

# ***Into the Deep***

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Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

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## **The Joy of the Gospel**

**Pope Francis, International Conference for the Ongoing Formation of Priests, 08-02-2024**

Firstly, *the joy of the Gospel*. At the heart of the Christian life is the gift of friendship with the Lord, which sets us free from the dreariness of individualism and the risk of a life without meaning, without love and without hope.

The joy of the Gospel, the Good News that accompanies us, is precisely this: God loves us with a tender and merciful love.

We in turn are called to make this joyful proclamation resound throughout the world by the witness of our lives, so that all may discover the beauty of the saving love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, who died and rose from the dead.

Let us keep in mind the words of Saint Paul VI: we need to be witnesses before being teachers, witnesses to the love of God, the only thing that truly matters.

Vatican.va

## **The Crowning Act of Christian Worship**

**Venerable Fulton Sheen: Calvary and the Mass**

The Church which Christ founded has not only preserved the Word He spoke, and the wonders He wrought; it has also taken Him seriously when He said: "Do this for a commemoration of me." And that action whereby we re-enact His Death on the Cross is the Sacrifice of the Mass, in which we do as a memorial what He did at the Last Supper as the prefiguration of His Passion.

Hence the Mass is to us the crowning act of Christian worship. A pulpit in which the words of our Lord are repeated does not unite us to Him; a choir in which sweet sentiments are sung brings us no closer to His Cross than to His garments. A temple without an altar of sacrifice is non-existent among primitive peoples, and is meaningless among Christians.

And so in the Catholic Church the altar, and not the pulpit or the choir or the organ, is the centre of worship, for there is re-enacted the memorial of His Passion. Its value does not depend on him who says it, or on him who hears it; it depends on Him who is the One High Priest and Victim, Jesus Christ our Lord. With Him we are united, in spite of our nothingness; in a certain sense, we lose our individuality for the time being; we unite our intellect and our will, our heart and our soul, our body and our blood, so intimately with Christ, that the Heavenly Father sees not so much us with our imperfection, but rather sees us in Him, the Beloved Son in whom He is well pleased.

The Mass is for that reason the greatest event in the history of mankind; the only Holy Act which keeps the wrath of God from a sinful world, because it holds the Cross between heaven and earth, thus renewing that decisive moment when our sad and tragic humanity journeyed suddenly forth to the fullness of supernatural life.

ewtn.com

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# What Do We Do With Our Wounds

Pope Francis, General Audience 05-04-2023

We too are wounded – who isn't in life? And they are often hidden wounds we hide out of embarrassment. Who does not bear the scars of past choices, of misunderstandings, of sorrows that remain inside and are difficult to overcome? But also of wrongs suffered, sharp words, unmerciful judgements?

God does not hide the wounds that pierced his body and soul, from our eyes. He shows them so we can see that a new passage can be opened with Easter: to make *holes of lights* out of our own wounds. ... Think about your wounds, the ones you alone know about, that everyone has hidden in their heart. And look at the Lord and you will see, you will see how holes of light come out of those wounds. Jesus does not incriminate on the cross, but loves. He loves and forgives those who hurt him. Thus, he converts evil into good; thus, he converts and transforms sorrow into love.

Brothers and sisters, the point is not whether we are wounded a little or a lot in life, the point is what to do with my wounds – the little ones, the big ones, the ones that leave their mark forever on my body, on my soul. What can I do with my wounds? What can you, you, you, do with your wounds? "No, Father, I don't have any wounds" – "Be careful, think twice before saying this". And I ask you: what do you do with your wounds, with the ones only you know about? You can allow them to infect you with resentment and sadness, or I can instead unite them to those of Jesus, so that my wounds too might become luminous.

Think of how many young people do not tolerate their own wounds and look for a way of salvation in suicide. Today, in our cities, so many young people see no other way out, they have no hope, and prefer to get high using drugs, to forget... poor people. Think about this.

And you, what is the drug you use to hide your wounds? Our wounds can become springs of hope when, instead of feeling sorry for ourselves or hiding them, we dry the tears shed by others; when, instead of nourishing resentment for what was robbed of us, we take care of what others are lacking; when, instead of dwelling on ourselves, we bend over those who suffer; when, instead of being thirsty for love, we quench the thirst of those in need of us.

For it is only if we stop thinking of ourselves, that we will find ourselves again. But if we continue to think of ourselves, we will not find ourselves anymore. And it is by doing this, the Scriptures say, that our wound is healed quickly (cf. Is 58:8), and hope flourishes anew. Think about this: What can I do for others? I am wounded. I am wounded by sin, I am wounded by my past, everyone has their own wound. What can I do? Lick my wounds for the rest of my life? Or can I look at the wounds others have and go with the wounded experience of my life to heal, to help others? This is today's challenge for all of you, for each of you, for each one of us. May the Lord help us move forward.

Vatican.va

## Small World

Re "Family Ties" quotes (Jan/Feb ITD, p.6) taken from the book "Sainly Solutions to Life's Common Problems" by Fr Joseph Esper:

Small world. Father Esper was pastor of my sister's church a few miles from me. He was principal of the grade school when her kids were there, and he said my mother's funeral Mass.

Also, I just finished Newman's "Arians of the Fourth Century" and I'm sure he mentioned Gregory was Basil's brother, but there were so many characters with the same names I can't say I retained it.

**T.R. Clancy, Dearborn, Michigan, USA**

## Interesting Facts

**Vatican News** now speaks the language of Mongolia. Mongolian joins the 51 languages already present, both written and spoken, thanks to a collaboration with the local Church. (VaticanNews.va 31-01-2024)

**Vatican Radio** celebrates its 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. On Feb 12, 1931, Pope Pius XI inaugurated Vatican Radio. It was Guglielmo Marconi, the inventor of the radio, who announced the historic event: "For about 20 centuries, the Roman Pontiff has made the word of his divine teaching heard in the world, but this is the first time that his living voice can be perceived simultaneously over the entire surface of the Earth." (VaticanNews.va 12-02-2024)

# Extraordinary Courtesy

**Pope Benedict XVI, Shrine of the Annunciation in Nazareth, 14-05-2009**

The Spirit who “came upon Mary” is the same Spirit who hovered over the waters at the dawn of Creation. We are reminded that the Incarnation was a new creative act.

When our Lord Jesus Christ was conceived in Mary’s virginal womb through the power of the Holy Spirit, God united himself with our created humanity, entering into a permanent new relationship with us and ushering in a new Creation.

The narrative of the Annunciation illustrates God’s extraordinary courtesy (cf. Mother Julian of Norwich, *Revelations* 77-79). He does not impose himself, he does not simply pre-determine the part that Mary will play in his plan for our salvation: he first seeks her consent. In the original Creation there was clearly no question of God seeking the consent of his creatures, but in this new Creation he does so. Mary stands in the place of all humanity. She speaks for us all when she responds to the angel’s invitation.

Saint Bernard describes how the whole court of heaven was waiting with eager anticipation for her word of consent that consummated the nuptial union between God and humanity. The attention of all the choirs of angels was riveted on this spot, where a dialogue took place that would launch a new and definitive chapter in world history. Mary said, “Let it be done to me according to your word.” And the Word of God became flesh.

Zenit.org

## Catch the Scent of Freedom

**Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2024**

The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt – often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses – today too, God’s people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination.

Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love. *God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind* and experience a Passover from death to life. Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts. ...

True, Baptism has begun our process of liberation, yet there remains in us an inexplicable longing for slavery. A kind of attraction to the security of familiar things, to the detriment of our freedom. ...

God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery”.

Lent is *a season of conversion, a time of freedom*. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. ...

Woe to us if our Christian penance were to resemble the kind of penance that so dismayed Jesus. To us too, he says: “Whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting”.

Instead, let others see joyful faces, catch the scent of freedom and experience the love that makes all things new, beginning with the smallest and those nearest to us. This can happen in every one of our Christian communities.

Vatican.va

# Peter and Paul

One of the more challenging verses of scripture is, 'I have not come to call the virtuous, but sinners to repentance'. Indeed, the only persons who are not sinners are Jesus and Mary. The rest of us acknowledge our sinfulness; for example, at the start of the Confiteor we declare, 'through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault'. So, it is not surprising that people can have different points of view; as is evident since the very Fall in Eden. This reality is certainly evident at the foundation of the Christian church. 'When Cephas came to Antioch, however, I [Paul] opposed him to his face, since he was manifestly wrong'. Pope Francis certainly has no shortage of people prepared to 'oppose him to his face'.

Paul was a highly educated Pharisee committed to forcefully serving the Jewish religion. Peter (Cephas) was a hardworking fisherman using his hands to support his family by maintaining a boat and the associated fishing equipment. A boat that was used by Jesus as a pulpit to address the increasing crowd attracted by his message. As a Pharisee, Paul was dedicated to using his sharp mind to study the commandments given directly by God to Moses. (Yet even Moses doubted God's word and was denied entry to the Promised Land). Certainly, Peter denied Jesus while Jesus was being interrogated by the Sanhedrin intent on sending him on his way to crucifixion. Subsequently Peter's love was questioned by a resurrected Jesus who was well aware of the ways of sinners, and Peter was told to 'Feed my sheep'. In a similar way, Jesus confronted Paul on his way to Damascus and asked him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'. Even so, Jesus then addressed an accepted Paul with, 'You will be told what you have to do'.

Yet it was Peter that Jesus subsequently chose to lead his church. So a hard working family background was seen as more appropriate for what God had in mind than profound intellectual achievements. Pope Francis certainly has an impressive academic background, but stresses that the Church has the sacrament of Confession with which to address our call to repentance.

**John Cooney, Cowwarr, Victoria**

## Drying Up

Things seem to be drying up on the ITD front. Letters to the editor are drying up, new subscribers are drying up, donations are drying up, book sales are drying up... Could it be a sign? Has the time come? Or is it just the hot, dry weather we've been having! It's up to you. If you haven't written a letter to ITD before, maybe now is the time. If you haven't donated in the last 12 months, maybe now is the time. If you haven't invited someone else to read ITD and join the mailing list, maybe now is the time to pass it around. If you know a few people you think might enjoy Fr Speekman's book, maybe now is the time to order them a copy. Think about it, and do what you can. We all know that too much dryness leaves us at risk of bushfires...

**Ed.**

## Retreats

**Pope Francis, in the foreword to the book "First belong to God: On retreat with Pope Francis," by Austen Ivereigh**

Because of the relentless pressures and tensions of an obsessively competitive society, retreats to "recharge our batteries" have become very popular.

But a Christian retreat is very different from a "wellness" holiday. The centre of attention is not us but God, the Good Shepherd, who, instead of treating us like machines, responds to our deepest needs as his beloved children.

The retreat is a time for the Creator to speak directly to his creatures, inflaming our souls with his "love and praise" so that we might "better serve God in the future," in the words of St. Ignatius.

VaticanNews.va 13-02-2024

## True Beauty

**Pope Francis, to artists, 15-02-2024**

For beauty beckons us to a different way of being in the world. It is about contemplation. Indeed, beauty makes us sense that life is directed towards fullness, fulfilment. In true beauty, we begin to experience the desire for God.

# The Church – a Mystery of Communion

My wife and I have started the Bible in a Year again with Fr Mike Schmitz, and it strikes me how after doing the Catechism in Year, and now the Bible in a Year for the second time, my “lenses” have changed. My Scriptural, Christological, ecclesiological, spiritual and theological and worldview lenses have been adjusted, changed and sharpened. I have gained such a broader and deeper grasp of the mysteries of the Faith.

For example, when we were reading from the book of Genesis where God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”, I realized not only the enormity of God’s gratuitous love as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but the incredible and profound revelation of His divine desire. It struck me that God, who has no need of anyone or anything, whose perfection and happiness can neither be decreased nor increased, would give mankind (me), holy communion with himself. It revealed to me that the origin and destiny of all life, is ultimately found in holy communion with the Trinity; and that mankind was given life by the one who is life Himself, in order to abide in His divine love and life forever.

From the very beginning we were created for communion with God! Since the fall, God planned to restore and unite all things through his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and he invites the whole of humanity to share and participate in his own inner life and love in his great family, the one and only, holy, Catholic Church.

I deliberately mention the one and only Catholic Church, because for many people, Christians, and no doubt Catholics included, the Church is nothing but an optional extra, a man-made institution governed by a Pope that is added to the Faith. But it is here in Genesis, in the beginning of creation, and the rest of the Old Testament, that she is prefigured and prepared, for the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

She is both the means and the goal of God’s plan here on earth, and it is through her that Jesus fulfills and reveals the Father’s plan and will, to restore and unite all things and all of humanity.

The goal and purpose of the Church is this communion with God, which governs everything in this passing world, and that is why as long as I am alive and am able, I will consecrate myself to her everyday.

**Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria**

## The Who

You hear of married couples divorcing after the children have grown up and left home. Perhaps they lost the “who” of one another in all the years of busyness of raising children and dealing with work and finances and mortgages and whatever else they had to face. Perhaps they focussed on external things and forgot about the essence of who they married.

You also hear of adults, in mid-life or old age, who give up the faith. After years and years of faithfully attending Sunday Mass, going to all the liturgical celebrations, following all the directives, living a Catholic life, they just give up. Perhaps their adult children gave up the faith and they followed suit. Perhaps their children starting living a life contrary to Church teaching and so they changed their allegiance from the Church to the children. Perhaps they lost the “Who” of their faith, and got caught up in the externals instead.

If you hold fast to the “who”, it’s easier to remember your reason for loving them in the first place.

It’s hard to forget the “Who” when you spend time in Adoration. There you are, in a quiet church, face to face with the One your faith is all about. Not a statue, not a painting, not a prayerbook, not a priest, not a community – but the One, the Who, the Person. The Christ. In the flesh, alive, whole and entire, God Almighty. There before you, face to face with you, all for you. All ears, all eyes, all heart, all love, for you. And if you sit there for a time, and gaze back at Him, there is nothing you can do but love Him back. Nothing else matters, but loving Him. He is the reason for your faith, the foundation of your life. He is the “Who” it’s all about.

Don’t lose sight of the “Who”. Don’t get caught up in politics or piety, at the expense of Who it’s all about. Keep the Who alive in your life. It is a love too precious to forget.

**Ed.**

# St Patrick's Breastplate

I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, His might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need;  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, His shield to ward,  
The Word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me;  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,  
the strong Name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the same,  
the Three in One, and One in Three,  
of Whom all nature hath creation;  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:  
praise to the Lord of my salvation,  
salvation is of Christ the Lord. Amen.

# Know Your Sins

**Pope Francis, General Audience 03-01-2024**

A famous saying attributed to Abba Anthony the Great, the first great father of monasticism, goes like this: "Remove temptations and no one would be saved". Saints are not men and women who have been spared temptation, but rather people who are well aware of the fact that in life, the seductions of evil appear repeatedly, to be unmasked and rejected. ... There are many people who absolve themselves, who consider themselves to be "just fine" ... But none of us is "alright"; ... every one of us has many things to adjust, and must also be vigilant. And at times it happens that we go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and we say, sincerely, "Father, I don't remember, I don't know if I have any sins". But this is a lack of awareness of what is happening in the heart. We are all sinners, all of us. And a little examination of conscience, a little insight, will be good for us. Otherwise, we run the risk of living in the dark, because we have become accustomed to darkness and no longer know how to distinguish good from evil. Isaac of Nineveh said that, in the Church, those who know their sins and mourn them are greater than those who raise a dead man. We must all ask God for the grace to recognize ourselves as poor sinners, in need of conversion...

# Be Open to the Grace of Martyrdom

Pope's prayer intention for March: "For the martyrs of our day, witnesses to Christ."

**By Francesca Merlo, Vatican News**

In the new release from The Pope Video, Pope Francis requests prayers for the new martyrs of our day so that they might "imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive."

Introducing his prayer intention for the month of March, Pope Francis ... recalls the story of a widowed man whom he met when he visited a refugee camp in Lesbos. The man, a Muslim, recounted the harrowing story of how his wife, who was Christian, was asked by terrorists to throw a crucifix to the ground. "She didn't do it, and they slit her throat in front of me", the man told the Pope.

Pope Francis notes that this man "held no grudges", and was instead "focused on his wife's example of love, a love for Christ that led her to accept, and to be faithful to the point of death".

The Holy Father emphasises that there will always be martyrs among us and that "this is a sign that we are on the right path" as the courage and witness of the martyrs, "is a blessing for everyone". The Pope continues, "I have been told that there are more martyrs today than at the beginning of Christianity."

Thus, Pope Francis invites all the faithful to pray for those who risk their lives for the Gospel, all over the world, so that they "might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive, and be open to the grace of martyrdom". ...

VaticanNews.va

# Stabat Mater

**The Stabat Mater is a 13<sup>th</sup> century hymn... Its author may be either the Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi or Pope Innocent III. The title comes from its first line, "Stabat Mater dolorosa", which means "the sorrowful mother was standing". Translation by Edward Caswall. (Wikipedia)**

At the Cross her station keeping,  
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus to the last:

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,  
All his bitter anguish bearing,  
now at length the sword has pass'd.

Oh, how sad and sore distress'd  
Was that Mother highly blest  
Of the sole-begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs;  
She beneath beholds the pangs  
Of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,  
Whelm'd in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain,  
In that Mother's pain untold?

Bruis'd, derided, curs'd, defil'd,  
She beheld her tender Child  
All with bloody scourges rent;

For the sins of his own nation,  
Saw Him hang in desolation,  
Till His Spirit forth He sent.

O thou Mother! fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
Make my heart with thine accord:

Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
Make my soul to glow and melt  
With the love of Christ my Lord.

Holy Mother! pierce me through;  
In my heart each wound renew  
Of my Saviour crucified:

Let me share with thee His pain,  
Who for all my sins was slain,  
Who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with thee,  
Mourning Him who mourn'd for me,  
All the days that I may live:

By the Cross with thee to stay;  
There with thee to weep and pray;  
Is all I ask of thee to give.

Virgin of all virgins blest!,  
Listen to my fond request:  
Let me share thy grief divine;

Let me, to my latest breath,  
In my body bear the death  
Of that dying Son of thine.

Wounded with his every wound,  
Steep my soul till it hath swoon'd,  
In His very blood away;

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,  
Lest in flames I burn and die,  
In his awful Judgment day.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,  
Be Thy Mother my defence,  
Be Thy Cross my victory;

While my body here decays,  
May my soul thy goodness praise,  
Safe in Paradise with Thee.

"Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

# Come Down From the Stage

**Pope Francis, Ash Wednesday homily, 14-02-2024**

When you give alms, or pray or fast, take care to do these things in secret, for your Father sees in secret. "Go to your room": this is the invitation that Jesus addresses to each of us at the beginning of the Lenten journey. Going to your room means returning to the heart, as the prophet Joel admonishes (cf. Joel 2:12). It means journeying from without to within, so that our whole life, including our relationship with God, is not reduced to mere outward show, a frame without a picture, a draping of the soul, but is born from within and reflects the movements of our heart, our deepest desires, our thoughts, our feelings, the very core of our person. Lent, then, immerses us in a bath of purification and of self-spoilation: it helps us to remove all the cosmetics that we use in order to appear presentable, better than we really are. To return to the heart means to go back to our true self and to present it just as it is, naked and defenceless, in the sight of God. It means looking within ourselves and acknowledging our real identity, removing the masks we so often wear, slowing the frantic pace of our lives and embracing life and the truth of who we are. Life is not a play; Lent invites us to come down from the stage and return to the heart, to the reality of who we are: a return to the heart and the truth.

Vatican.va

## Serving Others

**Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the Pontifical Household, 5<sup>th</sup> Lenten sermon 2022**

The words Jesus said, "You also ought to wash one another's feet," mean: you must offer one another the service of humble charity. Charity and humility together form evangelical service. Jesus once said: "Learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart". What had Jesus done to call himself "humble"? Had he, perhaps, thought lowly of himself or spoken unassumingly about himself? He had done quite the opposite! During the actual washing of the feet he proclaimed himself "Teacher and Lord".

What had he done, therefore, to call himself "humble"? He humbled himself; he came down from heaven to serve! And from the moment of the incarnation he continued to come down to the point of kneeling down to wash his apostles' feet. How the angels must have shuddered to see the Son of God humble himself so, he upon whom they do not even dare to look. The Creator kneeling before his creatures! "Proud ashes, blush with shame. God humbles himself and you exalt yourself!", St Bernard used to say to himself. Seen like this – as humbling oneself to serve – humility is indeed a regal way of being like God and of imitating the Eucharist in our lives.

The fruit of this meditation should be a courageous examination of our lives (our habits, position, schedule, distribution and use of our time) to see if it is really a service and if love and humility are part of it. The important thing to know is whether we are serving our brothers and sisters or whether, instead, they are serving our purposes. We make others serve our purpose or we take advantage of them, perhaps even when we are doing our utmost for them, if we are not disinterested and are, in some way, seeking approval, applause or the satisfaction of having a clear conscience, of being the benefactor. The gospel requirements are extremely radical on this point: "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing". Everything we do "to be noticed by others" is lost. "Christ did not please himself!": this is the rule of service.

To have a discernment of our intentions in doing service, we should be aware of what we do willingly and what we do our best to shirk. We should see if our heart is ready to abandon a noble, prestigious service, if required, for a humble unappreciated one. The surest service we can give is that which is hidden from the eyes of all except the Father's, who sees into our secret hearts. Jesus raised the washing of feet, one of the most humble acts of his time as it was usually done by slaves, to a symbol of service. St Paul warns us: "Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly". ... In another way, being too attached to our habits and comfort also goes against the spirit of service – a spirit of laxness, as it were. It is not possible to seriously serve others if we are constantly intent on pleasing ourselves, making an idol out of our rest, our free time, our schedule. The rule of service is always the same: "Christ did not please himself."



# *Their* faith or *The* Faith?

From the book *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*, by Fr John Speakman (p.63,64)

Speaking of youth and *their* faith is not the same as speaking of youth and *the* Faith but this fact seems routinely to escape the educational professionals.

Every single person I know has *their* faith but only a few have *the* Faith. Youth are no exception.

In the latest glossy brochure promoting the latest programme for youth it described with some excitement that there will be – *welcoming, nurturing, affirming, listening, promoting, developing, connecting (and reconnecting)* – the only trouble being that the subject and object of each of these verbs was the same – *us*.

We are going to do all these things to one another, and the youth will be doing it to each other too – a frenzy of 'ministry' in which the power of God seems to have been forgotten. Was it intentional?

According to the article they are even going to promote better liturgies!

Pardon the emphatic voice but I say: *Youth do not need better liturgies, they need better catechesis!* Priests are not entertainers, and Mass is not entertainment. Its relevance is not in how enjoyable it is. *Better liturgies* pit one priest against another – *Oh, Fr Jake's Masses are better than Fr Joe's!*

Instead of noisy, self-conscious involvement we should be leading youth to the joy of authentic participation in communal worship: listening and response, recollection, self-giving, awe, silence, gratitude – and an ability to see the supernatural presence in the human frailty and shortcomings of the congregation and the priest, *and* in the appearance of the Sacred Host.

Fr Speakman's book *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*, can be purchased through ITD for \$15, with postage starting at only \$3. For more information about the book and for excerpts from the book, see previous issues of ITD from Jan/Feb 2023. Contact ITD to place your order. - Ed.

## Holy Telly

From the book *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*,  
by Fr John Speakman (p.71)

One of the ladies came into the church to do the flowers. She said, *I see we have a new tabernacle.*

*No*, I replied, *it's a second hand one we borrowed while ours is being refurbished.*

*It looks like a television*, she quipped.

I remained silent but wanted to say, *Come over and watch it some time!*

## The Wisdom of C.S. Lewis

From the book *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*,  
by Fr John Speakman (p.45)

"If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man ... Going back is the quickest way on." C.S.Lewis

## Sometimes you have to risk it

From the book *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*,  
by Fr John Speakman (p.71)

I greeted a big Pacific Islander who joined me in the lift going down to the ground floor. He gave me a big smile as I asked: *Fijian?*

*No*, he said: *Samoan.*

*Oh, Samoan*, I replied, regretting my mistake. *You guys used to eat people, didn't you?*

He smiled again, and said, *Yep, we sure did, Father. I have a lot of Irish in me.*

## Eye of the Beholder

From the book *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*,  
by Fr John Speakman (p.29)

I asked a patient once if she was a practising Catholic. She said: *I'm not, Father, I'm afraid to say. I used to be. I used to go every Christmas and Easter but in the last few years I've become slack.*

# Ride On

Here is one of my favourite Lenten hymns. By Henry Hart Milman (1827). **Ed.**

1. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;  
O Savior meek, pursue Your road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.
2. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, Your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
3. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The host of angels in the sky  
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes  
to see th'approaching Sacrifice.
4. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.  
The Father on His sapphire throne  
awaits His own anointed Son.
5. Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die,  
bow Your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O Christ, Your pow'r and reign.

# Women in the Church – Not About Priesthood

**Pope Francis, to the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 08-02-2024**

Every instance of Church reform is always a matter of spousal fidelity: the Bride Church will always be more beautiful the more she loves Christ the Bridegroom, to the point of belonging totally to Him, to the point of full conformation to Him.

And on this, I will say one thing about the ministries of women. The Church is woman, the Church is mother, the Church has her figure in Mary, and the Church-woman, whose figure is Mary, is more than Peter; that is, she is something else. One cannot reduce everything to ministeriality. The woman in herself has a very great symbol in the Church as woman, without reducing it to ministeriality.

This is why I have said that every claim of reform of the Church is always a question of spousal fidelity, because she is woman.

Vatican.va

# The World's Darkest Hour

**Pope Francis, General Audience, 31-03-2021**

*Holy Saturday* is the day of silence: there is a great silence throughout the World; a silence lived by the first disciples in mourning and bewilderment, shocked by Jesus' ignominious death. While the Word is silent, while Life is in the sepulchre, those who had hoped in him were put to a difficult test, they felt like orphans, perhaps even orphaned by God. This Saturday is also Mary's day: she too lived it in tears, but her heart was full of faith, full of hope, full of love. The Mother of Jesus had followed her Son along the way of sorrows and remained at the foot of the cross, with her soul pierced. But when it all seemed to be over, she kept watch, she kept vigil, in expectation, maintaining her hope in the promise of God who raises the dead. Thus, in the world's darkest hour, she became the Mother of believers, the Mother of the Church and the sign of hope. Her witness and her intercession sustain us when the weight of the cross becomes too heavy for each one of us.

In the darkness of Holy Saturday, joy and light will break through with the rites of the *Easter Vigil* and, in the late evening, the festive hymn of the *Hallelujah*. It will be the encounter in faith with the Risen Christ, and the joy of Easter will continue for all throughout the following 50 days, until the coming of the Holy Spirit. He who was crucified is risen! All questions and uncertainties, hesitations and fears are dispelled by this revelation. The Risen One gives us the certainty that good always triumphs over evil, that life always conquers death, and that it is not our end to descend lower and lower, from sorrow to sorrow, but rather to rise up high. The Risen One is the confirmation that Jesus is right in everything: in promising us life beyond death and forgiveness beyond sins.

Vatican.va

# Holy Week Quiz

1. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which what Catholic practice is forbidden?
  - a. Confession
  - b. Mass
  - c. Stations of the Cross
  - d. Rosary
2. At a Good Friday service, which tradition, dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century, takes place?
  - a. Washing of the feet
  - b. Adult Baptisms
  - c. Candlelight processions
  - d. Veneration of the Cross
3. According to Luke 23:44, Jesus expired on the cross in the ninth hour. When is the ninth hour in today's time?
  - a. 9am
  - b. Noon
  - c. 3pm
  - d. 6pm
4. Complete this Scripture: "But God shows his ..... for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
  - a. Love
  - b. Compassion
  - c. Tolerance
  - d. Patience
5. What is the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday?
  - a. Good Saturday
  - b. Easter Saturday
  - c. Holy Saturday
  - d. Silent Saturday
6. What day do we remember the Crucifixion of Christ?
  - a. Holy Thursday
  - b. Good Friday
  - c. Holy Saturday
  - d. Easter Sunday
7. What day do we remember the Resurrection of Christ?
  - a. Good Friday
  - b. Easter Sunday
  - c. Easter Monday
  - d. Easter Saturday
8. What do we call the following 3 days together: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday?
  - a. The Easter Triptych
  - b. The Holy Trilogy
  - c. The Easter Triduum
  - d. The Holy Trinity
9. What does Triduum mean?
  - a. 3 days
  - b. 3 events
  - c. 3 persons
  - d. 3 names
10. What is referred to as the Paschal Mystery?
  - a. The Passion of Jesus Christ
  - b. The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - c. The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - d. The Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ

## Wash Them of Their Guilt

"40 Days for Life" sends daily emails during the 40-Days campaigns of prayer and witness to end abortion. The following little prayer at the end of the Day 16 email this Lent, struck me:

Lord, in your infinite mercy, bring healing and hope to those caught in the lies of the abortion industry. Answer my prayer for forgiveness on their behalf: "Thoroughly wash away my guilt; and from my sin cleanse me."

How often we ask for mercy for our own sins, to be cleansed of our sins and washed of our guilt. But how often do we pray for this for others? And especially for abortionists and those working in the abortion industry – to be washed of their guilt and cleansed of their sins! Now that is true Christian love.

**Ed.**

Quiz Answers: 1b. 2d. 3c. 4a. 5c. 6b. 7b. 8c. 9a. 10d. The quiz is also available at [www.stoneswillshout.com](http://www.stoneswillshout.com)

## Eucharistic Adoration in Gippsland, Victoria

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 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday (Mass 10am) – 11am
Churchill	Saturday (9.30am Mass) – 11am
Cranbourne	Fri & Sat in church: (9.30 Mass) – 11am
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 10am-11am (Sacred Heart Church)
Orbost	Wednesday (9.30am Mass) – 11am
Rosedale	First Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30am
Sale	Friday 10am - 11am Mass
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	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday (9.30am Mass) – 10.30am

Contemplating Jesus on the Cross,  
I say: "I did this to you."

Contemplating me from the Cross,  
Jesus says: "I did this for you."

Ed.

## Make a Little Time

**Saint Anselm**

Escape from your everyday business for a short while,  
hide for a moment from your restless thoughts.

Break off from your cares and troubles and be less  
concerned about your tasks and labours.

Make a little time for God and rest a while in him.

Enter into your mind's inner chamber.

Shut out everything but God and whatever helps  
you to seek him; and when you have shut the door,  
look for him.

Speak now to God and say with your whole heart:  
I seek your face; your face, O Lord, I desire.

## Contact *Into the Deep*

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

- no longer have a voice in 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**