

4.13.2019

Easter Ruminations

Fidelity in Lent

Lent is quickly coming to a close. During these difficult times it is very easy to lose our way as we continue our Lenten journey. Preparations for Easter Sunday can still be made.

The following thoughts may keep us on the right course. There are ten simple rules to follow: Love God, don't use bad language, go to church, be obedient, protect the sanctity of life, have a pure heart, give an honest day's work, tell the truth, be faithful, and never succumb to jealousy.



These decrees are NOT suggestions. Therefore, abstain from truth debates as good and evil were established long ago. When necessary, learn to confront rather than compromise avoiding humanistic terms of endearment, entitlements, or victimology. Too often such descriptions weave a tapestry of despair.

Never forget those who love you. Always forgive those who have forgotten you. Fidelity is not an option. But only you can decide whether your promise to love, honor, and obey is worth the effort. Make peace with your neighbor. Love your spouse. Honor your father and mother and forgive your enemies.

Pray for the poor, the sick, the persecuted, those who live in war, and those who are dying a spiritual death. Learn to appreciate the simple things in life. A sunny day, a child's laugh, a flower's bloom, and a puppy's kiss are all reasons to be grateful for what you have been given. Don't take such blessings for granted.

Do not miss the opportunity to sow the seeds of happiness in this world because you are too busy, too engaged in your favorite sports team, or caught up in the outcome of another reality show. Avoid meditations on the mystery of life or why you are here. Trust in Him who has the answers.



Be prepared to enter your Garden of Gethsemane when you are on the brink of spiritual bankruptcy, or turn from the poor, the lonely, the confused, the sick, and those in despair. And should you find yourself complaining about the cross you are asked to carry, refuse to help others carry their cross, or worse yet, add further weight on those who are carrying a cross, don't expect your personal "Simon of Cyrene" to ease your burden.

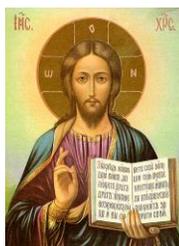
Forgive those whose indifference and/or ignorance can lead to distraction or destruction. Be passionate in your advocacy for truth, justice, and love. Trust your Guardian Angel to warn against impending darkness. Never trust the minions of Hell who live in eternal darkness. Focus on your spiritual journey as you defend your beliefs while using your talents for the greater glory of God.

Do these things and you are well on your way to eternal happiness. For one day you will stand before almighty God and He will ask if you shared your blessings with others; how you invested your time; whether you were faithful to your obligations; what you stood for and against; and if you forgave those that trespassed against you.

How you answer then, is dependent on what you do now. And what you do in this world will determine what you will do in the next. And should you choose to follow the Blessed Mother's advice at Cana (John 2:5), you will one day hear the words,

"Well done good and faithful servant, for as you loved Me so have I loved you. Welcome home."

Let's listen carefully as we consider the Wisdom of Holy Scripture and Catechism. May God give to each one of us the necessary means to complete His Gift of our Unique and Holy Mission.



John 2:1-11 The First Miracle

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim.

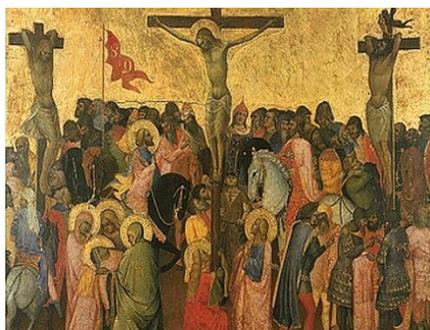
Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Luke 23:36-43 Remember me

Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."



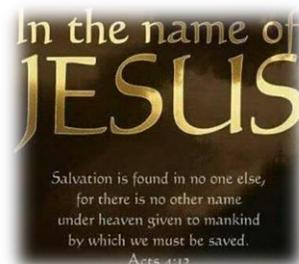
Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Word of the Lord

Catechism

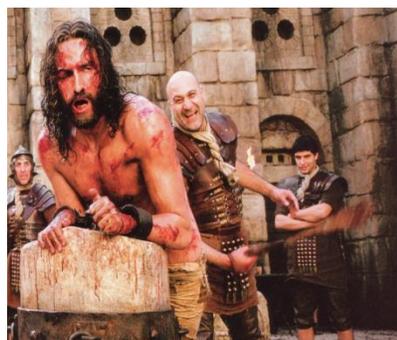
2741 - THE PRAYER OF CHRIST

Jesus also prays for us - in our place and on our behalf. All our petitions were gathered up, once for all, in his cry on the Cross and, in his Resurrection, heard by the Father. This is why he never ceases to intercede for us with the Father. If our prayer is resolutely united with that of Jesus, in trust and boldness as children, we obtain all that we ask in his name, even more than any particular thing: the Holy Spirit himself, who contains all gifts.



REMEMBER ME ...when you come into your Kingdom

David Paul Eich



I have made it a point to watch Mel Gibson's, *The Passion of the Christ* on more than a few occasions. As always, I continue to be haunted by the way this award-winning director drew our attention to the temple guard who lost his ear in an altercation with Peter; or Pilate's wife whose kindness was extended to the victim's Mother; and Simon of Cyrene the reluctant "volunteer" who ended up defending the Savior. I will forever remember the Roman soldier whose expression confirmed that he just executed the Son of God. And who will forget the condemned thief who pleaded, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

After seeing the film, I couldn't help but wonder how many "prodigal" sons and daughters would be affected by the experience. Was there a Catholic politician whose pro-abortion position fell apart when Mary stared into the camera holding her crucified Son? And did any parents suddenly recognize that their children were a gift from God? Were judges present who realized that civil union perversions come at the expense of the sanctity of marriage? One can only assume that Hollywood producers didn't attend because they were busy filming their next pornographic movie. And I wonder if there was a CEO who was uncomfortable with the corruption between Jerusalem's elite. Perhaps a newspaper critic assigned to cover the "event" struggled with the words, "What is truth?" Surely, she wasn't alone as more than one lawyer must have squirmed at the same scene.

And did anyone notice a member of the clergy whose discomfort may have had more to do with what he failed to do? Could one draw a parallel with sports celebrities and their agents to the 30 pieces of silver? And let's not forget the intellectuals and scholars whose pride and arrogance were magnified in the role of the Pharisees. Were prostitutes, drug addicts, alcoholics, and abortion mill nurses present? Did they see themselves in the movie? And how many "fallen-away" Catholics will we see at Mass this Easter?



I suppose they were all there, just like I was: I who complain when asked to carry a cross the weight of a "toothpick;" or who fail to recognize the cross that others carry; or worse yet, condemn what others have done while forgetting what I have failed to do. Perhaps that's why the words, "remember me" represent not only what I ask of Jesus: But what the Son of God asks of me.



Amen.



Questions for Discussion:

1. Can you remember a time when you had to make a decision that you came to the following question: "What do you want me to do Lord?"

2. Have you experienced a personal resurrection from what you have done or failed to do? Expand your answer and give an example.

3. How are you preparing for Easter Sunday? Explain.

You are God's representative on Earth. When you Bless and encourage the people in your life, you are revealing God's love for them.

Men's Group Calendar
A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.

4/27/2018	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
5/11/2019	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
5/25/2019	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
6/8/2019	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
July & August	NO Men's Group	Summer Vacation



Bring Christ into the Emptiness of Our Lives

- Spend time with Lord Jesus in Adoration. Silence fills the emptiness. Silence isn't an absence; it's a presence.
- Spend time with those who bring joy to life. Family, friends, church...
- Invite Christ into your relationships. Acknowledge His presence in every moment, whether you're alone or with others; pray together.
- Ask God for Deeper Trust. Doubting is OK if we bring it honestly to Him. He can and will use that to bring you to a place of Deeper Trust in Him.
- Just be in the emptiness, not running from it, not trying to fix or fill it.
- Ask: What is Christ trying to teach me during this period of emptiness? How does He want me to grow from this experience?

WHEN I'M
WORRIED, IT'S
USUALLY BECAUSE
I'M TRYING TO
DO EVERYTHING
MYSELF. WHEN
I'M AT PEACE, IT'S
USUALLY BECAUSE
I REMEMBER
THAT GOD IS IN
CONTROL

ACTION PLAN

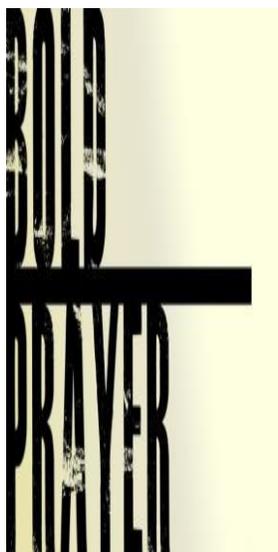
This week I will do my best to be a Man of Integrity by:

Creating a daily prayer practice

Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Asking Jesus for help by allowing Him to be always by my side



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who you put into my life. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them peace and mercy. Where there is doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need and emptiness with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen



Anima Christi

Say the following Prayer from today until Easter Sunday

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me;
Within your wounds hide me;
separated from you, let me never be;
From the evil one protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me; That with your saints,
I may be praising you forever and ever.

Amen.



Lord Jesus, I believe you are calling me to yourself. Right here. Right now. Just as I am. And though you love me too much to let me stay as I am, you take me as I am today. Help me to follow you more deeply, knowing the journey does not depend on my strength of perfection, but on your perfect Love for me.
