

# ***Into the Deep***

Issue 209

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

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## **Like a Fly**

**Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 13-09-2020**

Today as we were celebrating the Mass, I paused, touched by a phrase in the first reading from the book of Sirach. The phrase says, remember your end and stop hating. A beautiful phrase. But think of the end. Just think, you will be in a coffin... and will you take your hatred there? Think that in the end you can stop hating and resenting. Let's think of this phrase that is very touching. Remember your end and stop hating.

It is not easy to forgive because although in moments of calm we think, "Yes, this person has done so many things to me but I have done many too. Better to forgive so as to be forgiven", but then resentment returns like a bothersome fly in the summer that keeps coming back. Forgiveness isn't something we do in a moment, it is something continuous, against that resentment, that hatred that keeps coming back. Let's think of our end and stop hating.

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

## **Are We?**

**Pope Francis, in his Message for World Mission Day, celebrated on October 18 in 2020**

Mission is a free and conscious response to God's call. Yet we discern this call only when we have a personal relationship of love with Jesus present in his Church.

Let us ask ourselves: are we prepared to welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to listen to the call to mission, whether in our life as married couples or as consecrated persons or those called to the ordained ministry and in all the everyday events of life?

Are we willing to be sent forth at any time or place to witness to our faith in God the merciful Father, to proclaim the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ, to share the divine life of the Holy Spirit by building up the Church?

Are we, like Mary, the Mother of Jesus, ready to be completely at the service of God's will? This interior openness is essential if we are to say to God: "Here am I, Lord, send me".

## **ITD Birthday!**

This year marks the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday of Into the Deep! Happy birthday to us!

Thank you to everyone who has kept us going over all these years, with your prayers, donations, letters and support. Please keep them coming if you want us to continue!

Please also pass on ITD to others so that we can increase our number of subscribers. Remember that subscription is free! Each month we lose a few email subscribers through the automatic mail-out process which culls email addresses that are old or where mailboxes are full, so it would be nice to be able to top this up with new subscribers. If you know of anyone who has stopped receiving ITD for no apparent reason, please ask them to update their details. Printed copies of ITD are also free (funded purely by donations) and we're always happy to post out some extra copies if you have friends, neighbours or fellow parishioners you want to pass it on to. We're also grateful for any comments or shares on Facebook to help spread the word. Thank you!

Ed.

**All issues of *Into the Deep* are at [www.stoneswillshout.com](http://www.stoneswillshout.com)**

# The Quick Novena

From the book *Mother Teresa of Calcutta: A Personal Portrait* by Fr Leo Maasburg, Ignatius Press (Ch 2)

This Quick Novena was, so to speak, Mother Teresa's spiritual rapid-fire weapon. It consisted of ten Memorares – not nine, as you might expect from the word "novena". Novenas lasting nine days were quite common among the congregation of the Missionaries of Charity. But given the host of problems that were brought to Mother Teresa's attention, not to mention the pace at which she traveled, it was often just not possible to allow nine days for an answer from Celestial Management. And so she invented the Quick Novena.

Here are the words of the Memorare:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your clemency hear and answer me. Amen.

Mother Teresa used this prayer constantly: for petitions for the cure of a sick child, before important discussions or when passports went missing, to request heavenly aid when the fuel supply was running short on a nighttime mission and the destination was still far away in the darkness. The Quick Novena had one thing in common with nine-day and even nine-month novenas: confident pleading for heavenly assistance, as the apostles did for nine days in the upper room "together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus" (Acts 1:14) while waiting for the promised help from the Holy Spirit.

The reason why Mother Teresa always prayed ten Memorares, though, is that she took the collaboration of heaven so much for granted that she always added a tenth Memorare immediately, in thanksgiving for the favor received.

## Black Mass

Thank you for posting me Into the Deep each month. I so appreciate it. But only 2 copies from now on please, as my life is in a very slow lane now, health not what it used to be. Sorry this cheque has been a long time coming.

Just had a friend ring me, looking for prayers – Robin Bristow, former Sex Party candidate, is organising a 'Black Mass' in Noosa, Queensland, on 30<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate Halloween. In a public building, a theatre, with all politicians invited. This is where it can be so dangerous to receive Holy Communion in the hand, where abuse can take place so easily.

**Cynthia Lourey, Warrnambool, Victoria**

## Love the Church

**Pope John Paul II**

Of this Church we are members and children; by this Church we have been begotten to supernatural life in Baptism which has grafted us into Christ. We should therefore love this Church as our Mother.

*Agenda for the Third Millennium, p.27*

## Learning Him

***Rosarium Virginis Mariae, n.14***

Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of "*learning him*". In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ. But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother. ...

Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to "read" Christ, to discover his secrets and to understand his message.

This school of Mary is all the more effective if we consider that she teaches by obtaining for us in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit, even as she offers us the incomparable example of her own "pilgrimage of faith". As we contemplate each mystery of her Son's life, she invites us to do as she did at the Annunciation: to ask humbly the questions which open us to the light, in order to end with the obedience of faith: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word".

# Queensland Elections

On 12 July I sent the following signed agreement to the three main candidates standing for State Parliament in the electorate of Mulgrave, Queensland.

As one of your constituents I am writing to you to seek an undertaking that if elected to the Queensland Parliament on 31 October 2020 you will support legislation to repeal the *Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018*.

Despite the majority of Queenslanders being opposed to late term abortion, this Act allows abortion at all stages of pregnancy for physical, psychological, or social circumstances. There is no consideration for the viability of the baby or for pain management; there are no protections for women experiencing coercion, and no counselling provision.

Would you please sign below, have witnessed and dated and return to me before I cast my vote.

Here are their responses:

**Hon Curtis Pitt MP (ALP):** In a letter dated 14 August Mr Pitt stated, inter alia, "My personal view, and the view shared by my wife, is that we would not abort our unborn child unless there was a significant danger to my wife. However, this does not mean that I do not support the rights of an individual to make their own choice on what is a very personal, complex and significant issue. As a Member of Parliament I see my role as making decisions and voting on matters that I think will best benefit all members of our community. I do not believe that it is my place to impose my personal views on others who should be free to make a choice for themselves."

**Mr Gerry Vallianos (LNP):** Mr Vallianos came to my house the following week and said that he was prepared to sign the agreement but would prefer to discuss with his colleagues in the Party first. We agreed that he do this but I put another copy of the agreement in his letter box on 10<sup>th</sup> September, as I had not heard from him. I have since caught up with Mr Vallianos in person and he signed the agreement.

**Mr Attila Feher-Holan (KAP):** Mr Feher-Holan personally returned the agreement duly signed, witnessed and dated 26<sup>th</sup> July.

I hope fellow Queenslanders in the electorate of Mulgrave find this information useful as it has certainly helped to clarify matters for me.

Garry O'Brien, Edmonton, Queensland

## Nothing Will Matter More

**From a letter by Bernard Toutounji, National Director, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)**

We are honoured that each year a number of our benefactors leave a final gift in their will for the suffering Church. We know of some in advance and others we do not. In some cases we receive legacies from people who we did not know of in life, or others who made one or two small offerings. No matter where you are at in life, or in the development of your last will and testament, please allow me to make one suggestion. Ensure that you include in your will the instruction to have Masses offered for the repose of your soul. I have encouraged a number of benefactors to leave at least \$500 in their will for ACN with the explicit instruction that it be used to arrange a Gregorian series of thirty Masses for their eternal repose. Whether you leave more is up to your own discernment. Obviously, you and I hope our loved ones will arrange Masses for us, but one never knows, and at the moment of death nothing will matter more to us than prayers for our final purification. I know of one benefactor who has even arranged to have a trust set up after he passes away which will make annual disbursements, precisely for the arranging of Masses for his repose and that of his parents. I know it can all sound a bit strange when we are living life to the full, but none of us knows the day or the hour. I regularly hear ads about pre-planning a funeral but I think it even more important to pre-plan Masses to be offered after the Lord calls us to eternity.

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# Just Getting Older (9)

## – Finding Faith

Reading the newspapers or watching TV or just meeting the average person, I am becoming aware that many people have lost their faith in God, because they have lost their faith and trust in their fellow man, in the humanity of other people. If they can't trust their father or mother for loving each other really, how can they develop love and trust in others?

But quite some people have found their faith back in God by having met a good and upright person. Somebody who was able to remove the bitterness and heartache from his heart; maybe when he landed in hospital, or when he was taking care of just crossing the road, or even during the last days of his life.

Thinking about this made me aware of those seemingly insignificant people I will meet today and in the future, I want to meet them with love and respect, because in meeting them, I meet the Lord. I ask the Lord to help me to love them all without exception, those people with hardship in our neighbourhood, he trusted to us, in love. Let me become concerned for them, in Jesus' name, and have the patience and willingness to serve them.

May I accept from the Lord's hand what he brings me this day and in the future. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life – the Way which I will go, the Truth that I will see, the Life that will carry me. Conflict or harmony, sorrow or happiness, all is good as it comes. Therefore I ask the Lord to give it to me that it may be virtuous to me. May I begin!

**Bert Van Galen, Mowbray, Tasmania**

## Thank You

Thank you for the copies of ITD you have sent me across the years. They are greatly appreciated and I have distributed them in my parish.

Sadly, I have now retired. I would like to continue receiving one copy per issue but not many copies since I now don't have a parish.

Thank you for your great work for orthodox Catholicism.

**Fr Michael Shadbolt, Dandenong, Victoria**

# Doubts Dissolve

**Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, following his ordination of priests of Opus Dei, Rome**

**Q:** Some note there are, generally speaking, not many priests and less vocations, aside from some exceptions, such as Asia and Africa. However, you were here at the Opus Dei ordination of 29 priests, a considerable number. You, Your Eminence, who have been a priest for a considerable time, what would you say to a young person, a young man, who is considering such a vocation, but has some doubts? What would you, as a priest, tell him?

**A:** I believe that perhaps many words are not needed, because words can be believed or not believed. I believe that to answer the doubts of a young person – because it is true that many young people have many doubts since today there is a certain shortage of vocations – the only way to respond to a young man who poses the problem of his vocation and asks himself what to do with his vocation and his life, and feels the call of the Lord, the only way is to give a witness: that is, to be priests with all our limitations, our weaknesses, our miseries, but being priests who are truly in love with the Lord and spend their lives for the people entrusted to them.

If a young person really sees a priest fulfilled, a priest who feels joy because he knows that this is his path, he feels that he is responding to a call from the Lord and that it makes sense to give his life for others, then all the doubts disappear, or at least they dissolve, little by little.

Zenit.org 07-09-2020

## When We Suffer

**Pope John Paul II, Letter to the Elderly, 1999**

When God permits us to suffer because of illness, loneliness or other reasons associated with old age, he always gives us the grace and strength to unite ourselves with greater love to the sacrifice of his Son and to share ever more fully in his plan of salvation. Let us be convinced of this: he is our Father, a Father rich in love and mercy! (n.13)

“Attending Mass is the greatest action we can do.” – St John Vianney

# Learning to Know the Lord

When praying the Divine Office of Readings (5 Sept), I came across this passage from the Prophet Jeremiah: "Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sins to mind." (31: 33-34)

This reading from the Prophet Jeremiah on the announcement of salvation and the New Covenant is really about the Church as a sacrament of salvation and her evangelizing mission in the world. The Church is Christ in time and as such she exists to make the Lord known throughout the whole world.

It's one thing to learn to know the Lord from the outside, theoretically, so to speak, through Scripture alone, especially the Gospels, but God has ordained that his people of the new Covenant should learn to know him in his mystery through, with and in his Son, as a member of his Body, and in his Bride, the Church.

Through the grace merited for us by his Son, God has not only made it possible for all humanity to learn to know him, but to encounter him intimately, and worship him in Spirit and Truth in his Church. This learning to know Christ from the inside has been and is willed by God, and is the only way mankind can enter into communion with him and participate in his inner life and love.

As a child of the new and everlasting covenant in God's great family the Catholic Church, I know this prophecy is addressed to me. It made me think deeply about my own duty and efforts to 'learn to know the Lord', and exactly what this entails and means spiritually, because you cannot love what you do not know and neither can you hand it on or share it. It made me question whether I really and truly know the Lord, in his living Mystery and the various ways He is present in his Church.

The same day I meditated on this passage, the Church also celebrated the feast of the beatification St Teresa of Calcutta. She, like umpteen saints in the history of the Church, wholeheartedly and joyfully devoted herself to learning to know Christ from the inside by practising his living presence in the Church. She abided in the living presence of the Paschal Christ every day. This Mystery of His found expression in all her ways of living, and like all the effective evangelisers before her, she proclaimed from the rooftops what she first knew and lived in intimacy with the Lord. Do we do the same?

**Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria**

## Kenya's Bishops Speak Out

**Zenit.org 09-09-2020**

"We cannot claim God is in our midst when in fact we are allowing the evil of some individuals who may have killed their conscience to legislate for the killing of our unborn children", say the Bishops of Kenya, who asked the government to close all clinics and health units that are procuring abortions and administering contraceptives to minors and teenagers in the name of protecting them. In a joint statement read by the Chairman of Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops, Most Rev. Philip Anyolo, ...the bishops termed abortion as evil and expressed concern over the Reproductive Health Bill whose basic intention, they pointed out, is to introduce disguised abortion on demand.

"It is of utmost concern that in a country which believes in the sanctity of human life and human dignity, certain entities will be allowed to propagate ideologies that degrade that very dignity in the name of freedom of choice", they say. The Bishops urged parents to recall their primary responsibility of instilling good morals and habits in their children by spending sufficient time with them, reported Fides News Agency. "Parenting is the biggest investment any parent can make and it requires skill, effort, commitment, and patience", they said. "As a moral duty, families must take full responsibility for the education of their children as a virtue and in morality, especially on sexual education" recall the Bishops. They appealed to parents to teach their children the correct doctrine and to shun other doctrines, condemning the aggressive anti-family agenda being peddled such as the "gender ideology" that is contrary to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

# Faith Brings Serenity to Old Age

Pope John Paul II, Letter to the Elderly, 1999

To my elderly brothers and sisters!

*"Seventy is the sum of our years, or eighty if we are strong,  
and most of them are fruitless toil, for they pass quickly and we drift away"* (Ps 90:10)

1. Seventy years was an advanced age when the Psalmist wrote these words, and few people lived beyond it. Nowadays, thanks to medical progress and improved social and economic conditions, life expectancy has increased significantly in many parts of the world. Still, it remains true that the years pass quickly, and the gift of life, for all the effort and pain it involves, is too beautiful and precious for us ever to grow tired of it. ...

In this Letter I wish simply to express my spiritual closeness to you as someone who, with the passing of the years, has come to a deeper personal understanding of this phase of life and consequently feels a need for closer contact with other people of his own age, so that we can reflect together on the things we have in common. I place all this before the eyes of God who embraces us with his love and who sustains us and guides us by his providence.

2. Dear brothers and sisters, at our age it is natural to revisit the past in order to attempt a sort of assessment. This retrospective gaze makes possible a more serene and objective evaluation of persons and situations we have met along the way. The passage of time helps us to see our experiences in a clearer light and softens their painful side. Sadly, struggles and tribulations are very much a part of everyone's life. Sometimes it is a matter of problems and sufferings which can sorely test our mental and physical resistance, and perhaps even shake our faith. But experience teaches that daily difficulties, by God's grace, often contribute to people's growth and to the forging of their character. ...

14. It is natural that, as the years pass, we should increasingly consider our "twilight". If nothing else, we are reminded of it by the very fact that the ranks of our family members, friends and acquaintances grow ever thinner ... The line separating life and death runs through our communities and moves inexorably nearer to each of us. If life is a pilgrimage towards our heavenly home, then old age is the most natural time to look towards the threshold of eternity.

And yet, even we elderly people find it hard to resign ourselves to the prospect of making this passage. In our human condition touched by sin, death presents a certain dark side which cannot but bring sadness and fear. How could it be otherwise? Man has been made for life, whereas death – as Scripture tells us from its very first pages (cf. Gen 2-3) – was not a part of God's original plan but came about as a consequence of sin, as a result of "the devil's envy" (Wis 2:24). It is thus understandable why, when faced with this dark reality, man instinctively rebels. In this regard it is significant that Jesus, "who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Heb 4:15), also experienced fear in the face of death: "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me" (Mt 26:39). How can we forget his tears at the tomb of his friend Lazarus, despite the fact that he was about to raise him from the dead (cf. Jn 11:35)?

However rationally comprehensible death may be from a biological standpoint, it is not possible to experience it as something "natural". This would contradict man's deepest instincts. ... Death thus forces men and women to ask themselves fundamental questions about the meaning of life itself. What is on the other side of the shadowy wall of death? Does death represent the definitive end of life or does something lie beyond it?

15. Human history, from the most ancient times down to our own day, has provided a number of simplistic answers which limit life to what we experience on earth. In the Old Testament itself, certain passages in the Book of Ecclesiastes seem to present old age as a building in ruins and death as its final and utter destruction (cf 12:1-7).

But precisely against the backdrop of these pessimistic attitudes there shines forth the hope-filled outlook present in revelation as a whole and particularly in the Gospel: "God is not God of the dead, but of the

*Continued on page 7...*

living" (cf. Lk 20:38). The Apostle Paul affirms that God, who gives life to the dead (cf. Rom 4:17), will also give life to our mortal bodies (cf. *ibid.*, 8:11). And Jesus says of himself: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (Jn 11:25-26).

Christ, having crossed the threshold of death, has revealed the life which lies beyond this frontier, in that uncharted "territory" which is eternity. He is the first witness of eternal life; in him human hope is shown to be filled with immortality. "The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality" (Preface of Christian Death I). These words, which the Church's Liturgy offers as a consolation to believers as they bid farewell to their loved ones, are followed by a proclamation of hope: "Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven". In Christ, death – tragic and disconcerting as it is – is redeemed and transformed; it is even revealed as a "sister" who leads us to the arms of our Father. (cf St Francis of Assisi)

**16.** Faith thus illuminates the mystery of death and brings serenity to old age, now no longer considered and lived passively as the expectation of a calamity but rather as a promise-filled approach to the goal of full maturity. These are years to be lived with a sense of trusting abandonment into the hands of God, our provident and merciful Father. It is a time to be used creatively for deepening our spiritual life through more fervent prayer and commitment to the service of our brothers and sisters in charity. ...

Such a capacity to enjoy life in no way conflicts with that desire for eternity which grows within people of deep spiritual experience, as the lives of the saints bear witness.

Here the Gospel reminds us of the words of the aged Simeon, who says he is ready to die now that he has held in his arms the long-awaited Messiah: "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation" (Lk 2:29-30). The Apostle Paul felt torn between the desire to continue living in order to preach the Gospel, and the desire "to depart and be with Christ" (Phil 1:23). Saint Ignatius of Antioch, joyfully going to his martyrdom, said that he could hear within him the voice of the Spirit, like living "water" welling up inside of him and whispering the invitation: "Come to the Father".

These examples could be multiplied. They cast no doubt whatsoever on the value of earthly life, which is beautiful despite its limitations and sufferings, and which ought to be lived to its very end. At the same time they remind us that earthly life is not the ultimate value, in such a way that the twilight of life can be seen – from a Christian perspective – as a "passage", a bridge between one life and another, between the fragile and uncertain joy of this earth to that fullness of joy which the Lord holds in store for his faithful servants: "Enter into the joy of your master" (Mt 25:21). ...

And so I often find myself saying, with no trace of melancholy, a prayer recited by priests after the celebration of the Eucharist: *In hora mortis meae voca me, et iube me venire ad te* – at the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you. This is the prayer of Christian hope, which in no way detracts from the joy of the present, while entrusting the future to God's gracious and loving care.

**18.** *"Iube me venire ad te!"*: this is the deepest yearning of the human heart, even in those who are not conscious of it.

Grant, O Lord of life, that we may be ever vividly aware of this and that we may savour every season of our lives as a gift filled with promise for the future.

Grant that we may lovingly accept your will, and place ourselves each day in your merciful hands.

And when the moment of our definitive "passage" comes, grant that we may face it with serenity, without regret for what we shall leave behind. For in meeting you, after having sought you for so long, we shall find once more every authentic good which we have known here on earth, in the company of all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and hope.

Mary, Mother of pilgrim humanity, pray for us "now and at the hour of our death". Keep us ever close to Jesus, your beloved Son and our brother, the Lord of life and glory.

Amen!

# Five Paths of Repentance

**Saint John Chrysostom**

Would you like me to list also the paths of repentance? They are numerous and quite varied, and all lead to heaven.

A first path of repentance is the condemnation of your own sins: *Be the first to admit your sins and you will be justified.* For this reason, too, the prophet wrote: *I said: I will accuse myself of my sins to the Lord, and you forgave the wickedness of my heart.* Therefore, you too should condemn your own sins; that will be enough reason for the Lord to forgive you, for a man who condemns his own sins is slower to commit them again. Rouse your conscience to accuse you within your own house, lest it become your accuser before the judgment seat of the Lord. That, then, is one particularly good path of repentance.

Another and no less valuable one is to put out of our minds the harm done us by our enemies, to master our anger, and to forgive our fellow servants' sins against us. Then our own sins against the Lord will be forgiven us. Thus, you have another way to atone for sin: *For if you forgive your debtors, your heavenly Father will forgive you.*

Do you want to know of a third path? It consists of prayer that is fervent, careful and comes from the heart. If you want to hear of a fourth, I will mention almsgiving, whose power is great and far-reaching.

If, moreover, a man lives a modest, humble life, that, no less than the other things I have mentioned, takes sin away. Proof of this is the tax-collector who had no good deeds to mention but offered his humility instead and was relieved of a heavy burden of sins.

Thus I have shown you five paths of repentance: condemnation of your sins, forgiveness of our neighbour's sins against us, prayer, almsgiving and humility. Do not be idle, then, but walk daily in all these paths; they are easy, and you cannot plead your poverty. For, though you live out your life amid great need, you can always set aside your wrath, be humble, pray diligently and condemn your own sins; poverty is no hindrance. Poverty is not an obstacle to our carrying out the Lord's bidding, even when it comes to that path of repentance which involves giving money (almsgiving, I mean). The widow proved that when she put her two mites into the box!

Now that we have learned how to heal these wounds of ours, let us apply the cures. Then, when we have regained genuine health, we can approach the holy table with confidence, go gloriously to meet Christ, the king of glory, and attain the eternal blessings through the grace, mercy and kindness of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## Until Natural Death

"Frank" (not his real name) met me in the street and said, "My mother killed my brother." "What?" "Yes, she had an abortion. She killed my brother. I can't trust her anymore. I feel like a child without a father and a mother." And conversing with some others, those kids are also feeling the same. No depth of connection anymore.

Mike Gaffney, MLC (Mersey, Tas) who is interested in introducing to us "End-of-Life Choices" may be motivated by people who have lost some, or all, of their trust, love and regard for their parents. That such a matter could now become a subject for challenge and debate is a telling sign of the times.

Many oldies are starting to think that they have become a problem to their children, or to society. Therefore, the thought of "Voluntary Assisted Dying" has become part of their way of considering their future.

Let us be honest, and have the courage to tell our stories; and speak the Truth boldly! Let us have ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what is the Truth! Let us stop killing, infanticide, aborting our brothers and sisters. Let us listen and hear the cry of the oldies who desire loving care from their children, or from others, with a sincere and loving approach until natural – yes, natural – death.

Let Truth be the result of our future voting!

**Bert Van Galen, Mowbray, Tasmania**



# Make Disciples

**Pope Francis, Homily, World Mission Day 20-10-2019**

...[T]he Christian, therefore, is always on the move, outward-bound. *Go* is in fact the imperative of Jesus in the Gospel.

We meet many people every day, but – we can ask – do we really encounter the people we meet? Do we accept the invitation of Jesus, or simply go about our own business? Everyone expects things from others, but the Christian *goes* to others.

Bearing witness to Jesus is never about getting accolades from others, but about loving those who do not even know the Lord. Those who bear witness to Jesus go out to all, not just to their own acquaintances or their little group. Jesus is also saying to you: "Go, don't miss a chance to bear me witness!" My brother, my sister, the Lord expects from you a testimony that no one can give in your place. "May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life... lest you fail in your precious mission." (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 24).

What instructions does the Lord give us for going forth to others? Only one, and very simple: *make disciples*. But, be careful: *his* disciples, not our own. The Church proclaims the Gospel well only if she lives the life of a disciple. And a disciple follows the Master daily and shares the joy of discipleship with others. Not by conquering, mandating, proselytizing, but by witnessing, humbling oneself alongside other disciples and offering with love the love that we ourselves received.

This is our mission: to give pure and fresh air to those immersed in the pollution of our world; to bring to earth that peace which fills us with joy whenever we meet Jesus on the mountain in prayer; to show by our lives, and perhaps even by our words, that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, each of us has and is "a mission on this earth" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273). We are here to witness, bless, console, raise up, and radiate the beauty of Jesus. Have courage! Jesus expects so much from you! We can say that the Lord is "concerned" about those who do not yet know that they are beloved children of the Father, brothers and sisters for whom he gave his life and sent the Holy Spirit. Do you want to quell Jesus' concern? Go and show love to everyone, because your life is a precious mission: it is not a burden to be borne, but a gift to offer. Have courage, and let us fearlessly go forth to all!

## Conversion

**Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 27-09-2020**

But conversion, changing the heart, is a process... And at times it is a painful process because there is no path of holiness without some sacrifice and without a spiritual battle. Battling for good; battling so as not to fall into temptation; doing for our part what we can, to arrive at living in the peace and joy of the Beatitudes. [...]the way of living a Christian life...is not made up of dreams and beautiful aspirations, but of concrete commitments, in order to open ourselves ever more to God's will and to love for our brothers and sisters. But this, even the smallest concrete commitment, cannot be made without grace. Conversion is a grace we must always ask for: "Lord, give me the grace to improve. Give me the grace to be a good Christian".

Zenit.org 27-09-2020

## Obligated to Teach

Many years ago, as a teenager, I was alone in the house when the Jehovah's Witnesses came knocking. I handed over ten cents for a Watchtower and they went away. My parents later emphasised at length that Catholics must never give money to a religious organisation which does not teach the Catholic faith.

More recently, leaving church after Mass, I was accosted by an angry parish priest, who demanded to know why I was not putting money in the parish envelopes. I told him that I'd start putting money the moment he began teaching the Catholic faith. He turned on his heel and stalked away.

We are obliged to support our pastors. But in return, are they not bound to do the job they were ordained for?

**Richard Stokes, Stanthorpe, Queensland**

# Only a Cat

Last month we had to make the awful decision of putting our cat down. He was only 5 years old, and we loved him dearly, but he was very sick and we just couldn't help him anymore. We'd agonised over the decision for months as we watched him deteriorate in spite of various treatments. Yet driving home from the vet with our dead cat in the car, heartbroken and sobbing, I was filled with a sense of dread that we'd made the wrong decision, or made it too quickly, and my pain was infused with a sense of guilt that I had chosen this. My heart ached for women driving away from an abortion clinic with the same sense of absoluteness of their decision. No matter how much you may doubt yourself, there's no changing the outcome when death is involved. No matter how much you agonised over the decision, or wanted it to happen, or thought you had no choice, once it's done, it's final, and there's nothing you can do about it but live with it, forever – no matter how much you regret it, or how much loss and emptiness you may feel. I was grateful my decision was only over a cat, and not my son or daughter.

Years ago, when my husband and I learnt that we couldn't have children, we resolved that we would never try to make pets a substitute for children. I have always refused to call my cat my 'baby' or 'child' or even 'fur-baby', in spite of it being very common these days. A pet and a child are miles apart. There is no comparison. We have borne the pain of childlessness for many years. It is a profound and complex pain, which changes as the years go on. As our friends begin having grandchildren, the grief rears in yet a different way. There is no way a pet can fill the void of pregnancies, children, family, generations, legacies.

I was hesitant to post the death of our cat on social media, knowing that friends would send their condolences and say the sweetest, kindest things, and bring me to tears over and over again. I was tempted to post the news but not allow comments. But in the end, I was grateful for all the comments, all the tenderness and understanding, all the love and compassion, no matter how much it made me cry or my heart ache.

And he was only a cat. I've noticed in the last 10-20 years that young mothers don't announce their pregnancies until they're past 12 weeks. Apparently their doctors encourage them not to. I can only guess it's because if they choose abortion, no one needs to know. How absolutely awful and callous. Imagine your doctor treating your baby as something disposable. And if you miscarry, no one gets to share your grief or help you through it, console you and support you, no one gets to know about your baby or remember him in their hearts. You suffer your loss in silence and loneliness, with no one to understand.

I'm so grateful for all those, near and far, who helped me through the loss of my beloved kitty. It's made the pain lighter and the recovery faster. I pray for those who face the loss of their baby or child – a pain that must be beyond telling. May God give them the strength to cope with such crushing pain, and to face life again when they feel they simply can't. I'm grateful my Sidney was only a cat.

Ed.

## Daily Choice

**Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 27-09-2020**

God is patient with each of us: He does not tire, He does not desist after our "no"; He leaves us free even to distance ourselves from Him and to make mistakes. Thinking about God's patience is wonderful! How the Lord always waits for us; He is always beside us to help us; but He respects our freedom. And He anxiously awaits our "yes", so as to welcome us anew in His fatherly arms and to fill us with His boundless mercy. Faith in God asks us to renew every day the choice of good over evil, the choice of the truth rather than lies, the choice of love for our neighbour over selfishness.

Oh God, whose only begotten Son,  
by His life, death and resurrection,  
has purchased for us  
the rewards of eternal life,  
grant, we beseech Thee, that,  
meditating upon these mysteries  
of the most holy rosary  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
we may imitate what they contain,  
and obtain what they promise,  
through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

**Concluding prayer of the Rosary**

# Uruguay: Rosary Booklets for Children

## Aid to the Church in Need

In Uruguay, the Catholic Church has a much more limited influence on society than in other countries of Latin America. Barely half the inhabitants of this, the second-smallest country in Latin America, profess themselves to be Catholics. Religion has long been banished to the private sphere, and there are officially no Christian holidays in Uruguay. Thus, Christmas is called the "Day of the Family" on official calendars, and Holy Week and Easter are called "Tourism Week". Similarly, many of the laws of the country are in outright contradiction to Catholic teaching.

Nonetheless, Catholic schools make a vital contribution to the work of evangelization. The Church-sponsored "Sophia Foundation" in the capital Montevideo has made it its mission to support the Catholic schools in their evangelizing mission and to further improve the teaching of religion, so that children of all ages can have the opportunity, with the help of good catechetical material, to grow and mature in faith and in Christian character, so that they, in turn, can make their own precious contribution within their families, in society, and within the Church.

Currently the programme involves some 3700 school pupils and around 50 catechists. These children are also participating in the now-famous Rosary campaign, "A million children praying the Rosary" when, on 18 October each year, children from all over the world will be praying the Rosary together for peace. This is an initiative that began in 2005 in the Venezuelan capital Caracas when a group of children was praying the Rosary in front of a wayside shrine and some of the women who were present experienced a deep sense of the presence of the Virgin Mary. Saint Padre Pio once foretold that, "When a million children pray the Rosary together, then the world will change." And so the aim is that the power of the united prayer of these children will one day, by God's grace, bring about peace in the world and produce a wealth of spiritual fruits. And so a request was made to ACN to help the campaign by publishing 2000 copies of the little booklet "Children praying the Rosary" (*Los Niños rezamos el Rosario*). Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, we were able to give 740 Euros, and the books have now arrived in Montevideo, to the delight of the children. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed!

acninternational.org 21-08-2020

## Orbiting Around Ourselves

### Pope Francis, Homily, 04-11-2019

The readings we have heard remind us that we came into this world in order to be raised up; we were not born for death but for resurrection. ... Today we can ask ourselves: how does the thought of the resurrection affect me? How do I respond to my call to be raised up?

Help comes to us first from Jesus, who in today's Gospel says: "Anyone who *comes to me* I will never drive away" (Jn 6:37). That is his invitation: "Come to me" (cf. Mt 11:28). To come to Jesus, the living one, in order to be inoculated against death, against the fear that everything will end. To come to Jesus: this might seem a generic and even banal spiritual exhortation. But let us try to make it concrete by asking a few questions. Today, in the files that I handled in the office, did I draw nearer to the Lord? Did I make them an occasion for speaking to him? In the persons whom I met, did I involve Jesus? Did I bring them to him in prayer? Or did I do everything while thinking only of my concerns, rejoicing only in things that went well for me and complaining about those that didn't? In a word, did I live my day *coming to the Lord*, or was I simply orbiting around myself? And where am I headed? Do I seek only to make a good impression, to protect my role, my schedule and my free time? Or do I come to the Lord?

Jesus words are striking: "*Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away*". As if to say that any Christian who does not come to him will be driven away. For those who believe, there is no middle ground. We cannot belong to Jesus and orbit around ourselves. Those who belong to Jesus live by constantly going forth from ourselves and towards him.

## Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

### in Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday after 9.10am Mass
Heyfield	1 <sup>st</sup> Fridays 10am – 4.30pm
Cowwarr Ord.	Wednesday (Mass 10am) – 11am Thursday 6-7pm; 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday (Mass 6pm) – 9pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday (Mass 10am) – 11am
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) – 11am
Cranbourne	Fri & Sat in church: (9.30 Mass) – 11am Adoration Chapel accessible 24 hours by PIN available at parish office.
Drouin	Thursday 10am – 11am 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 4pm–8pm (every 2 <sup>nd</sup> month, Dec. on)
Lakes Entrance	Friday 9.30am – 11am
Maffra	Wednesday (5pm Mass) – 6pm
Moe	Wednesday (9am Mass) – 10.30am
Morwell	Friday 2pm - 6pm (Sacred Heart Church)
Orbost	Wednesday (9.30am Mass) – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Sale	Friday 11.30am–12pm; 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday till 4pm
Trafalgar	Wed & 1st Sat: (9.30am Mass) – 10.45am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10am – 11am 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 <sup>nd</sup> month, Jan. on)
Wonthaggi	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 7pm – 8pm

## In Union There is Strength

### St Louis de Montfort, The Secret of the Rosary

It is very easy to break a single stick, but if you join it to others to make a bundle it cannot be broken. "In union there is strength." Soldiers join together in an army to overcome their enemies; wicked people often get together for parties of debauchery and dancing, and evil spirits join forces in order to make us lose our souls.

So why, then, should not Christians join forces to have Jesus Christ present with them when they pray, to appease Almighty God's anger, to draw down His grace and mercy upon us, and to frustrate and overcome the devil and his Angels more forcefully?

Dear Rosary Confraternity members, whether you live in town or in the country, near your parish Church or near a chapel, go there at least every evening (with the parish priest's approval, of course), together with all those who want to recite the Rosary in two choirs. If a Church or a chapel is not available say the Rosary together in your own or a neighbour's house.

## Contact *Into the Deep*

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BSB: 013-745 (ANZ)

Account number: 2901-63632

Donate via Ritchies Supermarkets Community Benefit program by nominating Into the Deep, CB number 81799.

**The purpose of ITD** is to provide a forum for those who:

- no longer have a voice in Catholic Life, and other diocesan newspapers,
- wish to understand and defend the teachings of the Catholic Church,
- wish to support and defend those who are unjustly treated by Church bureaucrats and organisations,
- wish to campaign for the renewal of our Catholic schools,
- wish to promote Eucharistic adoration in all parishes,
- wish to have a means of support and contact for one another in remaining true to our Catholic faith.

### **Letters to the Editor:**

Readers are encouraged to contribute letters. There is no guarantee that every letter will be published, and we reserve the right to edit letters. Name and contact details must accompany letters, however, if there is sufficient reason, anonymity will be preserved when publishing. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of ITD.

## Mary, our Mother

And Mother of the Redeemer,  
Gate of heaven and Star of the sea,  
Come to the aid of your people,  
Who have sinned, yet also yearn to rise again!  
Come to the Church's aid,  
Enlighten your devoted children,  
Strengthen the faithful throughout the world,  
Let those who have drifted hear your call,  
And may they who live as prisoners of evil  
Be converted!

**Pope John Paul II**