

Into the Deep

Issue 215

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

May 2021

Our Queen and Our Mother

Ad Caeli Reginam, On proclaiming the Queenship of Mary

Encyclical of Pope Pius XII, 1954

47. ...We decree and establish the feast of Mary's Queenship, which is to be celebrated every year in the whole world on the 31st of May. We likewise ordain that on the same day the consecration of the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary be renewed, cherishing the hope that through such consecration a new era may begin, joyous in Christian peace and in the triumph of religion.

48. Let all, therefore, try to approach with greater trust the throne of grace and mercy of our Queen and Mother, and beg for strength in adversity, light in darkness, consolation in sorrow; above all let them strive to free themselves from the slavery of sin and offer an unceasing homage, filled with filial loyalty, to their Queenly Mother. Let her churches be thronged by the faithful, her feast-days honoured; may the beads of the Rosary be in the hands of all; may Christians gather, in small numbers and large, to sing her praises in churches, in homes, in hospitals, in prisons. May Mary's name be held in highest reverence, a name sweeter than honey and more precious than jewels; may none utter blasphemous words, the sign of a defiled soul, against that name graced with such dignity and revered for its motherly goodness; let no one be so bold as to speak a syllable which lacks the respect due to her name.

49. All, according to their state, should strive to bring alive the wondrous virtues of our heavenly Queen and most loving Mother through constant effort of mind and manner. Thus will it come about that all Christians, in honouring and imitating their sublime Queen and Mother, will realize they are truly brothers, and with all envy and avarice thrust aside, will promote love among classes, respect the rights of the weak, cherish peace. No one should think himself a son of Mary, worthy of being received under her powerful protection, unless, like her, he is just, gentle and pure, and shows a sincere desire for true brotherhood, not harming or injuring but rather helping and comforting others.

They Know

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, Holy Thursday 2021

Those who believe in the Eucharist never feel alone in life.

They know that in the dimness and in the silence of all the Churches there is Someone who knows their name...

And before the tabernacle, everyone can confide whatever is in their heart and receive comfort, strength and peace of heart.

Vaticannews.va 01-04-2021

Our Victory

St John Chrysostom

Our swords are not stained with blood, we did not take part in the fight, we did not suffer wounds, we did not even see the battle, and behold, we obtain a victory.

The fight was his own, the crown is our own.

And since we too have won, let us imitate what soldiers do in these cases: with joyful voices let us extol his victory, let us sing hymns of praise to the Lord.

All issues of *Into the Deep* are at www.stoneswillshout.com

Marian Month Intentions

By Devin Watkins, Vatican News 22-04-2021

Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world. The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization announced the news with a press release...

It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5). "The initiative will involve all the Shrines of the world in a special way, so that they might encourage the faithful, families, and communities to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic," read the statement.

Pope Francis will open the Marian month of prayer on 1 May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms. Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6pm Rome time from the various Shines taking part in the initiative. The Pope will also close the initiative on 31 May with another specially-broadcast Rosary.

This year's dedication of May to pandemic-related prayer recalls a similar occurrence during the first wave in March 2020. Pope Francis led the world in prayer during that confusing and difficult time, celebrating a live-streamed, daily Mass in the Casa Santa Marta.

After more than a year, and with the world still in the grips of the pandemic, the Pope and the Church around the world are once again leading the way in imploring God for an end to the suffering which so many people are forced to bear.

Vaticannews.va 22-04-2021

Thank You and Remember

Thank you once again to those who have donated in the last couple of months to keep Into the Deep going. Your support and encouragement is much appreciated.

Please remember to pray for deceased readers of ITD. Most recent have been Alison Buman, late of Rochester, Vic, and both Mr and Mrs Purdon, late of Bendigo, Vic whose envelopes have been returned to sender with notes that they are deceased. May Almighty God have mercy on their souls and may they rest in peace.

Ed.

"The Altar on Golgotha

is not different from the altar of our churches;
even this is a mountain on which stands
a cross and the One crucified,
where the reconciliation between God and man
takes place."

Pope Pius XII

Marian Day

Saturday 8th May 2021

St Brigid's, Church Street, Cowwarr, VIC

Starting with 9.30am Mass, concluding with the 3pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Theme – Fatima: The Blessed Virgin Mary and the four Last Things.

All welcome. Everyone to bring their own food for lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Year of St Joseph Prayer to St Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Like An Anchor

Pope Francis, General Audience, 21-04-2021

The first human prayer is always a vocal recitation. The lips always move first. Although we are all aware that praying does not mean repeating words, vocal prayer is nevertheless the surest, and can always be practised. Feelings, on the other hand, however noble, are always uncertain: they come and go, they leave us and return. Not only that, but the graces of prayer are also unpredictable: at times consolations abound, but on the darkest days they seem to evaporate completely. The prayer of the heart is mysterious, and at certain times it is lacking. Instead, the prayer of the lips that is whispered or recited together, is always accessible, and is as necessary as manual labour. The *Catechism* teaches us about this, and states that: "Vocal prayer is an essential element of the Christian life. To his disciples, drawn by their Master's silent prayer, Jesus teaches a vocal prayer, the Our Father" (n. 2701). "Teach us how to pray", the disciples asked Jesus, and Jesus taught them a vocal prayer: the Lord's Prayer. And everything is there, in that prayer.

We should all have the humility of certain elderly people who, in church, perhaps because their hearing is no longer acute, recite quietly the prayers they learned as children, filling the nave with whispers. That prayer does not disturb the silence, but testifies their fidelity to the duty of prayer, practised throughout their lives without fail. These practitioners of humble prayer are often the great intercessors in parishes: they are the oaks that from year to year spread their branches to offer shade to the greatest number of people. Only God knows when and how much their hearts have been united to those prayers they recited: surely these people too had to face nights and moments of emptiness. But one can always remain faithful to vocal prayer. It is like an anchor: one can hold on to the rope and remain, faithful, come what may.

Vatican.va

Random Thoughts

- Often we're accused of being "judgmental" for our Christian, conservative or orthodox views, no matter how carefully or gently we may try to state those views. Those who accuse us are often angry or aggressive and not in a mood to be reasoned with, so we don't have the opportunity to explain our standpoint. I recently read the perfect, simple response to use instead: Reply with "Are you judging me?" (thanks to Fr Peter Joseph for that one). Now I wish I could find a quick, simple, calm response to those who use the Lord's name in vain. It needs to be very brief and non-intrusive, because often the profanity is in running speech. I sometimes manage to use a slight bow of the head, or closing of the eyes, as a brief mark of respect for the Lord's name. Does anyone have better suggestions?
- I've long known that pre-marital sex is the "norm" now in secular society. "Everybody does it", they say. There wouldn't be many who practise chastity or value virginity anymore; sadly, even among many Catholics. But it wasn't until I started watching Australian soapie *Home and Away* (I kid you not!) that I realised the extent of it all. I am blown away by how casually characters start and end relationships, and how all relationships are sexual, even the youngest of characters. And how the older characters all encourage and support this. What stuns me most is that this is a program that is on TV at 7pm, even before "Possum" comes on to tell the children it's time for bed. If this is not social engineering, then I don't know what is. No wonder young people grow up thinking this is all normal.
- In contrast, I came across a cartoon I'd kept from my youth – a young man asking an elderly man, "Gee, Granddad, your generation didn't have all these social diseases. What did you wear to have safe sex?" And the old man replies dryly without looking up from his book, "A wedding ring."

Ed.

"Life" is one of the most beautiful titles which the Bible attributes to God. He is the living God.

Pope John Paul II, Message to Pontifical Academy of Sciences, 1996

How Great the Tale

How great the tale, that there should be,
In God's Son's heart, a place for me!
That on a sinner's lips like mine
The cross of Jesus Christ should shine!

Christ Jesus, bend me to thy will,
My feet to urge, my griefs to still;
That e'en my flesh and blood may be
A temple sanctified to Thee.

No rest, no calm my soul may win,
Because my body craves to sin;
Till thou, dear Lord, thyself impart
Peace on my head, light in my heart.

May consecration come from far,
Soft shining like the evening star.
My toilsome path make plain to me,
Until I come to rest in thee.

Great Tale of Love Indeed

The hymn alongside, from the Office of Readings, is one of my favourites in the entire Divine Office! Why? Because it situates me as a child of God, through the gracious gift of the Divine Liturgy, in the Truth and in the heart of my Mother, the Church. It situates me in the fundamental story of salvation.

It teaches me that the ultimate destiny of all personal life – the purpose and meaning of personal and communal life – is to be found in the ultimate Communion with the Blessed Trinity.

It reminds me of the interior battle raging daily between my bodily appetites, desires and wants, and the life of Christ in my soul. It reminds me of the constant need for Christ's grace and healing through the Sacraments of the Church.

It places me, a Catholic practising to be perfect, in the mystery and reality of Holy Communion, made possible by God, through the Son, the head of the Body the Church, and reminds me why regular Sunday Mass is a necessity for the process of ongoing conversion and the life of my soul.

Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria

The Holiness of Christ

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the Pontifical Household, 2nd Lenten Sermon 2021

Observing the Gospels shows us that the holiness of Jesus is not only an abstract principle, or a metaphysical deduction, but it is genuine holiness, in its being lived out moment by moment and in the most concrete situations in life. The Beatitudes, to give an example, are not just a beautiful life plan that Jesus sketches for others; it is his own life itself and his experience as it is revealed to the disciples, by calling them to access the same sphere of holiness. The Beatitudes are Jesus's self-portrait.

He teaches what he does; that is why he can say: 'Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart'. ...

Beside this positive element of the full and constant obedience to his Father's will, the holiness of Christ also shows a negative element, which is the absolute lack of any sin ...

We now move on to consider what the holiness of Christ means for us. And here we immediately come across some good news. There is indeed some good news, a joyful proclamation, also regarding the holiness of Christ. It is not so much that Jesus is the Holy one of God, or that we too are meant to be holy and immaculate. No, the happy surprise is that Jesus communicates, grants, gives us his holiness away for free! It is that his holiness is also ours. Even more: that he himself is our holiness.

Every human parent can hand on to their children what they have, but not what they are. If they are artists, scientists, or even saints, not necessarily are their children born artists, scientists or saints as well. Parents can teach those skills or give them an example, but not hand them over as a sort of inheritance. Yet, Jesus, in our Baptism, does not only hand on what he has, but also what he is. He is holy and makes us holy; he is the Son of God and makes us children of God.

Vatican II also says it: 'The followers of Christ are called by God, not because of their works, but according to His own purpose and grace. They are justified in the Lord Jesus, because in the baptism of faith they truly become sons of God and sharers in the divine nature. In this way they are really made holy' (Lumen Gentium, 40). Christian holiness, prior to being a duty, is a gift.

www.cantalamessa.org

A Book of Memories and History

I have recently had a book published: "Our World did not Create Itself - but Someone did" (by P.J O'Brien and K.E. Watson, Tablo Publishing, 2020)

Answering questions from my granddaughter, Kate, I relate many of my experiences from my 85 years of living. These include the history of the O'Brien family who settled in Swifts Creek, East Gippsland, in 1879; why I believe in God; memories of the war and after; sporting life; twenty five years in the Latrobe Valley; more about faith; notes from my seven children; and my fascination with the miracle of life and our fascinating universe.

When asked why I believed in God, my response was that after years of observation and consideration I concluded that if God did not exist then it would have been impossible for life on earth to exist. Life needs light, power, energy, air, water, vegetation in order to survive. It is too much of a coincidence that all of these vital commodities are found only on our tiny planet called Earth in this vast universe. I claim it is stretching credibility beyond belief to believe it all happened without a Creator. Written 2,500 years ago, the Book of Genesis explains how this miracle came about. Charles Darwin claimed to have found the answer but even if his theory of evolution had any validity, it does not explain how life first came into being only on Earth.

Explaining why my work with the National Civic Council in Morwell was so important, I highlight the strength of the Communist Party penetration of the Australian trade union movement. In 1949, Ralph Dixon, the President of the Communist Party, had said the aim of the Party was to gain control of the unions in Yallourn in the Latrobe Valley, and then "we will use that control." In 1967, I met Des Devlin from the Morwell NCC office during a campaign to re-elect officials of the Latrobe Valley branch of the Federated Ironworkers Association. Des later asked me to become part of the Australia-wide movement combatting the Communist menace to our country through control of our unions. For 17 years, 9 working with Des and 8 as Regional Officer, I was in the front line of resistance to this menace.

I describe how the continuing communist-led industrial disruption and chaos in the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, was eventually a major factor in its demise in 1990, when ALP Premier Joan Kirner formed an association with a private company, Mission Energy. Privatisation quickly swallowed the publicly owned and operated SECV because it was no longer viable. And what a sad day that was! Unfortunately, this all happened just as the Berlin Wall was being torn down and the Communist Party of Australia dissolved itself because its mentor, the Soviet Union, was no more!

My granddaughter Kate provided a valuable service in her questions and her technical expertise in bringing the book to fruition.

It is available in through Collins Books Sale, e-book and paperback from Booktopia, an Australian company, and other internet providers.

Pat O'Brien, Sale, Victoria

Like the Donkey Jesus Rode

Excerpt from Cardinal George Pell's Prison Journal, Volume 1

9 March 2019 entry

I believe in God's providence; I never chose this situation and worked hard to avoid it; but here I am, and I must strive to do God's will.

Cardinal Sin from Manila, who was a formidable churchman, opponent of Marcos, and a great showman ("welcome to the house of Sin"), used to say that he was like the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem, on what we used to remember as Palm Sunday. I am happy with a similar comparison for my mediocre self; faithful in my prayers and duties, once hardworking, but spiritually ordinary. God sometimes chooses strangely.

Ascension Day

Pope Francis, *Regina Caeli* address, 24-05-2020

The Gospel passage (cf. Mt 28:16-20) shows us the Apostles that gather in Galilee, and go "to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them" (v.16). Here, on the mountain, the last meeting of the Risen Lord happens with His own.

The "mountain" has a strong, thought-provoking symbolic charge. Jesus proclaimed the Beatitudes on a mountain; He withdrew on mountains to pray; He received the crowds there and healed the sick.

However, this time, it's no longer the Teacher who acts and teaches, but it is He who asks the disciples to act and proclaim, entrusting to them the mandate to continue His work. He invests them with the mission among all the people. He says: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (vv.19-20).

The contents of the mission entrusted to the Apostles are these: proclaim, baptize, teach, and walk on the way traced by the Teacher, namely, the living Gospel. This message of salvation implies first of all the duty of witness – without witness one cannot proclaim – to which we too, today's disciples, are called to give the reason for our faith.

In the face of such a demanding task, and thinking of our weaknesses, we feel inadequate, as certainly the Apostles themselves also felt. However, there is no need to get discouraged, remembering the words that Jesus addressed to them before ascending to Heaven: "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (v.20). This promise assures the constant and consoling presence of Jesus among us.

Zenit.org 24-05-2020

"O life so dull and monotonous,

how many treasures you contain! When I look at everything with the eyes of faith, no two hours are alike, and the dullness and monotony disappear. The grace which is given me in this hour will not be repeated in the next. It may be given me again, but it will not be the same grace. Time goes on, never to return again. Whatever is enclosed in it will never change; it seals with a seal for eternity."

Saint Faustina, Diary 62

Have Courage

Pope Francis, in a video message to a congress dedicated to the 50th anniversary of St Teresa of Avila as a Doctor of the Church

Like Teresa, Doctor of the Church, we are experiencing a difficult time, one that is not easy at all, that requires God's faithful friends, strong friends. The great temptation is to give in to disappointment, resignation, the foreboding and unfounded omen that everything will go wrong. ...

Instead, prayer opens us, it allows us to appreciate that God is great, that he is beyond the horizon, that God is good, that he loves us and that history is not getting out of hand. We may be walking "through the valley of the shadow of death"; do not be afraid if the Lord is with you. He never stops walking by our side and leading us to the goal that we all long for: eternal life. We can have the courage to do great things, because we know that we are favoured by God. And with him, we are capable of facing any challenge, because in reality his company alone is what our hearts desire and what gives us the fullness and joy from which we were created. The Saint summarized this in a well-known prayer which I invite you to pray frequently:

Let nothing disturb you,
let nothing frighten you,
all things pass away
God never changes;
patience obtains all things,
whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices!

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Self-Surrender

St Therese of Lisieux

...[N]ow the spirit of self-abandonment is my sole guide – I have no other compass. I am no longer able to ask eagerly for anything save the perfect accomplishment of God's design on my soul.

I desire neither death nor life. Were Our Lord to offer me my choice, I would not choose. I only will what he wills, and I am pleased with whatever he does. I have no fear of the last struggle, or of any pain, however great, which my illness may bring. God has always been my help; he has led me by the hand since I was a child and I count on him now. Even though suffering should reach its furthest limits I am certain he will never forsake me.

Just Getting Older (13) – Conquering Self

After listening over the phone to one who's tears could not be kept in, I realised that the best that someone can do for someone else, is to always be for the other as that person is.

On our paths through life, we don't always find it easy to be noble in the manner of expressing our thoughts to each other; but every hour there are opportunities to do something with great love. For instance coping with someone's sad stories, anger or bad mood; and having to conquer our own tendencies, which looking back is often much more beneficial to us than we are inclined to realise.

After having had a cup of coffee and time to do some thinking, I asked the Lord to keep my spiritual strength unshaken, while I'm physically slowly going in retreat. May he grant love, perseverance and patience to all those who will nurse me in time to come.

Grief and dejection should not become my fate when I'm old. Give me the strength to carry it all when hardship comes my way. All questions that frequently haunt me, and the problems with which I struggle, will have to give way to that which is the main point, which is: how shall I be when the time has come, when facing the Lord?

Therefore I ask the Lord to give me the opportunity to understand him better, to love him more and more, and to experience him with joy. May he strengthen me day in and day out with a desire to live a full life on my life's journey. May he give me 'here' all insight, and let it 'there' come to completion; may he give me 'here' happiness and hope, and 'there', bliss in unison with him.

Bert Van Galen, Mowbray, Tasmania

God Over There

Pope Francis, Angelus Address, 17-01-2021

Brothers and sisters, before the Lord's call, which reaches us in a thousand ways – through others, happy or sad events – our attitude at times might be rejection. "No... I am afraid..." Rejection because it seems to be in contrast to our aspirations; and even fear because we believe it is too demanding and uncomfortable: "Oh no, I will never be able to do it, better not to, a calmer life is better... God over there, me here".

But God's call is always love: we need to try to discover the love behind each call, and it should be responded to only with love. This is the language: the response to a call that comes out of love, only love.

At the beginning there is an encounter, or rather, there is *the encounter* with Jesus who speaks to us of His Father, He makes His love known to us. And then the spontaneous desire will arise even in us to communicate it to the people that we love: "I met Love", "I met the Messiah", "I met Jesus", "I found the meaning of my life". In a word: "I found God".

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"Jesus himself wants my sufferings;
He needs them for souls."

St Pio of Pietrelcina

Choosing a Bishop

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, in an interview with Vatican News

Identifying and evaluating a candidate is the fruit of a collaboration between several players. Every three years, a list of *promovendis* is compiled by the Metropolitan Bishops. This is a list of priests who may be suitable for the office of bishop, according to the indications of the Bishops of the Metropolitan dioceses. The Nunciature evaluates each candidate using a consultative process with the people of God. This process is carried out with utmost confidentiality. Those who are consulted in this process are asked to keep strict confidentiality to guarantee the truthfulness of the information and, above all, to protect the reputation of the person being evaluated. Once the best candidates who fit the needs of the moment have been identified, the information is transmitted to the Holy See. It then, through the Congregation for Bishops, considers the candidates in the light of general criteria and, with the help of an Assembly of its members designated for this purpose by the Holy Father – which currently consists of 23 members between Cardinals and Bishops from all over the world. This Assembly carries out the final evaluation that will be offered to the Pope for his final decision.

Vaticannews.va 26-04-2021

After 50 Days of Uncertainty

Pope Francis, Homily at Pentecost Mass 09-06-2019

Pentecost arrived, for the disciples, after fifty days of uncertainty. True, Jesus had risen. Overjoyed, they had seen him, listened to his words and even shared a meal with him. Yet they had not overcome their doubts and fears: they met behind closed doors, uncertain about the future and not ready to proclaim the risen Lord. Then the Holy Spirit comes and their worries disappear. Now the apostles show themselves fearless, even before those sent to arrest them. Previously, they had been worried about saving their lives; now they are unafraid of dying. Earlier, they had huddled in the Upper Room; now they go forth to preach to every nation. Before the ascension of Jesus, they waited for God's kingdom to come to them; now they are filled with zeal to travel to unknown lands. Before, they had almost never spoken in public, and when they did, they had often blundered, as when Peter denied Jesus; now they speak with *parrhesia* to everyone. The disciples' journey seemed to have reached the end of the line, when suddenly they were *rejuvenated by the Spirit*. Overwhelmed with uncertainty, when they thought everything was over, they were transformed by a joy that gave them a new birth. The Holy Spirit did this. ...

Their story teaches us that even seeing the Risen Lord is not enough, unless we welcome him into our hearts. It is no use knowing that the Risen One is alive, unless we too live as risen ones. It is the Spirit who makes Jesus live within us; he raises us up from within. That is why when Jesus appears to his disciples, he repeats the words, "Peace be with you!", and bestows the Spirit. That is what peace really is, the peace bestowed on the Apostles. That peace does not have to do with resolving outward problems – God does not spare his disciples from tribulation and persecution. Rather, it has to do with receiving the Holy Spirit. The peace bestowed on the apostles, the peace that does not bring freedom *from* problems but *in* problems, is offered to each of us. Filled with his peace, our hearts are like a deep sea, which remains peaceful, even when its surface is swept by waves. It is a harmony so profound that it can even turn persecutions into blessings. Yet how often we choose to remain on the surface! Rather than seeking the Spirit, we try to keep afloat, thinking that everything will improve once this or that problem is over, once I no longer see that person, once things get better. But to do so is to stay on the surface: when one problem goes away, another arrives, and once more we grow anxious and ill at ease. Avoiding those who do not think as we do will not bring serenity. Resolving momentary problems will not bring peace. What makes a difference is the peace of Jesus, the harmony of the Spirit.

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Giving Meaning to Our Lives

Pope Benedict XVI, Regina Caeli address, 07-05-2006

The Christian vocation is always a renewal of this personal friendship with Jesus Christ, which gives full meaning to our lives and makes us open to the Kingdom of God.

...[T]he priest's mission is irreplaceable, and even if in some regions a scarcity of clergy is being recorded, we must never doubt that God continues to call boys, young men and adults to leave everything to dedicate themselves totally to preaching the Gospel and to the pastoral ministry.

Another special form of the following of Christ is the vocation to the consecrated life, which is expressed in living a poor, chaste and obedient existence totally dedicated to God in contemplation and in prayer and at the service of others, especially the lowly and poor.

Moreover, let us not forget that Christian marriage is in all respects a vocation to holiness, and that the example of holy parents is the first favourable condition for the flourishing of priestly and religious vocations.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us invoke the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, for priests and men and women Religious; let us pray too that the seeds of a vocation that God sows in the hearts of the faithful may reach full maturity and bear fruits of holiness in the Church and in the world.

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Praying in Communion with the Saints

Pope Francis, General Audience 07-04-2021

Today, I would like to reflect on the connection between prayer and the communion of saints. In fact, when we pray, we never do so alone: even if we do not think about it, we are immersed in a majestic river of invocations that precedes us and proceeds after us.

...[E]ach time we join our hands and open our hearts to God, we find ourselves in the company of anonymous saints and recognized saints who pray with us and who intercede for us as older brothers and sisters who have preceded us on this same human adventure. In the Church there is no grief that is borne in solitude, there are no tears shed in oblivion, because everyone breathes and participates in one common grace. It is no coincidence that in the ancient church people were buried in gardens surrounding a sacred building, as if to say that, in some way, the multitude who preceded us participate in every Eucharist. Our parents and grandparents are there, our godfathers and godmothers are there, our catechists and other teachers are there... That faith that was passed on, transmitted, that we received. Along with faith, the way of praying and prayer were also transmitted. ...

The Catechism explains that the saints "contemplate God, praise him and constantly care for those whom they have left on earth. [...] Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world" (CCC, 2683). There is a mysterious solidarity in Christ between those who have already passed to the other life and we pilgrims in this one: our deceased loved ones continue to take care of us from Heaven. They pray for us, and we pray for them and we pray with them.

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"Every step one takes while travelling to Holy Mass is counted by an angel. One will be given a high reward for them by God in this life and in eternity."

St Augustine

Touched the Man, Recognised the God

Saint Augustine of Hippo, Homily 1 on the First Epistle of John (n.3)

"And we are witnesses, ... The things which we have seen and heard, declare we unto you." (1 John 1:3)

Those saw the Lord Himself present in the flesh, and heard words from the mouth of the Lord, and told them to us. Consequently, we also have heard, but have not seen. Are we then less happy than those who saw and heard? And how does he add, "That ye also may have fellowship with us"? Those saw, we have not seen, and yet we are fellows because we hold the faith in common. For there was one who did not believe even upon seeing, and would needs handle, and so believe, and said, "I will not believe except I thrust my fingers into the place of the nails and touch His scars." (John 20:25-29) And He did give Himself for a time to be handled by the hands of men, who always gives Himself to be seen by the sight of the angels; and that disciple did handle, and exclaimed, "My Lord, and my God!" Because he touched the Man, he confessed the God. And the Lord, to console us who, now that He sits in heaven, cannot touch Him with the hand, but only reach Him with faith, said to him, "Because you have seen, you have believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believe." We are here described, we designated. Then let the blessedness take place in us, of which the Lord predicted that it should take place; let us firmly hold that which we see not; because those tell us who have seen. "That ye also," says he, "may have fellowship with us." And what great matter is it to have fellowship with men? Do not despise it; see what he adds: "and our fellowship may be with God the Father, and Jesus Christ His Son. And these things," says he, "we write unto you, that your joy may be full." (1 John 1:4)

St Joseph Protector

Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* of Pope Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church

5. At the end of every account in which Joseph plays a role, the Gospel tells us that he gets up, takes the child and his mother, and does what God commanded him. Indeed, Jesus and Mary his Mother are the most precious treasure of our faith. ...

We should always consider whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping. The Son of the Almighty came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child. In this sense, Saint Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary's motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church. In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect *the child and his mother*, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love *the child and his mother*.

Praying for Someone

Pope Francis, General Audience 07-04-2021

The first way to pray for someone is to speak to God about him or her. If we do this frequently, every day, our hearts are not closed but open to our brothers and sisters. To pray for others is the first way to love them and it moves us toward concretely drawing near. Even in moments of conflict, a way of dissolving the disagreement, of softening it, is to pray for the person with whom I am in conflict. And something changes with prayer. The first thing that changes is my heart, my attitude. The Lord changes it to make an encounter possible, a new encounter, to prevent the conflict from becoming a never-ending war. The first way to face a time of anguish is to ask our brothers and sisters, the saints above all, to pray for us.

Vatican.va

"With prayer we ask graces of God; in Holy Mass we constrain God to give them to us."

St Philip Neri

Known to Him

Pope Francis, Regina Caeli address, 25-04-2021

Jesus... *knows* his sheep and the sheep know Him (Jn 10:14). How beautiful and consoling it is to know that Jesus knows us one by one, that we are not unknown to Him, that our name is known to him!

We are not a "mass", a "multitude" for Him, no. We are unique individuals, each with his or her own story, he knows us with our own story, each with his or her own value, both because they have been created and have been redeemed by Christ. Each of us can say: Jesus, knows me! Each one of us: Jesus knows me! It is true, it is like this: He knows us like no other. Only He knows what is in our hearts, our intentions, our most hidden feelings. Jesus knows our strengths and our defects, and is always ready to care for us, to heal the wounds of our errors with the abundance of his mercy. ...

Love for his sheep, that is, for each one of us, would lead him to die on the cross. For this is the Father's will – that no one should be lost. Christ's love is not selective; it embraces everyone. He Himself reminds us of this...when he says: "And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd" (Jn 10:16). These words testify to his universal concern: He is everyone's shepherd. Jesus wants everyone to be able to receive the Father's love and encounter God.

Vatican.va

When Suffering Ceases

St Faustina

Great love can change small things into great ones, and it is only love which lends value to our actions. And the purer our love becomes, the less there will be within us for the flames of suffering to feed upon, and the suffering will cease to be a suffering for us; it will become a delight! By the grace of God, I have received such a disposition of heart that I am never so happy as when I suffer for Jesus, whom I love with every beat of my heart.

Hear Him. Hear Your Own Name.

From a letter by Mother Teresa to her Missionaries of Charity, 25-03-1993, Varanasi

I worry some of you still have not really met Jesus – one to one – you and Jesus alone. We may spend time in chapel – but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus – not from books but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? Ask for the grace, He is longing to give it. Until you can hear Jesus in the silence of your own heart, you will not be able to hear Him saying “I thirst” in the hearts of the poor.

Never give up this daily intimate contact with Jesus as the real living person – not just the idea. How can we last even one day without hearing Jesus say “I love you” – impossible. Our soul needs that as much as the body needs to breathe the air. If not, prayer is dead – meditation – only thinking. Jesus wants you each to hear Him – speaking in the silence of your heart.

Be careful of all that can block that personal contact with the living Jesus. The devil may try to use the hurts of life, and sometimes our own mistakes – to make you feel it is impossible that Jesus really loves you, is really cleaving to you. This is a danger for all of us. And so sad, because it is completely opposite of what Jesus is really wanting, waiting to tell you. Not only that He loves you, but even more – He longs for you. He misses you when you don’t come close. He thirsts for you. He loves you always, even when you don’t feel worthy. When not accepted by others, even by yourself sometimes – He is the one who always accepts you. My children, you don’t have to be different for Jesus to love you. Only believe – You are precious to Him.

Bring all you are suffering to His feet – only open your heart to be loved by Him as you are. He will do the rest. You all know in your mind that Jesus loves you – but in this letter Mother wants to touch your heart instead. Jesus wants to stir up our hearts, so not to lose our early love, especially in the future after Mother leaves you. That is why I ask you to read this letter before the Blessed Sacrament, the same place it was written, so Jesus himself can speak to you each one.

Why is Mother saying these things? After reading Holy Father’s letter on “I thirst,” I was struck so much – I cannot tell you what I felt. His letter made me realize more than ever how beautiful is our vocation. How great God’s love for us in choosing our Society to satiate that thirst of Jesus, for love, for souls – giving us our special place in the Church. At the same time we are reminding the world of His thirst, something that was being forgotten.

... Let it become as intimate for each of you, just as for Mother – this is the greatest joy you could give me. Mother will try to help you understand – but Jesus himself must be the one to say to you “I Thirst.” Hear your own name. Not just once. Every day. If you listen with your heart, you will hear, you will understand. Why does Jesus say “I Thirst”? What does it mean? Something so hard to explain in words – if you remember anything from Mother’s letter, remember this – “I thirst” is something much deeper than Jesus just saying “I love you.” Until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you – you can’t begin to know who He wants to be for you. Or who He wants you to be for Him. The heart and soul of MC is only this – the thirst of Jesus’s Heart, hidden in the poor. ...

Our Lady will help all of us in this, since she was the first person to hear Jesus’s cry I Thirst with St. John, and I am sure Mary Magdalene. Because she was there on Calvary, she knows how real, how deep His longing for you and for the poor. Do we know? Do we feel as She? Ask her to teach – you and the whole Society are hers. Her role is to bring you face to face, as John and Magdalene, with the love in the Heart of Jesus crucified. Before it was Our Lady pleading with Mother, now it is Mother in her name pleading with you – “Listen to Jesus’s thirst.” Let it be for each what Holy Father said in his letter – a Word of Life. How do you approach the thirst of Jesus? Only one secret – the closer you come to Jesus, the better you will know His thirst. “Repent and believe,” Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor – He knows your weakness, He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you. ... Hear Him. Hear your own name. Make my joy and yours complete.

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration

in Gippsland

Bass	Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Bairnsdale	1 st Friday after 9.10am Mass
Heyfield	1 st Fridays 10am – 4.30pm
Cowwarr Ord.	Wednesday (Mass 10am) – 11am Thursday 6-7pm; 1 st Friday (Mass 6pm) – 9pm 1 st 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 st Friday 4pm–8pm (every 2 nd 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 st Friday till 4pm
Trafalgar	Wed & 1st Sat: (9.30am Mass) – 10.45am
Traralgon	Wednesday 11am – 12 noon
Warragul	Saturday 10am – 11am 1 st Fri 4pm–8pm (every 2 nd month, Jan. on)
Wonthaggi	1 st Friday 7pm – 8pm

"If we had the eyes of angels
in seeing our Lord Jesus Christ
who is here on the altar
and who is looking at us,
how we would love him!"

St John Vianney

From Me Too

St Peter Julian Eymard

1. Adore and visit Jesus, abandoned and forsaken
by men in His Sacrament of love.

Man has time for everything except for visits to his
Lord and God, Who is waiting and longing for him
in His tabernacle.

The streets and the houses of amusement are filled
with people; the House of God is deserted.

Men flee from it; they are afraid of it.

Ah! Poor Jesus! Couldst Thou have expected so
much indifference from those whom Thou hast
redeemed, from Thy friends, from Thy children,
from my own self?

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 find us on  facebook

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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