

# *Into the Deep*

Issue 248

Newsletter of orthodox Catholics of Gippsland

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## The *Greatest* Love Story

From the U.S. National Eucharistic Revival website

### Created

**You are not an accident.** The God who created the universe, who set the moon and stars in place, loves YOU and chose YOU, even before the world was formed.

He knows you better than you know yourself, and **he loves you simply because you are YOU.** There are no conditions on his love: at every moment you are infinitely loved by him. You are dear to him.

### Fallen

**The original harmony between us and God was shattered when sin entered the world.** Even though God's understanding is beyond human reason, Adam and Eve refused to trust his omniscience and took it upon themselves to be their own gods, choosing themselves above their creator.

We continue to turn our back on God, selfishly distorting the good gifts he has given us. Our sin has torn at the very fabric of creation, allowing disease, darkness, and death to inundate our world. **Our relationship with God has been ruptured.** Refusing to follow God's plan of love, we have been enslaved to sin.

### Saved

**God loves us so much that he became man and died for us.** Christ outstretched his arms and submitted to death to reconcile us to his Father. Death and sin do not have the final word: Christ's Resurrection opens for us the doors to new life in him.

**Christ's sacrifice and victory transcends space and time, and it is made present on the altar at every Mass!** No one is excluded from his offer of love and mercy, no matter how great a sinner we might be! This includes YOU.

### Restored

**Jesus has opened the door for you,** and through his Church, he invites you into a personal relationship with God, but God won't force you to choose him.

Christ comes to us in the Eucharist, offering himself to us: Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. **He nourishes us, offering himself as "our daily bread."** It is easy for us to overlook this extraordinary gift. Even people who go to Mass each Sunday forget that Jesus is not merely symbolically present, but truly and substantially.

It's time for us to entrust ourselves to the One who gave his life for us and invites us to encounter him in the Eucharist. **It's time for a Eucharistic Revival.**

[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org)

Catholic Bishops in the United States decided that a Eucharistic revival was necessary, and dedicated 3 years to their program. Perhaps our Australian Bishops could follow suit? Let's pray! See more about the U.S. Eucharistic Revival on page 9. - Ed.

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

# The Thing About Love

**Pope Francis, General Audience 15-05-2024**

Christians are capable of all the forms of love in the world: they too fall in love, more or less as happens to everyone. They too experience the benevolence that is felt in friendship. They too feel love for their country and the universal love for all humanity.

But there is a greater love, a love which comes from God and is directed towards God, which enables us to love God, to become his friends. It enables us to love our neighbours as God loves them, with the desire to share the friendship with God.

Because of Christ, this love drives us where we would not humanly go: it is the love for the poor, for what is not lovable, for those who do not care for us and are ungrateful. It is love for what no one would love, even for one's enemy. Even for the enemy. This is "theological": this comes from God, it is the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus preaches: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (Lk 6:32-33). And he concludes: "But love your enemies" – we are used to speaking badly of our enemies – "love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish" (v. 35). Let us not forget this!

In these words, love reveals itself as a theological virtue and assumes the name of charity. Love is charity. We immediately realize that it is a difficult, indeed impossible love to practice if one does not live in God. Our human nature makes us love spontaneously what is good and beautiful. In the name of an ideal or a great affection we can even be generous and perform heroic acts. But the love of God goes beyond these criteria.

Christian love embraces what is not lovable, it offers forgiveness – how difficult it is to forgive! How much love it takes to forgive! – Christian love blesses those who curse, whereas, faced with an insult or a curse, we are accustomed to replying with another insult, with another curse. It is a love so ardent that it seems almost impossible, and yet it is the only thing that will remain of us. Love is the "narrow gate" through which we will pass in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Because at the twilight of life, we will not be judged on generic love; we will be judged precisely on charity, on the real love we had. And Jesus says this to us, which is so beautiful: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). This is the beautiful thing, the greatest thing about love.

Vatican.va

## Passing it Around

Thank you for sending me ITD over the past year; it is always good to read with a cup of coffee! Some friends like to read it too. I like your quizzes, snippets of information, and good things Pope Francis has said, as there is a lot of confusion from the Vatican these days.

Please send me two copies of Fr Speekman's book which I can put in our church to be passed around. I enclose a donation towards the newsletter and books.

**Wendy Harrap, George Town, Tasmania**

Thank you, Wendy. What a great idea! Anyone else willing to do the same? - Ed.

## Some Numbers

Someone asked me the other day, how many does ITD reach? I had to admit I have no idea. Once it's "out there" I don't know who reads it or who passes it on to who. Then he asked how many people donate, and I thought that's a good indicator.

So I looked up some information: We distribute about 220 printed copies. We email to about 400 email addresses. We post on the website and on Facebook. We receive about 30 donations a year (so we know at least 30 people read ITD! I hope it's more than that though!) And will have been going for 22 years in October, supported solely through donations (that cover printing and postage). Thank you one and all.

Ed.

# Our Mother is Very Close to Us

Pope Benedict XVI, Assumption Homily, 15-08-2005

Mary is taken up body and soul into the glory of Heaven, and with God and in God she is Queen of Heaven and earth. And is she really so remote from us?

The contrary is true. Precisely because she is with God and in God, she is very close to each one of us.

While she lived on this earth she could only be close to a few people. Being in God, who is close to us, actually, "within" all of us, Mary shares in this closeness of God. Being in God and with God, she is close to each one of us, knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, can help us with her motherly kindness and has been given to us, as the Lord said, precisely as a "mother" to whom we can turn at every moment.

She always listens to us, she is always close to us, and being Mother of the Son, participates in the power of the Son and in his goodness. We can always entrust the whole of our lives to this Mother, who is not far from any one of us.

On this feast day, let us thank the Lord for the gift of the Mother, and let us pray to Mary to help us find the right path every day. Amen.

Vatican.va

## Monthly Devotions

There are some months of the year that in my mind are 'obviously' associated with particular Catholic piety, for example, May being the month of Mary, and October of the Holy Rosary, and November the Holy Souls. But I haven't always thought about all the months until I saw a 'list' recently. I looked it up and found that there are some variations, with no 'official' list, but here are the common devotions associated with each month. - **Ed.**

January: The Holy Name of Jesus, or the Holy Name and the Childhood of our Lord

February: The Holy Family, or the Passion of Our Lord

March: St Joseph

April: The Blessed Sacrament, or the Resurrection

May: The Blessed Virgin Mary

June: The Sacred Heart of Jesus

July: The Precious Blood

August: The Immaculate Heart of Mary, or Assumption

September: The Seven Sorrows of Mary/Our Lady of Sorrows, or the Holy Cross

October: The Holy Rosary, or the Holy Angels

November: The Poor Souls in Purgatory/Holy Souls

December: The Immaculate Conception, or Advent/the Coming of Christ

## Prayer for a Spouse

A friend of mine was sharing her sadness that she hasn't yet found a spouse. I looked up a prayer she could say, and found this beautiful little novena. It was published by the bishops of England and Wales, and I found it on Aleteia (aleteia.org). I thought I'd share it here in case someone else is longing for a spouse, or praying that someone they love will find a suitable spouse. - **Ed.**

Loving Father, you know that the deepest desire of my heart is to meet someone that I can share my life with.

I trust in your loving plan for me and ask that I might meet soon the person that you have prepared for me.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, open my heart and mind so that I recognise my soulmate. Remove any obstacles that may be in the way of this happy encounter, so that I might find a new sense of wholeness, joy and peace.

Give me the grace too, to know and accept, if you have another plan for my life.

I surrender my past, present and future into the tender heart of your Son, Jesus, confident that my prayer will be heard and answered. Amen.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

St Valentine, pray for me.

# My Feeble Love

Pope Francis, Angelus address 29-07-2024

The first: *to offer*. ... It is the gesture with which we acknowledge we have something good to give, and we say our "yes", even if what we have is too little compared to what is needed. This is emphasized, during the Mass, when the priest offers the bread and wine on the altar, and each person offers himself, his own life. It is a gesture that may seem small, when we think of the immense needs of humanity, just like the five loaves and two fish in front of a crowd of thousands; but God makes it the material for the miracle, the greatest miracle there is – that in which He Himself makes Himself present among us, for the salvation of the world.

And so, we understand the second gesture: *giving thanks*. ... It is saying to the Lord humbly, also with joy: "All that I have is your gift, Lord, and to thank you I can only give back to you what You gave me first, together with your Son Jesus Christ, adding what I can; ... What can I give to the Lord? What little thing can I give? My feeble love". To give, to say to the Lord, "I love you"; but we, poor things, our love is so small, but if we give it to the Lord, the Lord receives it.

Vatican.va

# Opening Ceremony

Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney  
Facebook post 30-07-2024

The Opening Ceremony of the Paris Olympics has left many people disappointed, angry and offended at the blasphemous parody of the Last Supper. It demonstrated contempt for Christ and disregard for the beliefs and sensitivities of Christians across the world.

But we must be careful to not make this all about ourselves and our feelings. Blasphemy is not committed against us as Christians, but against GOD, the One who made and sustains us. It is God who is being mocked and that is what should grieve us most.

Don't let outrage and disappointment simply be expressed in our conversations and social media. Rather, take these emotions and lay them before Jesus, present in the tabernacle. Spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, pray the rosary, contemplate da Vinci's magnificent painting of The Last Supper, and meditate on Chapter 6 of St John's Gospel which we are reading for the next few Sundays. Importantly, pray for those who have not yet come to know and love Christ.

## Did You Know?

### The Basilica of St Mary Major

Tradition holds that the Blessed Virgin Mary made snow fall on the Esquiline Hill in the midst of the sweltering August heat of 352.

A Roman nobleman and his wife, who were without heirs, prayed to God to reveal how they should spend their wealth. In a dream shared by both the patrician and Pope Liberius, Mary expressed her wish for a church to be built at the site on the Esquiline Hill. Despite the scorching summer heat, on August 5, 352, snow fell in a rectangular pattern and did not melt. The Basilica of St. Mary Major was built on the spot, and completed in 354.

VaticanNews.va 11-07-2024

### The Pietà

The very word "Pietà" means "to feel sorry for." So, how was Michelangelo to make people feel sorry for Mary and Jesus? The prototypes he was offered from Germany and France show the Body of Christ in *rigor mortis* with open wounds and the crown of thorns still visible. But the 23-year-old sculptor chose to do something completely different. And in doing so, he changed the history of art.

"From Tourist to Pilgrim" Podcast by Liz Lev, Episode 7 (VaticanNews.va 09-07-2024)

The Pietà was completed in one year, 1498-1499. It is the only piece Michelangelo ever signed. Michelangelo carved the words on the sash running across Mary's chest. "MICHÆLANGELVS BONAROTVS FLORENTINVS FACIEBAT" (English: "Michelangelo Buonarroti, the Florentine made this"). He was 23 years old.

Wikipedia

# Reverence in Church

**Padre Pio's Letter to His Spiritual Daughter**

**from Volume III of Padre Pio's Letters, 'Correspondence with his Spiritual Daughters (1915-1923)'**

In order to avoid irreverence and imperfections in the house of God, in church – which the divine Master calls the house of prayer – I exhort you in the Lord to practice the following.

Enter the church in silence and with great respect, considering yourself unworthy to appear before the Lord's Majesty. Amongst other pious considerations, remember that our soul is the temple of God and, as such, we must keep it pure and spotless before God and his angels. Let us blush for having given access to the devil and his snares many times...by not being able to keep our hearts pure and our bodies chaste; for having allowed our enemies to insinuate themselves into our hearts, thus desecrating the temple of God which we became through holy Baptism.

Then take holy water and make the sign of the cross carefully and slowly.

As soon as you are before God in the Blessed Sacrament, devoutly genuflect. Once you have found your place, kneel down and render the tribute of your presence and devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Confide all your needs to him along with those of others. Speak to him with filial abandonment, give free rein to your heart and give him complete freedom to work in you as he thinks best.

When assisting at Holy Mass and the sacred functions, be very composed when standing up, kneeling down, and sitting, and carry out every religious act with the greatest devotion. Be modest in your glances; don't turn your head here and there to see who enters and leaves. Don't laugh, out of reverence for this holy place and also out of respect for those who are near you. Try not to speak to anybody, except when charity or strict necessity requests this.

If you pray with others, say the words of the prayer distinctly, observe the pauses well and never hurry.

In short, behave in such a way that all present are edified by it and, through you, are urged to glorify and love the heavenly Father.

On leaving the church, you should be recollected and calm. ...[T]ake your leave of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament; ask his forgiveness for the shortcomings committed in his divine presence and do not leave him without asking for and having received his paternal blessing.

Once you are outside the church, be as every follower of the Nazarene should be. ... And let us do our utmost to be, as far as possible, similar to him on this earth, in order that we might be more perfect and more similar to him for the whole of eternity in the heavenly Jerusalem.

## Pray, and Your Eyes Will Open

**St Teresa of Calcutta**

"I am only a poor sister who prays. By praying, Jesus puts his love in my heart, and I go to give it to all the poor I meet along the way. Pray too! Pray, and you will notice the poor who are beside you. Perhaps on the same floor in your apartment building. Perhaps even in your houses, someone is waiting for your love. Pray, and your eyes will open, and your heart will fill with love".

At the UN General Assembly, 26-10-1985

## Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer you my prayers, works,  
joys, and sufferings of this day  
for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart  
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
throughout the world,  
for the salvation of souls,  
the reparation of sins,  
the reunion of all Christians,  
and in particular for the intentions of the Holy  
Father this month.  
Amen.

# A Hard Saying

Not so long ago, after completing the Books of Judges in the Bible in Year podcast with Fr Mike, we reached our first 'Messianic checkpoint', which was the Gospel according to St John. The reason we have these 'checkpoints' during the year is because all of the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New Testament.

Amazingly, we went through John's Gospel in a week, with the first 3 chapters focusing on the Divine Word, who created everything and became flesh, and dwelt among us.

When we got to chapters 4, 5 and 6, Fr Mike pointed out that these chapters are all about the correct, pleasing and proper way of worship.

And indeed, for the first time I realized, particularly in chapter 6 (the Bread of Life discourse), that this is God incarnate telling the whole world about the what, the how, the when and the where of worship that is acceptable to him. Nothing else will do, no other form in the whole of creation is acceptable and pleasing to him.

For 1500 years the Apostles, early Church fathers and every Christian understood that eating Jesus' flesh and drinking his blood (Holy Communion) on Sundays, the Lord's Day, is not only the centre, source and summit of the Catholic Faith, but the very soul of the Christian life which they were baptized into.

They knew that the 'hard saying' in chapter 6:52 is the only way after the Fall that God has made possible for mankind to share in his divine life and love; and that the ultimate destiny and meaning of all human life is to be found in Trinitarian Communion, because this is what God created us for from the very beginning. God, who is a Holy Communion of persons, desires and invites the whole of humanity to share and participate in his own inner life and to be united intimately with him.

At Mass, eating and drinking Jesus' flesh and blood, receiving Holy Communion, is an actual as well as spiritual participation in the Holy Communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and with all in the Church militant, the Church suffering and the Church triumphant. It is how God reconciles mankind and all of creation to himself through Christ. It is the only way for a human person as a creature made in the image of God, to grow into the likeness of Christ; and to participate in the life of the Holy Trinity which is at the very heart of the Christian life.

As pilgrims in this world, early Christians knew that their bodies, minds and souls needed to be fed, nourished and sustained on the journey towards heaven, so that while in this world we can abide in him as he abides in the Father. Not only was it a hard saying for Jesus' listeners and disciples at that time, it remains a hard saying for all of humanity today. It confronts thousands of Protestant denominations as well as lapsed and nominal Catholics all over the world.

However, the "unless" command which is absolute, not only confronts, but invites, and expresses God's desire for the whole of humanity.

**Gregory Kingman, Morwell, Victoria**

## Hope and Patience

**Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025**

3. ... By his perennial presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives. Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love...

As Saint Augustine observes: "Whatever our state of life, we cannot live without these three dispositions of the soul, namely, to believe, to hope and to love".

4. ... Patience, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, sustains our hope and strengthens it as a virtue and a way of life. May we learn to pray frequently for the grace of patience, which is both the daughter of hope and at the same time its firm foundation.

# Scripture Inspired by the Holy Spirit

Pope Francis, General Audience 12-06-2024

The Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy contains this statement: "All Scripture is inspired by God" (3:16). And another passage in the New Testament says: "Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Pt 1:21). This is the doctrine of the divine inspiration of the Scripture, that which we proclaim as an article of faith in the Creed, when we say that the Holy Spirit "has spoken through the prophets". The divine inspiration of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures, is also He who explains and makes them perennially living and active. From *inspired*, He makes them *inspiring*. ... In this way the Holy Spirit continues, in the Church, the action of the Risen Jesus who, after Easter, "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Lk 24:45).

Indeed, it can happen that in a certain passage of the Scripture, that we have read many times without particular emotion, one day we read it in an atmosphere of faith and prayer, and then that text is unexpectedly illuminated, it speaks to us, it sheds light on a problem we are living, it makes God's will for us clear in a certain situation. To what is this change due, if not to an enlightenment of the Holy Spirit? The words of the Scripture, under the action of the Spirit, become luminous; and in those cases, we touch with our own hands how true is the statement in the Letter to the Hebrews: "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (4:12).

Brothers and sisters, the Church is nourished by the spiritual reading of the Sacred Scripture, that is, by reading under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that inspired it. At its centre, like a beacon that illuminates everything, there is the event of the death and resurrection of Christ, which fulfils the plan of salvation, realizes all the figures and the prophecies, unveils all the hidden mysteries and offers the true key to reading the entire Bible. The death and resurrection of Christ is the beacon that illuminates all the Bible, and it also illuminates our life. Revelation describes all of this with the image of the Lamb that breaks the seals of the book "written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals" (cf. 5:1-9), that is, the Scripture of the Old Testament. The Church, Bride of Christ, is the authorized interpreter of the inspired text of the Scripture; the Church is the mediator of its authentic proclamation. Since the Church is gifted with the Holy Spirit – this is why she is the interpreter – she is the "pillar and bulwark of the truth" (1 Tm 3:15). Why? Because she is inspired, held steady by the Holy Spirit. And the task of the Church is to help the faithful and those who seek the truth to interpret the biblical texts correctly.

Vatican.va

## "Offer it up" Advice

I was recently quite sick with a cold and feeling miserable and sorry for myself. A friend called, and after I moaned to him, he said simply, "Oh well, offer it up." Sound advice. Simple advice. Advice I've heard since childhood and is a part of me. But so easy to forget when you're feeling sorry for yourself! It may sound flippant, but that's the last thing it is. It's powerful, easy and instantly consoling when put into practice. And always worth remembering!

Ed.

## Too True!

"If abortion did not kill a baby, no one would talk about it, vote on it, or have the least bit of discomfort when it came up in conversation."

Shawn Carney, CEO of 40 Days for Life

"To be alone with God is not to be alone."

St Romuald

# Human Life is a Gift, not a Problem

**Pope Francis, 10-05-2024, to participants of General States of Natality, Rome**

In the past, there was no lack of studies and theories warning about the number of inhabitants on earth, because the birth of too many children would have created economic imbalances, a lack of resources, and pollution. I was always struck by how these theses, now long outdated, spoke of *human beings* as if they were *problems*. But human life *is not a problem, it is a gift*. And at the root of pollution and starvation in the world are not children being born, but the choices of those who think only of themselves, the delirium of an unbridled, blind and rampant materialism, of a consumerism that, like an evil virus, undermines the existence of people and society at the root. The problem is not *how many of us there are in the world*, but *the world that we are building* ...

The birth rate is the first indicator of the hope of a people. Without children and young people, a country loses its desire for the future. ...

And there is a fact that a scholar of demography told me. At the moment, the most income-generating investments are weapons manufacturing and contraceptives. One destroys life; the other prevents life. And these are the most profitable investments. What future can we expect? ...

At institutional level, there is a need for *effective policies*, for *courageous, concrete and long-term choices*, to sow today so that children can reap tomorrow. There is a need for greater commitment on the part of all governments, in order for the young generations to be put in the condition to realize their legitimate dreams. These means implementing *serious and effective choices in favour of the family*. ...

Then, it is important to promote, at social level, a *culture of generosity and intergenerational solidarity*, to review habits and lifestyles, renouncing what is superfluous in order to give the youngest a hope for tomorrow, as is the case in many families. Let us not forget: the future of children and grandchildren is built also on the aching backs of years of toil and hidden sacrifices by parents and grandparents, in whose embrace there is the silent and discreet gift of an entire life's work. ...

Another very important part is missing: grandparents. Today there is a culture of hiding grandparents away, sending them to rest homes. ... The future is made by the young and the elderly, together: courage and memory, together. Please, when speaking about natality, which is the future, let us also talk about grandparents, who are not the past: they help the future. Please, have children, lots of them, but also take care of grandparents. It is very important.

Vatican.va

## Embracing Our Crosses

**St John Vianney**

The Cross gave peace to the world; and it must bring peace to our hearts. All our miseries come from not loving it. The fear of crosses increases them. A cross carried simply, and without those returns of self-love which exaggerate troubles, is no longer a cross. Peaceable suffering is no longer suffering. We complain of suffering! We should have much more reason to complain of not suffering, since nothing makes us more like Our Lord than carrying His Cross. Oh, what a beautiful union of the soul with Our Lord Jesus Christ by the love and the virtue of His Cross!

## Donations – Thank You!

Please find enclosed cheque to help with costs for Into the Deep. It is a great newsletter and I look forward to receiving it each month.

**J.C., Bendigo, Victoria**

Sorry about the delay in the donation. God bless you in all the work that you do. Please keep us in your prayers.

**R.P., Morwell, Victoria**

Thank you for continuing to send your informative newsletter. It is appreciated. I hope you are keeping well in these challenging times.

**J.L., Bendigo, Victoria**



# Transforming the Church in the U.S.

By Christopher Wells and Joseph Tulloch, Vatican News, 17-07-2024

Tens of thousands of pilgrims arrived in the US city of Indianapolis on 16 July at the conclusion of the pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress, taking place from 17-21 July.

More than 100,000 faithful took part at various points in the pilgrimage, which began on 17 May and covered over 10,000 kilometres along four pilgrimage routes from every corner of the United States.

Pilgrims took part in a welcoming Mass celebrated by Indianapolis Archbishop Charles Thompson, and concelebrated by numerous bishops, including Cardinal Antonio Tagle – Pope Francis' delegate to the Congress – and Bishop Andrew Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, the chair of the organizing committee for the Congress.

The Tenth National Eucharistic Congress in the United States marks a high point in ongoing National Eucharistic Revival sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Eucharistic Congress is the culmination of the second year of the Revival, dedicated to revival in parishes throughout the country. "It's a missionary year where we're inviting every Catholic to take up their call from Pope Francis to be missionary disciples," said Bishop Cozzens in a phone interview with Vatican Radio.

Bishop Cozzens says the American bishops took their inspiration from Pope Francis' programmatic 2013 Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world. "Encounter and mission are two staples of our Eucharistic Revival in Congress," Bishop Cozzens said, explaining, "We want people to encounter Jesus and then send them on mission, which we got, of course, from *Evangelii gaudium*."

Asked about his expectations for the Eucharistic Congress, Bishop Cozzens said, "We're expecting to see miracles – because when people come together in Jesus's Name, He shows up so powerfully. "So we expect deep conversions, healings, and most of all, a real growth in missionary spirit."

Highlighting the theme of the third and final year of the Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Cozzens said, "Our goal is to help the Church in the United States make this transformation that Pope Francis has called for, the missionary transformation, so that we can become the missionaries we're called to be."

Bishop Cozzens added, "We feel really honoured to be gathered at a time in our world when there's a real need for Jesus and His life. We know that Jesus in the Eucharist gave His life for the world. And we want to be set on fire to be able to bring Him to those who are most in need."

VaticanNews.va

## What is the National Eucharistic Revival?

From the U.S. National Eucharistic Revival website

In response to our prayers, the Holy Spirit is filling us with grace and zeal – setting our hearts ablaze with his love and sending us out to share it with the world.

The National Eucharistic Revival movement is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the Church in the United States to the divine invitation to be united once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Through the Eucharist, God desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world.

*If we but paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ's love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude.*

**St Angela of Foligno**

eucharisticrevival.org

# Reparation for Blasphemy

**Contrast the worldwide high-point of the United States National Eucharistic Congress with the worldwide low-point of the Paris Olympic Games opening ceremony's mockery of Christianity. Family Life International Australia put the following post on Facebook on 28 July 2024. - Ed.**

If you were unfortunate enough to have seen the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics, then you may be wondering what you can do to make up for that outrageous event. We recommend the Holy Face prayers, particularly the Golden Arrow prayer, as reparation for blasphemy.

## **Golden Arrow Prayer**

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.

# Pray the Psalms

**Pope Francis, General Audience 19-06-2024**

What makes the Psalms worthy of our attention is that they were the prayer of Jesus, of Mary, of the Apostles and of all the Christian generations that came before us. When we recite them, God listens to them with that grandiose "orchestration" that is the communion of Saints. According to the Letter to the Hebrews, Jesus, enters the world with a verse from a Psalm in his heart: "Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God" (cf. Heb 10:7; Ps 40:9). And according to the Gospel of Luke, he leaves the world with another verse on his lips: "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit" (Lk 23:46; cf. Ps 31:6). ...

"All the Sacred Scripture breathes the goodness of God", says Saint Ambrose, "but in particular the sweet book of the Psalms" ...

Form the habit of praying with the Psalms. ... The Psalms help us to open ourselves to a prayer that is less focused on ourselves: a prayer of praise, of blessing, of thanksgiving; and they also help us give voice to all creation, involving it in our praise.

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# Thy Will Be Done

'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God... not one thing had its beginning but through him.' (John 1:1-3). Man was one of the last creatures made by God and the man was sent out to 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it'. So God passed the responsibility for ongoing creation to the man and the woman with whom he completed his direct process of creating people. As parents, by means of the sacred act of sexual intercourse, they continued the process of creation in the mother's womb. God had a purpose in his creation and the people were very involved in helping to achieve this purpose. God recognized that the task of helping with creation would be challenging so he made the sacred act involved, pleasurable. God's purpose was creation and he gave clear instructions about the behaviour of the two people involved. The instructions included rules about eating. Satan countermanded God's instructions, 'God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil'. So you could say God gave mankind the power to continue his creation, while Satan gave mankind the knowledge of good and evil. Among other things, this knowledge enables enjoyment of the pleasure associated with the sacred act, of creation, while avoiding the cares associated with participating in God's plan for creation.

God's plan for the continuation of mankind clearly involves members of the family, but in different ways. The genitalia that enable parents to perform the sacred act that achieves God's purpose are specific to the particular parent involved. The mother makes her body available for pregnancy, nurture and mothering; specific involvement that imposes heavy demands on the mother's personal life from the very start. Indeed this onerous responsibility was in fact chosen by Jesus as his personal means of entry to mankind for his purpose of providing our redemption. The father has the more remote responsibility of defending his family to ensure that Satan's malicious intrusion does not prevail over the will of God.

**John Cooney, Cowwarr, Victoria**

# Approaches to Prayer

From the book *Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime*,  
by Fr John Speakman (p.51)

As a seminarian I once showed an elderly lady through the seminary complex and when we came to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel I suggested we sit and spend some time in prayer. She replied that she couldn't because she had left her prayers in the car. Even though I knew her to be exceptionally holy and a woman of deep prayer, I couldn't help smiling.

# Sometimes You Have to Risk It

*Things Serious, Silly, and Sublime* (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.*

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 each previous issue of ITD from Jan/Feb 2023. Contact ITD to place your order. - Ed.

## Sowing Seeds

Pope Francis, Angelus address 16-06-2024

Today the Gospel of the liturgy speaks to us about the Kingdom of God through the image of a seed (cf. Mk 4:26-34). Jesus uses this simile several times, and today he does so by inviting us to reflect in particular on an important attitude connected to the image of the seed: it is the attitude of *confident expectation*.

Indeed, in sowing, no matter how good or abundant the seed the farmer scatters, or how well he prepares the land, the plants do not sprout immediately: it takes time and it takes patience! Therefore, it is necessary that, after having sown, he knows how to wait confidently, to allow the seeds to open at the right moment and the shoots to sprout from the soil and grow strong enough to guarantee an abundant harvest, in the end. Underground the miracle is already in progress. There is enormous development, but it is invisible, it takes patience, and in the meantime it is necessary to keep tending the turf, watering it and keeping it clean, despite the fact that nothing seems to be happening on the surface.

The Kingdom of God is like this too. The Lord places the seeds of his word and his grace in us, good seeds, abundant seeds, and then, without ever ceasing to accompany us, he waits patiently. The Lord continues to take care of us, with the confidence of a Father, but he gives us time – the Lord is patient – so that the seeds can open, grow and develop to the point of bearing the fruits of good works. And this is because he wants nothing in his field to be lost, that everything should reach full maturity; he wants us all to be able to grow like ears of grain.

Not only this. By doing so, the Lord gives us an example: he teaches us too to sow the Gospel confidently wherever we are, and then to wait for the seed that has been sown to grow and bear fruit in us and in others, without becoming discouraged and without ceasing to support and help each other even where, despite our efforts, we do not seem to see immediate results. In fact, often even among us, beyond appearances, the miracle is already underway, and in due course it will bear abundant fruit!

Therefore, we can ask ourselves: do I let the Word be sown in me? Do I too sow the Word of God with confidence in the places where I live? Do I wait patiently, or am I discouraged because I do not see the results immediately? And do I know how to entrust everything serenely to the Lord, while doing my best to proclaim the Gospel? May the Virgin Mary, who welcomed and made the seed of the Word grow within her, help us to be generous and confident sowers of the Gospel.

Vatican.va

## 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

## Sit Waiting

### St Romuald's Brief Rule

**St Romuald (950-1027), founder of the Camaldolese order**

Sit in your cell as in paradise.

Put the whole world behind you and forget it.

Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish.

The path you must follow is in the Psalms – never leave it.

If you have just come to the monastery,  
and in spite of your good will you cannot accomplish what you want,  
take every opportunity you can  
to sing the Psalms in your heart  
and to understand them with your mind.

And if your mind wanders as you read, do not give up; hurry back and apply your mind to the words once more.

Realize above all that you are in God's presence,  
and stand there with the attitude of one who stands before the emperor.

Empty yourself completely and sit waiting,  
content with the grace of God,  
like the chick who tastes nothing and eats nothing  
but what his mother brings him.

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## 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**