstaff, Arizona. A beautiful rainbow (which in the Old Testament is a sign of God's covenant) welcomed us as we entered Flagstaff. This was the first revelation and miracle of the pilgrimage. The complimentary appetizers and beverages at Embassy Suite's Evening Reception was a welcome treat and afforded bonding and relaxation to the pilgrims.

At breakfast, the next morning, Regina (and her mom Gertrude), were in for a surprise – her boyfriend Wynn and their baby Raelynn, Wynn's Mom (and her Mommy Too) Marivic, and her aunt Eden were there. They were not expected as Marivic had just had chemotherapy a few days before and did not think she can take the long drive. Wynn, on the other hand, had a job interview that Friday morning. They drove after Wynn's interview and arrived at the hotel around midnight or so.

After a quick yet appetizing breakfast, we left in time for an early morning Mass at Saint Francis de Asis Church. The church, on top of a short winding road (with a gorgeous view) on East Route 66, was as beautiful as much as its pastor, Fr. Pat Mowrer (and its parishioners we met) was warm and welcoming.

The drive to Santa Fe was another six hours or so. As in all pilgrimages of the Army, we prayed -- a lot! Each and everyone one of us taking turns in leading the prayers. Thanks to our leader seated right behind the driver, who seem to have a pair of eyes at the back of his head, catching all those who were snoozing! Somewhere between the prayers, the movie screenings, the pilgrims were told about **The Case of the Reappearing Euros** [see God Touched Me Column on page 5]. The second revelation and miracle of the pilgrimage.

Another beautiful rainbow welcomed us as we entered the City of Santa Fe! In a way, a cloud which has the "bow" in it pictures God, as Exodus 13 states: *"And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way . . ."* (Exodus 13:21). The third revelation and miracle of the pilgrimage.

At Loretto Chapel, we were happy to see the other Army pilgrims – Ruth and Bon, with their young kids Brooklyn (11), Bella (8) and Noah (6) who traveled by Amtrak, arriving a night earlier. Also, JJ, who flew solo (as we were told), arriving in time for his Divine Mercy prayers at the Chapel.



Inside, pilgrims marveled at the famous spiral stairway, which has been the subject of "legend and rumor", the circumstances surrounding its construction and its builder. The staircase is an impressive work of carpentry. It ascends twenty feet, making two complete revolutions up to the choir loft without the use of nails or apparent center support. The Sisters of Loretto credit St. Joseph, the Patron of Carpenters, with its construction, since at that time the church needed a way to get up to the choir loft and they prayed for St. Joseph's intercession for

nine straight days. Many witnesses, upon seeing the staircase, feel it was constructed by St. Joseph himself, as a miraculous occurrence.

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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 THE INFANT JESUS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH
1111 MICHAEL WAY
LAS VEGAS, NV

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND & JORDAN

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

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

8 WAYS TO JUMP-START YOUR PRAYER LIFE

By Matthew Leonard

Prayer isn't optional. It's the way we relate to God. We are created to be in union with Him for all eternity, but that union doesn't start later. It starts now through prayer and the sacraments. Even so, relating to God isn't always easy. Whether it's inexperience or simply a dry spot, we all are in need of a "jump start" every now and then. So I've created a list of eight ways to get you back on track and moving closer to God.

No. 1 Make Prayer Non-Negotiable

One thing is for certain, if you don't make prayer a priority it will be the first thing crossed off of your "to do" list when things get busy. This means you have to make it part of your daily schedule. Because we're so busy, we often feel like there's no time to pray. I've been there. But I've learned that if you make time for God, He'll make time for you. He'll multiply your time so that you can get everything finished that He wants you to get finished. In fact, the busier I get, the more I know I need to pray.

No. 2 Set The Stage

When entering the presence of God, environment is key. That means trying to pray at a bar during Happy Hour or during a bridal shower isn't going to cut it. Given all the roadblocks that Original Sin already throws up when we try to pray, it's crazy to allow more distraction to compete for our attention. Most people pray best in the morning, because it's when we're most fresh. It doesn't do any good to try to enter into God's presence when we're falling over tired. That doesn't mean I don't pray at night. I enjoy ending the evening praying Night Prayer with my wife. But I'm most alert after being awake for an hour or so in the morning. Setting the stage also involves getting rid of noise, which brings us to Number 3.

No. 3 Silence

In today's world, we're constantly assaulted by images and sound. You can't even pump gas anymore without a speaker polluting the air with ads or "music." Since we're all a little spiritually ADD to begin with, silencing the world is a must when it's time to pray. We need quiet. I think the absolute best place to pray is an adoration chapel. But there are plenty of other quiet places to pray. Even so, sometimes it's really hard to quiet my mind even when I've achieved exterior silence. One "trick" I use to help calm things down is repeating the name of "Jesus" over and over. Repetition is a great tool to help our minds slow down and focus. Another option is to read a Gospel passage about Our Lord's Passion.

No. 4 Quality Not Quantity

The spiritual life isn't a sprint. It's a marathon. Regardless of the manner in which we're praying, quality is always

better than quantity. What's the point of racing? Imagine if we tried to converse with our spouse or friends by racing through the conversation without even thinking about what we're saying? Not only would they not appreciate it very much, but our relationship with them wouldn't deepen. It's the same with God. Don't rush through your prayers. St. Francis de Sales said that one fervent Our Father or Hail Mary is worth more than hundreds you say without focus. The goal isn't to finish. The goal is God.

No. 5 Don't Be Afraid of Change

One reason we often get into a prayer rut is because we keep doing the same things over and over. If you find yourself having trouble making progress, change things up. Remember that prayer is a movement of the heart toward God. The tools we use to help that movement are simply that – tools. Take a break from your normal routine. Oftentimes this will help you "jump start" a conversation with the Lord.

No. 6 Resolve to Act

At the end of the day, prayer is meant to bring about change. There are no plateaus in the spiritual life. We're either moving toward God, or away from Him. This means that movement must be the end result of praying. Resolve to act on whatever it is the Lord is telling you, so as to draw closer to Him.

No. 7 Practice Ejaculatory Prayer

Simply thanking or praising God as we go about the day is one of the most powerful weapons in our prayer arsenal. It keeps us in the presence of God. As St. Phillip Neri says, "It is an old custom of the saints of God to have some little prayers ready and to be frequently darting them up to heaven during the day... He who adopts this plan will obtain great fruits with little pain."

This kind of simple prayer is one of the key ways we can follow the admonition of St. Philip Neri.

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SAINT MONICA ON PARENTING

Their spiritual well-being. That's not the same as being a helicopter parent, hovering and constantly trying to govern everything your child says and does. Children must learn to make their own decisions and take responsibility for the consequences. They need to learn to manage their own affairs and are entitled to privacy in their affairs.

They are not entitled to spiritual demise because a parent held back on offering spiritual assistance (i.e., prayer, fasting, and even weeping) or refrained from pointing out imminent spiritual danger.

Look. "Admonish the Sinner" is the third spiritual act of mercy, according to the Church. By "sinner" is meant any sinner, not any sinner except your over-18-year-old children.

Here it is in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, emphasis mine:

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God. (CCC, 2447)

I have, not only the right, but also the obligation to charitably and prudently advise my children in regard to spiritual matters regardless of their age or state of life.

Here it is in the Gospel of St. Matthew:

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. (Mt 18:15-17)

Jesus said, "your brother," meaning both kinsmen and non-kinsmen. He did not qualify his words by directing us only to admonish the sins of those under 18.

Did Augustine resent Monica's persistence? Judge for yourself:

"And when we were at the Tiberine Ostia my mother died. Much I omit, having much to hasten. Receive my confessions and thanksgivings, O my God, for innumerable things concerning which I am silent. But I will not omit anything that my soul has brought forth

as to that Your handmaid who brought me forth -- in her flesh, that I might be born to this temporal light, and in her heart, that I might be born to life eternal. I will speak not of her gifts, but Yours in her; for she neither made herself nor educated herself. You created her, nor did her father nor her mother know what a being was to proceed from them." (Confessions IX, 8)

Our Lord has asked us to help one another on our spiritual journey, to assist in keeping each other on the straight and narrow, and to point out missteps for the sake of the sinner and the Body of Christ.

That includes our over-18-year-old children.

Saint Monica knew that, and that's why she did all in her power to help St. Augustine to turn away from sin and toward Christ. She didn't leave him to himself once he turned 18; she realized her responsibility as his mother and fulfilled it.

Her son's spiritual well-being was the only thing St. Monica lived for. On her death bed, she told him,

"I do not know what there is left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled. All I wished for was that I might see you a Catholic and a child of Heaven. God granted me even more than this in making you despise earthly felicity and consecrate yourself to His service."

I feel the same way as Saint Monica toward my children. In that respect, we're kindred spirits. □

Marge Fenelon is a Catholic wife, mother, author, award-winning journalist, columnist, blogger, and speaker. She's been awarded the 2015 Egan Journalism Fellowship, which recognizes exceptional journalists who have demonstrated excellence in their reporting for Catholic media in the United States. She's a frequent contributor to a number of Catholic publications and websites, a weekly contributor to Relevant Radio's "Morning Air Show" and a popular guest on many other Catholic radio and television shows. She blogs at "Catholic to the Core" on the Patheos Catholic Channel and as a speaker has touched the hearts of audiences in a variety of venues. She's written several books about Marian devotion and Catholic family life. Her latest book is *Our Lady, Undoer of Knots: Living the Novena (A Guided Meditation from the Holy Land)* (Ave Maria Press, 2015).

OCTOBER: THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Pray the Rosary during the day — try not to postpone it until the end of the day or bedtime.

“You always leave the Rosary for later, and you end up not saying it at all because you are sleepy. If there is no other time, say it in the street without letting anybody notice it. It will, moreover, help you to have presence of God.” (Furrow, 478)

- If possible, use a book like “Holy Rosary” or an audio recording of the Rosary to help you enter more deeply into each mystery.

“Have you... ever contemplated these mysteries? (...) Come with me and -- this is the essence of what I have to confide -- we will live the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Each day we will render them a new service. We will hear their family conversations. We will see the Messiah grow up. We will admire His thirty years of hidden life . . . We will be present at His Passion and Death... We will be awed by the Glory of His Resurrection . . . In a word: we will contemplate, carried away with Love (the only real love is Love), each and every instant of Christ Jesus.” (Holy Rosary, Author’s Note)

When praying the family Rosary, especially with young children, use a booklet or app that shows an image for each Mystery of the Rosary.

When you see an image of Our Lady, at home, on the street, in Church, direct a glance at it and send her an affectionate interior prayer or greeting.

This was a practice St. Josemaria Escriva started from a young age and that he inspired in others throughout his life.

Make a pilgrimage to a nearby church or shrine that has a special statue or painting of Mary.

St. Josemaria Escriva believed that a “local pilgrimage” with a small group of friends or family is a good way to honor the Blessed Virgin and to help us to be more devoted to her. Traditionally, a “local pilgrimage” includes, if possible, walking to and from the shrine or walking part of the way to and from the shrine; reciting five mysteries of the rosary on the way; praying another five mysteries of the rosary at the shrine; and praying another five mysteries of the rosary on the way back. □

8 WAYS TO JUMPSTART YOUR PRAYER LIFE

No. 8 Ask For Prayer!

One of the first things we do when we’re in trouble is to ask others to pray for us. Why not when we’re having trouble praying? Of course, we don’t only ask people alive on earth. We’re Catholic! We’re part of the Communion of Saints. Anyone and everyone who is in Christ – no matter in what epoch – is available to help.

Revelation 5:8 says our family members in heaven are interceding for us by offering up “golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” So instead of being cut off, they’re actively engaged in helping us grow closer to our family in heaven. You could say that one of their jobs is to pray for us. The saints “constantly care for those whom they have left on earth,” says the Catechism (n. 2683).

Your brothers and sisters *want* to help you. Let them! □

Matthew Leonard is an internationally known speaker, author, podcaster, blogger, and Executive Director of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology (founded by Dr. Scott Hahn).

A convert to Catholicism and former missionary to Latin America, Matthew is a frequent guest on radio and television programs across the country appearing on SiriusXM, EWTN, CBS, and the Magnificat. He also holds a Masters in Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. Matthew lives in Ohio with his wife Veronica and their five children. Learn more about him at MatthewSLeonard.com

THE CASE OF THE REAPPEARING EUROS

Miracles are defined by the extraordinary measure that God reveals Himself to us. Miracles remind us that God doesn’t depend on the elements of nature or man’s abilities in order to do the impossible. Let us all trust that God will work miracles in our lives in His timing and purpose! May we all fully embrace the signs of His Spirit at work in us. □

***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
the following e-mail addresses
and phone numbers:
evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org
alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org
(702) 274-4315 and/or (213) 385-7798***

THE ARMY'S MINI-PILGRIMAGE

Devotees claim they felt a sense of calm and peace while in the Chapel – despite the seemingly irreverent atmosphere as tourists flocked to get in, take photos of the staircase and their selfies, and conversations taking place in the midst of an audio recording guide. I spotted a number of us who found sanctuary in some corner of the Chapel – who, I suspect were then asking and thanking Saint Joseph for his powerful intercession!

As we arrived at our hotel for the night at Homewood Suites, we were greeted by another rainbow creeping on the rooftop of our hotel. On our way to the Steak and Shrimp buffet at a restaurant walking distance from the hotel, we received a call from Raina and Carlos. They are pregnant [finally, after a series of expensive fertility procedures]!!! – the fourth miracle and the realization of a revelation to them at our 2014 Pilgrimage in Europe. For those to whom this update was told, it was rather a challenge to be tight-lipped about it, until we all boarded the bus on our way to Santuario de Chimayo, the next morning. There was jubilation in the bus, a lot of teary eyes and choking throats, as we all pinned our ears back to Raina and Carlos announcing the good news, thanking God and asking us all for continued prayers for them and their Miracle!

We were at the Santuario de Chimayo early that morning ready for our guided tour. El Santuario (The Shrine) is comprised by two chapels (the chapel of the Christ of Esquipulas and the chapel of the Holy Child of Atocha). Both chapels have been a place of healing for many pilgrims and visitors. The chapel of the Christ of Esquipulas is dedicated to the sufferings, pain (passion) of Jesus Christ, while the chapel of the Holy Child is dedicated to the childhood of Jesus, to the Holy Family and to families.

Our guide, Helen Martinez, told us about the legend that the Santuario de Chimayo, also called the Santuario de Nuestro Señor de Esquipulas, was built after a local friar performing penances saw a strange light burst from a hillside near the Santa Cruz River. Curious, the friar sought the source of the light, which was coming from the

ground. Dropping to his knees and digging in the sandy soil with his bare hands, he uncovered a crucifix, later christened Nuestro Señor de Esquipulas. Three times this crucifix was taken in procession to the neighboring village and three times it disappeared, only to be found again back in its hole in the hillside. Deciding that Our Lord of Esquipulas wanted to stay in Chimayo, the people built a small chapel on the site of the discovery.

The story of the Infant Jesus of Atocha and his many miracles to the people of Atocha touched many a heart of the pilgrims. It was awesome to see the countless infant shoes, the crutches and wheelchairs left behind, the messages of thanksgiving, the rosaries hanging – all proofs of the Miracles of Chimayo.

Of course, we all went to visit "el Pocito", which is in a tiny, candle-lit sideroom off to the side of the altar of the Santuario Church. The door to this room is tiny and most who enter must stoop. You must kneel to reach and scoop out the "tierra bendita" (sacred earth) which is in the tiny hole in the stone floor. We all took our share of the Holy Sand, with Lucy taking the most – to share with her immediate family and all relatives, her friends, all those she knew who are sick and in need of healing. El Santuario was built on ground believed sacred by Native Americans and it was built on the site where the crucifix of Nuestro Señor de Esquipulas was found buried in the soil and where the man who discovered the crucifix, Don Bernardo Abeyta, was cured of his affliction while digging in that soil.



On September 7 we headed early for Mass back at Saint Francis de Asis. Fr. Patrick was happy to welcome us back and was thankful for the music at Mass provided by our own cantor, Marilyn. At the end of the Mass, at the façade of the beautiful church, we took a group picture, with three of its wonderful parishioners clicking away numerous cameras, iPhones and iPads. All the photos taken showed what

look like the rays of the Divine Mercy Icon, coming out from the roof of Saint Francis de Asis Church. *“The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the water that makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls ...These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when my agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross.”* (Diary of Saint Faustina, 299).

As expected the drive back to LA took more than 10 hours or so, considering the holiday traffic and the road closures along the way. But it didn't feel that way to us pilgrims. We prayed hard and long. Watched movies that touched our hearts and made us a little more informed about our faith.

Maybe some of us joined the pilgrimage in search of miracles of healing, peace, or guidance. Some found them [see Thank You column on page 12], some maybe didn't. But we all share a love of God and believe that no matter

what we have been told or have experienced ourselves, God can and does work miracles.

"When Jesus walked on the water, He taught us that faith is a prerequisite to miracles, and He promised His disciples that wondrous things could be accomplished as long as their faith didn't falter. Sometimes, however, the miracle is not the one that cures our tormented bodies; sometimes the miracle is faith itself." □

I am yours Mother Mary.

The day of having a good relationship with God can be justified if we focus on how God feels the love we have for Him.

On this day, make it always a day of renewal of our commitment to prayers. Prayers expose the enemy to what his purpose in your life is- the destruction of your divine connection with God Almighty.

I am always with you my children."

***- Mary, Your Lady of Grace
08292015***

I am your Mother Mary

Be more vigilant with your relationship with God.

The way to communicate with God is through prayers. With contrite heart and less focus on oneself make your prayers more acceptable to The Most High. As days pass, many signs of impending disasters will be seen as God's correction for man's continuous transgressions. Pray my children and offer yourselves to the service of God and do not be distracted by the glitter of worldly desires, passion for personal value and the flesh.

My beads of rosary are the instruments of destruction for the enemy, the evil one. Resist his advances with a pure and contrite hearts, my children. I am always with you. I love you my children."

***- Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary
09262015***

THANK YOU

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

Psalm 106:2

THE 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous October 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 God the Father.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Vi Carlos | Guada Eugenio
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Victor & Alice Araneta | Frank & Lorma Batino
Marlen Cardona | Florita Gajito
Marlou Mara | Celia Tiguelo

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

Thank you, Eternal Father, for Your Will that transformed our sorrow into joy, our tears of anguish into tears of thanksgiving. Our physical and spiritual re-creation, through Your Healing Hands, kept us enclosed and revived in our hope for renewed lives as we look up to the heavens praising You, in Jesus' most Holy Name, through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and of the angels and saints.

Once again we Thank God thru the intercessions of Mama Mary, all the angels and saints for playing a big role in my recovery from my August 20 surgery.

We also thank and ask God's blessings for all who offered prayers -- you are in ours too and we love you! May God be with us all the time! Thanks a million! - Kristen & Family

I'm thankful for the prayers that I say every day and the new prayers I learn. I'm thankful for the daily readings that make me think and ponder about how to be closer to God our Father, Jesus and Mary. - Rya

Thanks to God -- our school registration is going up! We will not lose any staff member due to low enrollment. I have prayed for God to send us kids and He has listened to my prayers. God has always been good to me and my family -- I will be forever thankful! - Marlen C.

We would like to give thanks to God for the opportunity to be a part of the Pilgrimage to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Also giving thanks to God for everyone behind its fruitful outcome. Everyone was wonderful! - Clara V. and Erla C.

We are thankful for the unexpected gift from the Lord with the return of the Euros that we lost at last year's Pilgrimage. The Lord is Almighty and He showed us that His power transcends everything. Thank you Lord. Thank you Spiritual Army of God the Father for setting the stage. God timed this miracle to happen during our mini-pilgrimage. Thank you, St. Joseph. Thank you, Mother Mary. -- Frank & Beth

I would like to thank God that I can serve in His house as a sacristan. I would like to thank God that Peete, who is 14 years old, is now willingly attending his Confirmation preparation classes (a few weeks ago, he was thinking of dropping out, but now he is going willingly) and allows me to pray with him before going to sleep.

Thank You, God, also for John's promotion at work which we found out just yesterday. Thank You, God, also that John's mom is having some good days and is comfortable. She has terminal brain cancer, and the doctors say she only has a few weeks left. My prayer for her is that she makes her peace with God before she passes away. -- George

Thank you Eternal Father for giving our family the opportunity for our first family pilgrimage to Santa Fe, New Mexico with The Spiritual Army of God the Father devotees. For our safe travels by train and by plane. Our young children were so well behaved and appreciative of the whole trip and all the sites we were able to visit and pray at as a family. Thank you for always being with us, guiding, protecting, healing and teaching us. We love you! - Bon, Ruth, Brooklyn, Bella & Noah Mercado

Our family would like to thank God for all of our answered prayers and abundant blessings, but most especially for the healing and recovery of our mom, Marivic, and also for Wynn's new job! God always provides for our needs, and we cannot express how thankful we are for all of our blessings. God bless po! -- Regina A.

I am very thankful to You, my God for the wonderful experience I had at the Pilgrimage and for Your Will that Marivic, Eden Wynn and Baby Raelynn, were able to join us. It surely was a big surprise for me and my daughter, Regina. I would like to say thank you, too, that I was in the company of a group of friendly and happy people, with positive attitude and helping me to be closer to You, my God.

I know that You already answered some of my prayers, which were not only for me and my own family but also for my brother who asked me to pray for him that the test result of his lymph nodes will be nothing serious. My brother just texted me: It is indeed negative! ALLELUIA!!!!

Thank you for all the Blessings. -- Gertrude A.

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

The 2000 Hail Mary Devotion – October 17, 2015

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 Heart 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 80108 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

The 2000 Hail Mary Devotion – October 17, 2015

*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 1st Wednesday of the month after the 7:30 AM Mass
St. Francis de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108

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.