



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

November 2015

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GIVING THANKS ALWAYS

Adrian Rogers

*"Giving thanks always for all things unto God
and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Ephesians 5:20

I truly believe that this commandment, to thank God at all times for all things, is perhaps the hardest in all of the Bible to practice. But it is the secret to a happy and productive life.

When Should We Be Thankful?

I want you to notice several things about this passage of Scripture. First, I want you to notice when we should be thankful. We are to give thanks always. If Paul had said sometimes, that wouldn't be so hard. But he clearly said always.

Now we're coming to Thanksgiving Day, but you and I both know that one day is not enough. Psalm 68:19 says, "Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loadeth us with benefits...." Every day you get a fresh load. You should never pray without thanking God.

Why should God give you anything else if you don't thank Him for what He's already given you? Many of us need to pull out some of the groans and shove in some hallelujahs into our prayers. If you don't already, begin putting some thank you's in your prayers.

For What Do We Give Thanks?

And what should our thanks be for? For all things! Thank God for your faith, for your friends, for your food, and for the water you drink? You may ask, "Do I have to thank God for dirty dishes?" Well, a lot of people would like to have some dirty dishes; that would mean they had something to eat. But also, just be thankful for your fortune — the things that God has given you and done for you.

In church, a family heard of a couple giving a significant love offering in memory of their son who had died on the battlefield. On the way home, the wife asked her husband, "Why don't we give an offering of an equal amount for our son?" He said, "Why? Our son wasn't killed." She replied, "Don't you think that's a good reason to give an offering?"

How Do We Give God Thanks?

But how? How is it possible to thank God always for all things? Beginning in verse eighteen, Paul says it is possible because of three things. First of all, we are to give thanks in the Spirit. He says, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." You see, to be Spirit filled is to be thankful. If you're not thankful, you're not Spirit filled. In contrast, there is no way you can be Spirit filled and be unthankful. The mark of a Spirit filled life is gratefulness.

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OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

www.catholicculture.org

The month of November is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory, whose feast is celebrated on November 2. With the exception of the last Sunday, November falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time and is represented by the liturgical color green. The last Sunday, which marks the beginning of the Advent season, the liturgical color changes to purple, representing a time of penance.

During November, as in all of Ordinary Time (Time After Pentecost), the Liturgy signifies and expresses the regenerated life from the coming of the Holy Spirit, which is to be spent on the model of Christ's Life and

under the direction of His Spirit. As we come to the end of the Church year we are asked to consider the end times, our own as well as the world's. The culmination of the liturgical year is the Feast of Christ the King. "This feast asserts the supreme authority of Christ over human beings and their institutions.... Beyond it we see Advent dawning with its perspective of the Lord's coming in glory."— The Liturgy and Time, A.G. Mortimort □

FEASTS FOR NOVEMBER

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 All Saints, Solemnity | 21 Presentation of Mary, Memorial |
| 2 All Souls, Feast | 22 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe , Solemnity |
| 3 Martin de Porres, Opt. Mem. | 23 Clement I; Columban; Bl. Miguel Agustín Pro (USA), Opt. Mem. |
| 4 Charles Borromeo, Memorial | 24 Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Memorial |
| 8 Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 25 Catherine of Alexandria, Opt. Mem. |
| 9 Lateran Basilica, Feast | 29 First Sunday of Advent, Sunday |
| 10 Leo the Great, Memorial | 30 Andrew, Feast |
| 11 Martin of Tours; Veterans Day (USA), Memorial | |
| 12 Josaphat, Memorial | |
| 13 Frances Xavier Cabrini, Memorial | |
| 15 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 16 Margaret of Scotland; Gertrude, Opt. Mem. | |
| 17 Elizabeth of Hungary, Memorial | |
| 18 Churches of Peter and Paul; Rose Philippine Duchesne (USA), Opt. Mem. | |

The feasts of St. Albert the Great (November 15) and St. Cecilia (November 22) are superseded by the Sunday Liturgy. □

OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

**OUR LORD JESUS IS ALL OVER THE SCRIPTURES
AS PLANNED BY GOD THE FATHER**

DIVIDING THE BIBLE INTO 4 DIVISIONS

1. PENTATEUCH
2. HISTORY
3. WISDOM
4. PROPHETS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

MEDITATING ON THE SAINTS

ALL SAINTS DAY

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart. (Psalm 24:3-4)*

www.wau.org

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From the very beginning, the church has honored and revered its martyrs and heroes. What began on a popular and local level gradually became woven into the liturgy, beginning around the fourth century in the Eucharistic Prayer. In the fifth century, a feast honoring all the saints was declared in some Eastern churches, and from there the celebration was taken up in Rome. In 835, Pope Gregory IV declared All Saints Day a feast for the entire church.

A day commemorating the saints is actually a day of rejoicing in the greatness of the Lord and hoping in his love. The victory that we see in the saints testifies to the Lord himself. It was not just their own efforts that produced such holiness, but the work of the Lord, who wants to pour the fullness of the life of Jesus into our hearts. This has been the hope and joy of all holy men and women always and everywhere, and it is our hope and joy as well.

The Book of Revelation contains a vision of the redeemed of the Lord, gathered around the throne of God: "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14). The victory of the redeemed came through the blood of Jesus, which washed them, purified them, and sealed them with the promise of eternal life.

The power of this precious blood of Christ is available to us every day by faith. We can turn to Jesus at any moment and ask for his blood to cover our sins and cleanse us. We can call on Jesus at any moment for him to pour out the power of this death and resurrection to strengthen us and enable us to live as God's children. "What love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God" (1 John 3:1). We are his children;

he has adopted us as his very own! Every day, our Father's hand is extended to us and we have the great privilege to take hold of him.

Let us fix our eyes on the Lamb at the center of the throne who has promised to be our Shepherd and to lead us to "springs of living water" (Revelation 7:17). The Lord, who has worked in the lives of the saints, is ready to work in us if we will turn to him. Our God, who has chosen us to be his very own, is faithful!

Points for Meditation:

Think of the saints whom you most admire. Then list the qualities they possessed that attract you. How did God use these character traits to make these men and women holy? How can he use your natural gifts and talents to help you grow in holiness?

Spend some time meditating on the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Focus on the promises that Jesus makes to those who follow him. How are these promises — the kingdom of heaven, the vision of God, participation in the divine nature, eternal life,

and rest in God — a part of your everyday decision-making? To what extent do they influence the goals you have for your life? On this day of grace and celebration, ask the Lord to give you a deeper desire to see his promises fulfilled in your life.

Many saints led challenging and often painful lives, but still managed to retain their joy and love of the Lord because of their intimacy with Jesus. What are some concrete ways in which you can deepen your intimacy with the Lord? ☐

Lord Jesus, the saints in heaven behold your glory and know the rewards of your life. Fill me with hope in your promise of eternal life. May we all share the joy of your saints in heaven.



WHY ALL SOULS DAY IS IMPORTANT GOODBYE, IMPERFECTIONS!

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What tremendous love God has for us! What an amazing promise he has made: "As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

When we were baptized, our old nature — marred through disobedience and defiled by sin — was joined to Jesus on the cross and died. Through baptism, St. Paul explains, we are buried with Jesus in his grave. Now, we can share in his victory over death. No longer enslaved to sin, we are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In our daily lives, however, we often fall short of the life we received in Baptism.

While tasting the new life of Christ, we act out of our old nature and give in to temptation and sin. This is why All Souls Day is so important. It reminds us that God, knowing the weakness and frailty of our human nature, has made a way for us to enter his holy presence perfectly cleansed and acceptable to him. As the church teaches, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but

still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1030).

St. Catherine of Genoa once wrote: "Apart from the happiness of the saints in heaven, I think there is no joy comparable to that of the souls in purgatory" (On Purgation and Purgatory). Purgatory is not an antechamber of hell, one step short of damnation. Rather, it's the "waiting room" for heaven — the process where we undergo a final cleaning up in order to appear before the all-holy God.

Can you imagine what it will be like when you're purified of all imperfections? When all love of self is transformed into love for God? Let's rejoice today in the power of the cross. By it, we and all those who have died in faith and baptism have been transformed. Together with all the saints, may we rejoice in the blessings of the life to come!

Points for Meditation: The tradition of the Church is to pray for those who have passed on from this world. This kind of intercession is possible because of the union of all those who belong to Christ, a union that is not broken even by death. Spend some time today praying for family

members and friends who have died. Pray that they may be purified and made ready to meet the Bridegroom face to face.

Every Christian shares in Jesus' victory over death (Romans 6:9). As you think about the promise of eternal life and Jesus' commitment to bring about your total purification, ask the Spirit to fill you with an unshakable confidence in Christ.



Purification of our imperfections begins in this life as we respond to God's grace. Tell the Holy Spirit that you welcome his work of convicting you of sin and purifying you of all that cannot stand in the light of God's holiness. Thank him for his gifts of repentance and forgiveness. □

Lord Jesus, by your cross and resurrection you overcame death and freed us from the power of sin. You have raised us up to new life. We rejoice today in the sure inheritance you
h a v e w o n f o r u s !

GOD TOUCHED ME

SERVING IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

By Georgia, a devotee

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Matthew 6:19

I have promised Pope Francis an icon. In June 2014, I sent him my last box of holy cards of the icon of Blessed Virgin with the Child Jesus that I had painted the previous year, along with a letter. In my letter, I told him the story of how, during a Mass, I felt the Blessed Virgin ask me to paint the icon and spread the image, to spread the light and love of Jesus. And how she led us to finding our house and moving to a new town. I made the cards because she specifically asked me to spread the image, and almost no one sees the icon because it hangs in my prayer room in the attic, since my husband does not like seeing religious images in our home. I asked the Pope if he could help me with this "assignment" by giving the cards out to pilgrims visiting him. I also asked if he could pray for me. In particular, I asked him to pray for me that I could one day serve in God's house as a sacristan.

About two months later, I got a letter from the Vatican. It said that the Pope appreciated the letter and the gift, and that he was praying for me. It was signed by Monsignor Peter B. Wells, the deputy Chief of Staff at the Vatican. My husband said it was a generic form letter. Probably everyone who wrote to the Pope got the same one. I was convinced that Pope Francis had read it, and was praying for me.

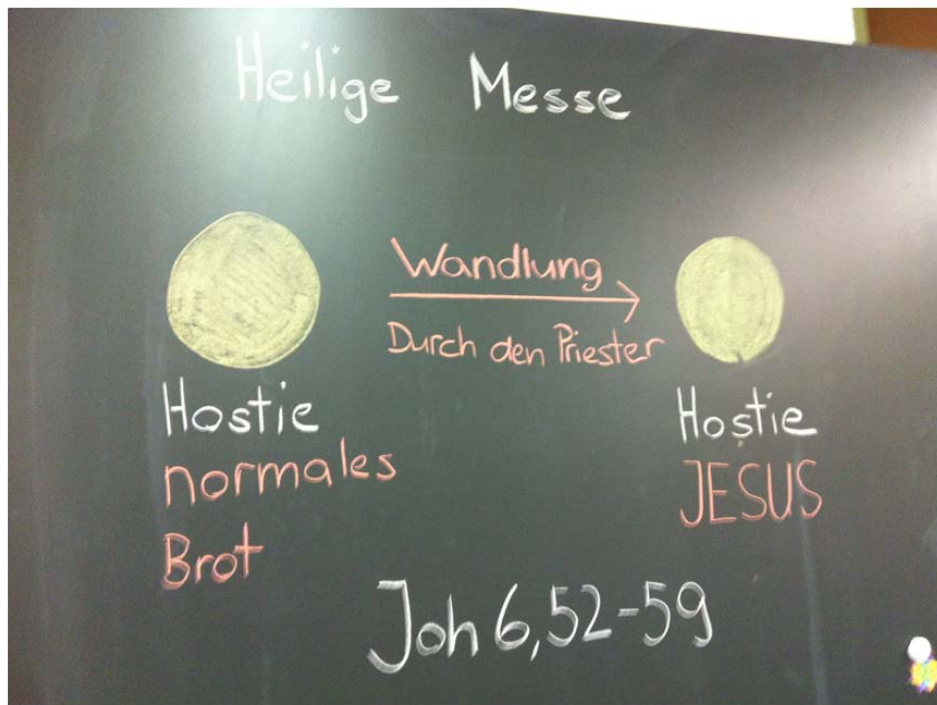
Some months earlier, in May 2014, I had made a walking pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Santiago was commemorating 800 years since St Francis of

Assisi's pilgrimage to the city. St. Francis is the patron saint of the parish where I had applied to be a sacristan. My constant prayer throughout the 100 km walk was "Lord, if it is Your Will, allow me to serve in Your house as a sacristan". On my last day in Santiago, I woke up before sunrise to pray outside the Convento de San Francisco de Valdedios. On 3 October 2014, on the eve of the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, I received an email from Fr. Paul, the parish priest, saying that they were accepting me as an assistant sacristan. I could start in January. That was the best early Christmas present ever!

Some days later, I met with Fr. Paul and Dina, the main sacristan at the Holy Spirit church, where I would be assigned. We met in the classroom where Fr. Paul gave catechism lessons. "Do you believe this as true?" he asked, pointing to chalkboard. "Yes, I do," I replied. "Good," he said. "That is the foremost requirement to be a sacristan. Oh, and to

do your tasks with reverence. It is a rare thing to find these days."

Although it was already October, and Christmas was just around the corner, January felt like a lifetime away. I could not believe it when the day finally came and I got my key to the church. We made arrangements that I would "shadow" Dina for the next few weeks, to learn the ropes.



"Do you believe this to be true?," he asked, pointing to the chalkboard.

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SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

SAVE THE DATE!



Save the Date for the Holy Infant Jesus celebration on January 16, 2016. This event will be held at St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church at 1111 Michael Way, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108. Liturgical celebration starts at 1:00 P.M. followed by procession and Sinulog to the Lavoy Hall where lunch will be served. The afternoon will include a program with surprise numbers, dance and more Sinulog.

WALKING THE BIBLE



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan sponsored by The Spiritual Army of God the Father is scheduled on December 5-15, 2016. This 11-day pilgrimage includes the following cities/sites: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Via Crucis, Last Supper, Gethsemane, Dormition, Nativity Church, Capernaum, Petra, Madaba and Mount Nebo. The cost is \$3,299

which includes airfare from anywhere in the U.S.A. Please visit our website for detailed information and/or to download a flyer.

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

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING KEEPING THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BURNING IN OUR HEARTS

By Sr. Ann Shields, SGL

How do we accept the call to discipleship with eagerness, enthusiasm, and fervor, willing to lay our lives down for the Lord, no matter the cost? How do we keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in our hearts?

Feed on Scripture

If we want our faith to grow, we have to feed it food that comes from God. Often we have our hearts and minds and spirits set on food that destroys, or we have the right food but we try to live on what would be classified as a starvation diet. To grow healthy in your spiritual life, please take time each day to read Scripture. God's word has the power to literally change your life. His word is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). So read it daily! It will change your thinking and your priorities; it will build your faith and empower and strengthen you. As God's Spirit acts in your life, you will be more able to discern and respond. Without God's word, we can easily be deaf, dumb, and blind to God's action. Its power doesn't come primarily through our senses but through God's action in our soul! When you begin to choose to desire God's will, you will see the fruit of God-given desires.

Fr. George Montague, a noted Scripture scholar, said years ago, "If you want to understand the word of God, stand under it!" In other words, don't judge it; let it judge you. Put yourself under its authority daily. This is very sound advice; this is the discipline that helps to shape a true disciple.

Feed on the Eucharist

Another important way to nourish your relationship with Jesus is to feed on the Eucharist as often as you can. Whenever it is possible, even if it is inconvenient, go to daily Mass. Receive nourishment from the word and the Bread of Life. Here is the fountain of life: drink deeply. If

you can't make it to daily Mass, either because no Mass is available or because of health reasons or serious commitments to job or family, then take a few minutes each day to read the daily Mass readings, asking God for the grace to apply them to your life that day. Then make a spiritual communion like this one, which was recommended by St. Alphonsus Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you have already come and unite myself entirely to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

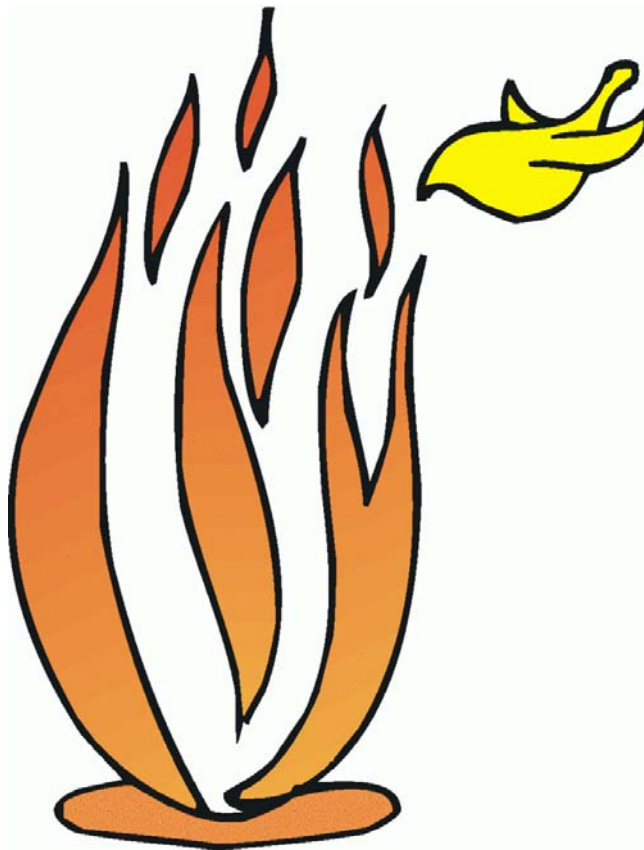
Here is another prayer of spiritual communion, composed by Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val:

At your feet, O my Jesus, I prostrate myself, and I offer you repentance of my contrite heart, which is humbled in its nothingness and in your holy presence. I adore you in the Sacrament of your love, the ineffable Eucharist. I desire to receive you into the poor dwelling that my heart offers you. While waiting for the happiness of sacramental communion, I wish to possess you in spirit. Come to me, O my

Jesus, since I, for my part, am coming to you! May your love embrace my whole being in life and in death. I believe in you, I hope in you, I love you. Amen.

Intercession

Another part of daily, or at least weekly, prayer should be intercession for your needs and those of your family and friends. This is an area where Satan can ply his "tools" to discourage us so much that we stop interceding. Never, never! So often we wring our hands and are even sometimes oppressed when crosses come to us in life. Believe me, I understand. Some things come without



warning, and they can knock us down. Bring all your needs to God — all of them, great and small. Jesus tells us that whatever we ask for in his name will be granted.

Make sure that, as Scripture exhorts us, you are offering your prayers and petitions in his name — not in your name, but in his. We have received a great promise: “If you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name” (John 16:23). What does it mean to ask in Jesus’ name? It doesn’t mean just saying Jesus’ name at the end of your prayer, although that can be a sign of our faith in God. But you cannot just pay lip service. Saying the word, the name, is not enough.

When I was a young teenager, my father, a mechanic, would send me to the auto parts store in the little town where we lived. Small-town living meant that almost everyone knew everyone else. So I would go to the store and tell the owners that my dad wanted these parts for the cars he was repairing and that he would pay them at the end of the week. No one questioned me; they knew my father well. I used my father’s name to get these materials, and because they trusted my father, they gave them to me. They knew I was asking for what my father wanted! (I always liked looking at the seat covers and floor mats, but I think if I had tried to include those in my purchases, the owners might have legitimately wondered if my father had really asked for them.)

When we ask in Jesus’ name, we first have to ask ourselves if this is what Jesus really wants us to have. I cannot ask in his name without knowing his will, just as I could not ask for something in my earthly father’s name if my father had not given me permission to do so. What God wants most for each of us is that we know his love and respond to it by following him more closely. When we are praying for something good for someone we love, our vision is often shortsighted. We can see a good, and so we ask for that — perhaps something regarding finances, health, or relationships. But is that what the Father wants for our loved one at that time? Meanwhile, God knows the state of the soul of the one for whom we pray, and he may know that there is a more important gift that he wishes to give. If the person were to receive what we were praying for, he or she might just be satisfied and not look further, especially when it comes to questions of salvation. So we want to ask in Jesus’ name!

Let me share an example with you. A young woman came to me in tears because she and her boyfriend had just broken up, and she was devastated. She loved him and thought that marriage was in the offing. I told her that God loved her even more and that he had a plan for her life that was good. I prayed that she could trust God, but I never prayed that she and her boyfriend would be reconciled. It seemed that every time I tried to pray that way, something stopped me. So I asked the Lord, “What do you want me to pray for?” And I sensed (with no audible words) that I should pray that she would give her whole heart to God and put him at the center of her life. I prayed the way I thought God was asking me, and two

years later it bore tremendous fruit in a marriage with another young man who had God at the center of his life. The Holy Spirit will teach you how to pray for yourself and for others. Intercessory prayer is one of the greatest acts of mercy we can perform for those we love and for those who ask for our help.

One of the greatest saints committed to intercessory prayer was St. Monica. She prayed for many years for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine. Nothing seemed to change. In fact, things got worse! At one point, she especially prayed that God would not allow her son to go to Rome. It was so pagan that her son would never stand a chance of becoming a Christian, she understandably thought. Yet when Augustine did go to Rome, Monica did not despair but trusted God to hear her long-suffering prayer for her wayward son. From Rome Augustine went to Milan, where he met the bishop, St. Ambrose, who eventually baptized Augustine into life in Christ. Never give up! Never stop praying.

Have the courage to pray this way for your spouse, your children, your grandchildren, and your friends. Sometimes we just want the difficulty solved; we don’t want to live through the anguish or pain of watching people we love suffer. It may take longer to see the fruit in the lives of our loved ones if we pray according to God’s will — longer, that is, than we want to wait — but the fruit can be eternal. Put first in your heart and prayer what is first in God’s heart and prayer. Read Matthew 6:25-33; seek first the kingdom of God in your intercession for others, and you will see blessings. Pray like this: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in the lives of all those I love.” This is the way the Holy Spirit works, and it can make your prayer very fruitful. We are very shortsighted in eternal matters! “Help me, Lord, to see things from your perspective.”

We are pulled hither and yon by so many things every day. We are bombarded by “noises” of all kinds. At best, this wearies and distracts us. The Holy Spirit is truly speaking to our hearts and spirits a great deal, but if we are surrounded by so many other voices, how do we think we can hear that “still, small voice,” that fatherly voice of love, wisdom, correction, and hope? I offer these suggestions as a practical way of protecting your mind and heart, of making it more of a home for the Holy Spirit. □

Excerpted from *More of the Holy Spirit: How to Keep the Fire Burning in Our Hearts* by Sr. Ann Shields, SGL (The Word Among Us Press, 2013).

GIVING THANKS ALWAYS

So give thanks in the Spirit, and verse twenty says to give thanks "unto God and the Father." James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Don't think negatively about God. God is good. He is your Father.

So, in the Spirit...unto the Father...and through the Son. Verse twenty also says to give thanks "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." You thank God in the name or with the authority of Christ. You don't have to understand all that God is doing. Even if you don't understand it, you can just say, "In the name of Jesus, I thank You."

Make it your daily habit, as I do, to lift your heart to God in praise as you get out of bed each morning. Just say, "Lord God, I love You, and I praise You." What a great way to start your day and to live your life!

Four Levels of Life

In closing, I want you to think about something. There are basically four levels of life. The first is represented by people who are constantly complaining and grumbling. They brighten up a room just by leaving it.

The second includes people who just live lives of ingratitude. They don't complain, but they never thank God for His obvious blessings. That's a little better but not much.

Then, there are people who thank God for obvious blessings. When something good happens, they're grateful. That's a better level.

But let me tell you what the highest level is. It is to be grateful for all things at all times. Now folks when you get to that place, then you have learned the secret of joy. □

SERVING IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

I found Dina to be a very patient and thorough teacher. We started our preparations in the sacristy at least an hour before the start of the Mass. For big Masses, like the Easter Vigil, we would start two or more hours before the Mass. Dina said that it is important that we give ourselves enough time to do the preparations without rushing. Even if we are in a hurry or stressed, for instance, when we have only a few minutes to transition from the Eucharistic Adoration to the Mass, and the bells are already ringing, we should always be calm and collected.

I loved every single moment of working with and learning from Dina. One day, she asked me how I was feeling about things. I told her I was so very happy it felt my feet were not touching the ground. She laughed and said, "That's great. Savor it. But don't be disappointed if you have some days when it feels just like a normal job, and you show up, not out of love or anything noble like that,

but because you made a commitment to come and you know people are counting on you." Dina has been a sacristan for seven years, and she has seen a lot. I do not doubt that that is true, and days like those will come. However, up to now, I haven't had any yet. Maybe I am lucky that I'm having a long "honeymoon" period. So far, no matter what kind of day I am having, opening the door to the sacristy and being greeted by the scent of incense always lifts me up, and I feel like I am where I am meant to be. Sometimes, I feel like the sun is burning bright inside of me. Once, someone told me, "Georgia, you know, life is complicated. There are real problems in the world. You can't always go around looking that happy."

Surely I'm not happy all the time. But I'm almost always happy whenever I'm in church. Part of it is the wonderful people I work with. Our deacon says it is quite special with our group, and that one feels the joy of the Gospel, as evidenced by the friendly banter that goes around, but at the same time there is the deep reverence and respect for the mysteries of faith that take place in the Mass. However, the most important part of it, I suspect, is being in close proximity to the mysteries of our faith as they unfold during the Mass. My favorite part of the Mass is the Consecration. When the priest raises the host, I ring the bells and pray, "Dear Jesus, just as you transform the bread and wine into Your Body and Blood, transform me too from my sinful self and help me follow You."

My atheist husband does not understand me. In some way, the happiness I've found in my faith is a source of tension and strife between us. He feels hurt that I've found such joy and fulfillment outside of the family, outside our home. "Why aren't we enough for you?" he has asked. "It's selfish of you to have this job. You spend time away from home and yet you don't bring in any real money. You're the only one in the family who benefits from it." Fr Paul once asked, "When is your husband going to come and see what you do?" I've invited him many times, but he feels there is no need for him to see me "cleaning up after a priest". My 14-year old son has taken to repeating the type of comments he hears from his dad. Why are you wasting your time? Are you throwing away your PhD? Why don't you get a real job and earn some real money? My son points out that my husband and I fight more ever since I started trying to live my faith.

I suppose I cannot argue about the money. I am on an hourly contract, and I think the cleaning lady at church is paid more than I am (because she is older). As my husband points out, with this job, I contribute practically nothing financially to the family. It is enough to take the kids to McDonalds as a bribe for coming to Mass with me when my husband is out of town, and to buy some appropriate Sunday clothes. However, I feel that I am working for stock options with God. There is not much cash up front, but God is abundantly generous with His blessings. He knows what I am doing and Whom I am doing it for. Before I started as a sacristan, the Son Helper and two priests (none of them know each other) all told

me that being a sacristan would come with a lot of blessings, but that there would be some challenges in exchange. It frightened me at first, but Lord, Your most holy Will be done. I know that You will always give us the graces necessary to meet the challenges You allow to come our way, and that You only allow them to come to refine our souls and make them more pleasing to You.

I saw a quote from St John Paul II on Facebook a few days ago. "It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness. He is waiting for you when you find that nothing else satisfies you." It reminded me of how empty

and unsatisfied I felt in my academic career, in my lost and aimless heathen years before Jesus rescued me from my personal wasteland. And I marveled at how happy and fulfilled I am now, how rich I feel in my heart, to have the privilege of serving our Lord as His sacristan.

P.S. On 2 October 2015, I finished the icon of God the Father that I had started in thanksgiving for Him leading us to our new home two years ago. My next project is to start on the icon of St Francis that I will give to the Pope. ☐

"... I am your Mother Mary.

Pray intently my children for many souls have lost their right path to God.

The forces of darkness have engulfed many to proceed to his evil plans of spiritual destruction.

The evil one will not stop to break my son Jesus' attempt to make the path of humanity open to the kingdom of God.

My beads of rosary are your instruments to fight the onslaught of evil forces that lurk every side of human endeavor, marriage, family, and unborn children.

Pray and offer sacrifices to establish the greater glory of God through the passionate blood of my son Jesus.

His redemptive plan has been fulfilled.

It is up to you my children to put that in your hearts.

I will always be with you and my intercession before the throne of the Father."

Mary, your Lady of the Rosary

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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 November 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

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Ruth Mercado | Cora Pablico

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?

Our gratitude to the Lord for blessing us and entrusting us with another baby girl on the way. Also we are thankful for my husband's new job opportunity; for all the help He gave for the smooth renewal process of my teaching credential; the healing of the ailments of my family members and good health for all of us. And most of all the continuous financial help and advancement He blesses us with. Praise be to God! We are eternally grateful for all the blessings He showers upon us all!

. – Gemma B.

Thank you for the friends you placed into my life, the people I get to talk with, hang out with. Thank you for the ways you have used them to teach me about your love. Thank You God for your daily grace, for always welcoming me back, no matter how unworthy I think or feel that I am, Your love is always greater.

- Evelyn

We have so many blessings to be thankful everyday but most important was the incident on October 7 at the Shrine of Christ the King in Chicago. In spite of the devastating fire that damaged the roof and ran the whole length of the church, there had been no reports of injuries at all! Amazingly, the 18th century statue of the Holy Infant Jesus was found standing where everything else had fallen! The Blessed Sacrament and all contents of the tabernacle were completely intact and untouched by the fire! Canon/Father Joel Estrada's vestment and the altar boys' cassocks left behind the altar the night before were spared, too. Our family is very thankful for your concern and continued prayers for the restoration of the Shrine, the home of our Holy Infant King Jesus.

- Lolit Estrada

We can't thank you enough Lord for all the graces you give us to honor our covenant with you and to each other for 29 years [and counting]! Also for the daughter you blessed us with!

Walk with us, Lord – always, we pray!

- Victor & Alice

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 800 Our Father Devotion – November 21, 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 800 Our Father Devotion – November 21, 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 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.