

St. Hilary

Men's Group

5.11.2013

Mary – The Woman I Love

Today, words of Wisdom will be spoken by a Master of Words – Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. The good Bishop visits the Men's Group via early TV video to help us understand Mary as a Dream, as a Mother and as a Spouse.



While his words were spoken some 50 years ago, they have never been truer, more relevant and more driving than in today's world of Humanistic Secularism with its obligatory "Denial of God" in the Public Square. Modern Culture is at best the opposite of Christ and has been supremely described as the World, the Flesh and the Devil.

Mary continues to be the universal Mother of all who are redeemed. She gives us the human Jesus and brings witness of that Humanity from his lowly birth to his death on the Cross and subsequent Resurrection.

The Bishop's Wisdom is punctuated with Superlative Wit. A heckler once asked Bishop Sheen a question about someone who had died. The Bishop replied, "I will ask him when I get to Heaven." The heckler replied, "What if he isn't in Heaven?" The Bishop replied, "Well then, you ask him."

Let us come to know God more through Modern Comment, Holy Scripture and our Catechism.

Luke 1:34-38 *The Obedience of Mary*

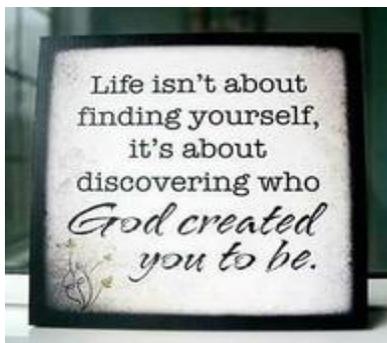


But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.





Luke 1:46-55 *The Canticle of Mary*

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Luke 2:22-24 *The Submission of Mary*

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,"



...and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Catechism

148 Mary's Obedience of Faith

The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that "with God nothing will be impossible" and so giving her assent: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word."

Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." It is for this faith that all generations have called Mary blessed.



149 Purest Realization of Faith

Throughout her life and until her last ordeal when Jesus her son died on the cross, Mary's faith never wavered. She never ceased to believe in the fulfillment of God's word. And so the Church venerates in Mary the purest realization of faith.

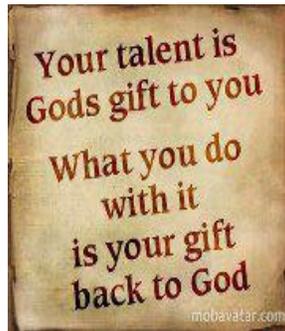


Questions to Focus On

#1 What part of today's presentation was most meaningful to you? Is there anything you might apply to your life from it?

#2 How do you see Mary? How does Mary fit into your life? What about the life of your family? Explain.

#3 What are your earliest recollections of Bishop Sheen?



A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.



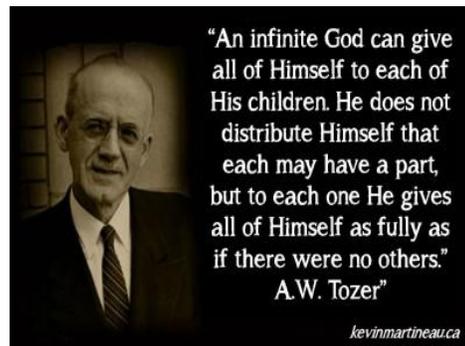
Men's Group Calendar

5/25/2013	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
6/8/2013	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
6/22/2013	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
7/13/2013	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
7/27/2013	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
8/10/2013	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
8/24/2013	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library



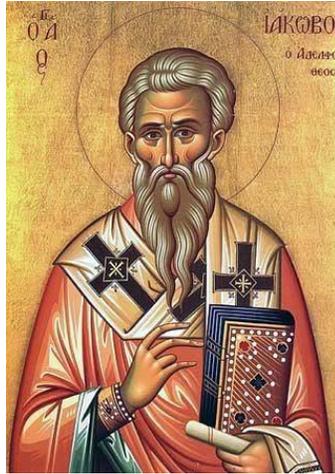
ACTION PLAN: This week I will draw closer to Jesus in my life by:
† Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence.
† Asking for Forgiveness in prayer for the times I have been unfaithful to God.
† Asking Jesus for help to accept Obedience to His Work.
† Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.

Stop hating yourself for everything you aren't. Start loving yourself for everything that you are...



A Prayer to Bless One's Life

Lord, I love you and need you, Come into my heart, and Bless me, my family, my home, and my friends, in the Sweet and Holy Name of Jesus Christ. Amen



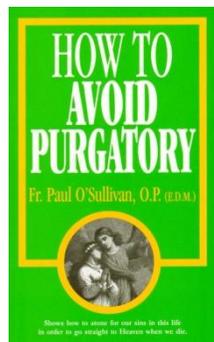
For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. *St. James the Lesser - Feast day is May 3rd*

How to Avoid Purgatory

The Fourth Means by which we can lessen our time in Purgatory, or avoid it altogether, is by frequent Confession, Communion and daily assistance at Mass.

Let us go to Mass and Holy Communion every day. We can do no better. One day with Mass and Communion is worth a hundred days without them. Amen.

Fr. Paul O'Sullivan, O.P



BOLD PRAYER

O Almighty God,
whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life; that, following the steps of thy holy Apostle, Saint James, we may steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Studying the wisdom inherent in the Word has unexpected benefits and pays tremendous dividends. What happens to our lives when we make such a shift in our prayer approach to God? What does the Wisdom of God tell us in terms of expectations, and thus in becoming a better servant of Christ?

