



“They are trees planted by streams of water; they bear fruit; their leaves do not wither; in all that they do they prosper.” Ps 1:3

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The Theme for 2010: Live By the Spirit (Gal 5:16)

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Testimonies of Miracles during the Recent Visit to the Holy Land

Testimony-1

A couple of months ago I developed an excruciating pain in my right wrist. I consulted 2 orthopaedicians. Both of them diagnosed it as ‘secretary’s wrist’ (inflammation of the tendon) – due to continuous use of the mouse in one position. Both gave me pain killers for 10 days and said that if the pain persists, the only solution is to have a steroid injection which should be done by an experienced specialist. They warned me that if it was not done well it could affect the nerves.

This put a wee bit of fear into me. I also went for 4 sittings of physiotherapy which did not make much difference. Doing simple household tasks like cutting veggies, lifting vessels from the oven, hanging clothes on the line, etc. became difficult. I tried to use my left hand for most tasks and sought the assistance of

my husband and daughter, whenever possible. A couple of days before the trip I started anointing my wrist with Holy Oil and saying Three Hail Mary’s. Whenever we prayed for any intention, my daughter very sweetly, would pray for my hand.

At the Lake of Galilee, I immersed my hand in the water and asked Jesus to take

away my pain. Immediately after this when we went up to the Church where Jesus performed the miracle of the 2 fish and 5 loaves, I felt the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. What touched me deeply was that when we went to the Milk Grotto, my daughter reached up to the roof of the cave, scraped some of the white powder, made the sign of the cross on my hand and we prayed Three Hail Mary's. She also has a problem with her jaw and I asked her to do the same. I forgot all about my hand and I don't know exactly when I realized that the pain was completely gone and that I was healed!

Praise the Lord for giving us a Mother who is always there ready to intercede for us – and what a powerful intercessor she is. All we need is to have a deep desire and child-like trust and God will make possible what we think is impossible. We surely have a great, big, wonderful, marvellous, glorious, mighty God who deserves all praise for His Hand that moves people and situations in our lives.

Elvira Stevens

Testimony -2

This is a testimony of my miraculous healing during my visit to the Holy Land. We walked in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus through many Holy places in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth.

On the day prior to leaving for our pilgrimage I had a high fever. I took some medicine and prayed "Lord Jesus, only you can heal me". When I reached Jordan airport I was completely healed! Our Lord Jesus heard my prayer and I remained in good health till we returned from the Holy Land.

I also has a pain in my legs (joint pain), and so I was worried about climbing the hills in some of the Holy places. I just prayed and said, "God, Your will be done." He is a mighty healer and everything went well, by His grace and mercy. I climbed all the hills and descended with no leg or joint pain throughout the pilgrimage! Praise and thanks to Almighty God for all the miracles in my life. I also thank all the MIPC members for their prayers.

Milliana Concessao

Testimony-3

One day I completely lost my way when we visited the Basilica of Our Lady of the Nativity. All our group members had left and I found myself all alone. I panicked and was desperately searching for our bus. As I

went down some street I just prayed and called out to Jesus to help me find the bus. As soon as I prayed I saw Bro. Godfrey waving to me in the distance. I thank and praise God for answering my plea and showing me the way.

I also prayed for spiritual help and experienced spiritual growth at every holy place we visited. I just want to praise and thank Jesus for every thing he has done for me. I thank every MIPC member for their prayers and specially those who organized and made this pilgrimage successful and fruitful.

Joseph Concessao.

The Brethren of the Lord-Part 3

So, if it is established that the "brethren of the Lord" were not Jesus' brothers or half-brothers through Mary, who were they?

Prior to the time of Jerome, the standard theory was that they were Jesus' "brothers" who were sons of Joseph though not of Mary. According to this view, Joseph was a widower at the time he married Mary. He had children from his first marriage (who would be older than Jesus, explaining their attitude toward him). This is mentioned in a number of early Christian writings. One work, known as the *Proto-evangelium of James* (A.D. 125) records that Joseph was selected from a group of widowers to serve as the husband/protector of Mary, who was a virgin consecrated to God. When he was chosen, Joseph objected: "I have children, and I am an old man, and she is a young girl" (4:9).

Today, the most commonly accepted view is that they were Jesus' cousins. Of the four "brethren" who are named in the Gospels, consider, for the sake of argument, only James. Similar reasoning can be used for the other three. We know that James the younger's mother was named Mary. Look at the descriptions of the women standing beneath the cross: "among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee" (Matt. 27:56); "There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome" (Mark 15:40).

Then look at what John says: "But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene" (John 19:25). If we compare these parallel accounts of the scene of the crucifixion, we see that the mother of James and Joseph must be the wife of Clopas. So far, so good.

An argument against this, though, is that James is elsewhere (Matt. 10:3) described as the son of Alphaeus, which would mean this Mary, whoever she was, was the wife of both Clopas and Alphaeus. But Alphaeus and Clopas are the same person, since the Aramaic name for Alphaeus could be rendered in Greek either as Alphaeus or as Clopas. Another possibility is that Alphaeus took a Greek name similar to his Jewish name, the way that Saul took the name Paul.

So it's probable that James the younger is the son of Mary and Clopas. The second-century historian Hegesippus explains that Clopas was the brother of Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus. James would thus be Joseph's nephew and a cousin of Jesus, who was Joseph's putative son.

This identification of the "brethren of the Lord" as Jesus' first cousins is open to legitimate question—they might even be relatives more distantly removed—but our inability to determine for certain their exact status strictly on the basis of the biblical evidence (or lack of it, in this case) says nothing at all about the main point, which is that the Bible demonstrates that they were not the Blessed Virgin Mary's children.

Sourced from: www.Catholic.com and contributed by Richard Mascarenhas

Smile Awhile!

1. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?
2. What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?
3. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?
4. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?
5. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
6. Why did Moses wander in the desert for 40 years?
7. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

Answers on Page -15

The Gift of Faith

Faith is a gift of God. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are necessary for our Purifications and Salvation.

Gift of Faith comes directly from the Holy Spirit and the meaning is 'Man's response to God'.

To respond to faith we have to believe and trust in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. It involves repentance for all our sins and a determination, never to sin again. It is a total surrender of our wills and lives to

God. We must be obedient to Jesus and his word, as a way of life. It is a heartfelt devotion and attachment to God that express itself in Love, trust, gratitude and loyalty.

If we remain in God and let God remain in us, God will never let us down. He is a faithful God. God is our father and is responsible for us. He will meet our needs. Some of the highlights of faith are:

1. Without faith we cannot please God.
2. The just shall live by faith.
3. We are made righteous by faith, not by keeping the law.
4. We become the children of God by faith.
5. Jesus Christ dwells in our hearth by faith.
6. Holy Spirit is received by faith.

Therefore, gift of faith is the most important gift of the Holy Spirit.

Joel Prem Lobo (10)

Oasis Ministry News

We are pleased to announce that the Oasis Ministry has been blessed with several new members. Please welcome Ethel Fernandes, Charmaine D'Souza, Flavia Pereira, Josena Verghese, Amy Ann Jacob, Richard Mascarenhas and Daniel Sequeira. Libby Gomes, loyal Oasis member for several years, continues on the Oasis team and her commitment is sincerely appreciated. I also want to sincerely thank all previous Oasis members and especially Harry Rasquinha, for their sterling service. May God bless you abundantly. Please keep the Oasis Ministry in your prayers, that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our Patron, we can continue to serve our beloved Community for the greater glory of God.

Ken Borthwick (Oasis Ministry Leader & Editor)

Standing Up For Jesus and our Catholic Faith

Luke 12:8-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes

against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they take you before synagogues and before rulers and authorities, do not worry about how or what your defense will be or about what you are to say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you should say."

Introductory Prayer: Lord, I believe that you are present here as I turn to you in prayer. I trust and have confidence in your desire to give me every grace I need to receive today. Thank you for your love, thank you for your immense generosity toward me. I give you my life and my love in return.

Petition: Grant me, Lord, the grace to stand up for my beliefs today.

1. Too Cowardly for Martyrdom: Sometimes it's very difficult to acknowledge Jesus before others. We think of the possibility of martyrdom, and we all wonder if we would be able to be faithful to Jesus if it meant death. We may think that we witness to him pretty well in our everyday lives, but do we really? We listen to attacks on Jesus and his Church without objection. Sometimes we even kind of nod or smile as if to let on that we agree. We would never say such things ourselves, but we don't really stand up for Jesus even when there is no possibility of martyrdom. How many of us have a terrible time just making the sign of the Cross in a public place? It's a simple thing, something I do every time I come to the table to eat, but somehow, it can be incredibly difficult in a restaurant, where the only burden is that "people might think I'm a Catholic."

2. Accepting the Truth: Christ's teaching about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit may be worrisome because we may think that there exists some unforgivable sin. Yet, there is no unforgivable sin. God's love and mercy is all-powerful against sin. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit has been understood by the Church to mean final impenitence -- that the Holy Spirit is trying to convince us of our sins and we won't accept them. If we are finally convinced, there is no blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. However, if we die without having accepted his truth, then we will be guilty of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Do I let the Holy Spirit convince me of my sinfulness? Are there things that the Church teaches as wrong that I don't want to accept? Are there sins that I think aren't too bad because I want to make them a part of my life? Sins cannot be forgiven if they are not accepted as sins.

3. Witnessing with My Life: Maybe we don't worry too much about being hauled into court for our Christianity, but we still have to testify to it everyday with our lives. No matter where we go or what we do, we are witnesses to our belief in Christ. The Greek word "martyr" means "witness." I need to let the Holy Spirit speak through me when I am in front of others. People will be judging not just me, but all Christians by my actions, so I need to live charity as the mark of a genuine Christian. I need to foster the humility of a person who looks at the greatness and

holiness of God the Father and yet recognizes his own pettiness and sinfulness. I need to live all the virtues in the concrete circumstances of my daily life. The only way I can do all these things is by letting the Holy Spirit speak through the actions of my life, so that my life is the testimony that others need it to be.

Conversation with Christ: Dear Jesus, I can hear your call to a deeper intimacy with you. I want to draw closer, yet at times, I also feel reluctance. Help my weak will. Inflammate my heart with a greater love for you so that I can be a true “martyr”, a witness to your faithful love. Open my heart to your Holy Spirit so that I live as a true Christian.

Resolution: When I am in front of others, I will foster the awareness that I am a witness to the truth of Christ’s revelation and try to let the Holy Spirit speak through my actions.

Father James Swanson, LC
www.meditation.regnumchristi.org

THE KEY TO THE POPE'S SUCCESS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Most of the reporters writing about the papal visit are clearly surprised by this outcome, and more than a few are betraying their disappointment. A week ago the same reporters were predicting a debacle, and some of them were relishing that prospect. The Pope would face angry protesters wherever he turned, they said. The crowds would be small and subdued. There would be empty seats at the Pope’s public appearances. The staid, jaded secular world of Great Britain would listen skeptically, perhaps nod and clap politely, and then quickly move on to other things, dismissing the old man from Rome. But Pope Benedict didn’t follow that script.

In every particular, the predictions were wrong. The crowds were loud and enthusiastic. The protesters were there, but even their friends in the mass media had trouble locating them among the tens of thousands who lined the streets to cheer for the passing papal motorcade, or thronged around Hyde Park to join in an evening prayer vigil. Britain’s political and intellectual leaders watched and listened carefully as the Pope spoke, and his words had an obvious impact. Prime Minister David Cameron spoke for an entire nation when, at the conclusion of the papal visit, he told the departing Pontiff that he had made Britain “sit up and think.”

Now the analysts who had predicted a disaster—or perhaps, at best, a polite irrelevancy—are struggling to explain how the Pope confounded their expectations.

I think I can explain; when they predicted an unsuccessful papal visit, analysts were

basing their judgment on an assumption. They took it for granted that Pope Benedict would respond to the criticism that had dominated the British media during the last few weeks before his arrival. They assumed that the Pope would be worried about the protests and nervous about the likelihood of popular rejection. Clearly he was not.

Speaking with reporters during the flight from Rome, Pope Benedict was asked how he would propose to make the Catholic Church more attractive to the people of Great Britain, he gave a surprising answer: **“I would say that a Church that seeks to be particularly attractive is already on the wrong path, because the Church does not work for her own ends, she does not work to increase numbers and thus power. The Church is at the service of another: she serves, not for herself, not to be a strong body, rather she serves to make the proclamation of Jesus Christ accessible...”**

With those words the Holy Father was signaling that he did not intend to fulfill the analysts’ expectations. He would not be defending himself when he spoke to British audiences. He would not be worrying about how the public would perceive him. He was traveling to the United Kingdom “at the service of another,” to proclaim the truth and spread the Gospel. He did not care what people thought of him. He only cared what people thought of Jesus Christ. The people of Great Britain did not see a stern, rigid ideologue. They saw a mild, self-deprecating man who treated them with respect—and, because he respected them, told them the truth.

Great Britain, clearly, is a nation searching for a sense of purpose. In religious affairs especially, the old establishment has broken down. The Church of England has lost its place as the moral authority over the nation. The Anglican Communion has disintegrated into a congeries of different groups with different beliefs and different practices.

Writing in (of all places) the Guardian, columnist Andrew Brown took note of this clash between—as the headline of his column put it—“moral absolutes and crumbling empires.” The old Protestant ideas that had governed Great Britain for four centuries had run their course and lost their energy; now the Pope proposed a return to principles of thought that were both old and new: both a part of the British tradition from before the Reformation and a break with more recent history. “This was the end of the British Empire,” Brown said, speaking of the Pope’s address to political leaders in Westminster Hall.

Pope Benedict was gentle but relentless in challenging the basic ideas that sustained that distinctively Protestant imperial era. In his historic address at Westminster Hall—with every living former prime minister in attendance—the Pope suggested that St. Thomas More, who had been condemned to death in that same hall, was a

model for Church-state relations. At Lambeth Palace, speaking to Anglican bishops with the Archbishop of Canterbury at his side, he proposed Blessed John Henry Newman as a model for ecumenical affairs. **Now obviously if St. Thomas More was right, then King Henry was wrong to have him executed, and to break with the Holy See. If Cardinal Newman was right, then today's Anglican prelates can make themselves right by entering the Catholic Church. The Pope did not draw out these conclusions, but his implications were inescapable.**

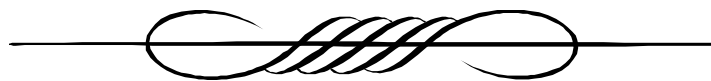
Indeed, the impact of Pope Benedict's message to Great Britain was heightened by the things he did not say—because he did not need to say them. In his address to Anglican prelates he did not focus on *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, with its bold invitation for Anglicans to enter into the Catholic Church. But surely that apostolic constitution was on the minds of the Anglican bishops who were listening as he spoke about the path to Christian unity. At Westminster Hall, when he praised the anti-slavery crusade led by William Wilberforce, he did not mention today's battle to end abortion, but only a very dull politician would fail to notice the parallel. When he mentioned that Westminster cathedral is dedicated to St. Peter, he could rely on those who listened to realize that St. Peter's successor was now in the building. And when he recalled the great heritage of British Christianity dating back to the times of St. Edward the Confessor and the Venerable Bede, it required very little imagination to notice that those happy days were before the split that gave rise to the Church of England.

Throughout the trip, Pope Benedict was quietly, humbly, but persistently staking a claim. He was claiming, as St. Peter's successor, to be the rightful moral leader of this old Christian society. He was inviting Britain to end its 400-year flirtation with Protestantism and reclaim its Catholic heritage. He was promising that a nation founded on the truths of the Catholic faith could be a prosperous, pluralistic, and successful modern society.

The Pope was making an astonishingly bold series of claims, really. He made them with disarming humility, so that his audiences did not take offense. Still the challenges were unmistakable. Now with the Pope back in Rome, a stunned British society has time to digest the papal message, to realize the implications of what he said, to sit up and think.

By Phil Lawler

Contributed by Richard Mascarenhas



Children's Bible Quiz # 46a & b

A) Read 'Proverbs' Chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

1. What will proverbs help you to recognize and understand?
2. What can proverbs teach you?
3. What can proverbs do to an inexperienced person?
4. What can proverbs teach young men?
5. What can proverbs do for wise men?
6. What can proverbs give the educated?
7. What must you have first to have knowledge?
8. What must you do to improve your character or your appearance?
9. What must you do when sinners tempt you?
10. What do we receive when we listen to Jesus?

B) Choose the correct answer.

1. What does 'Scripture' mean?
a) Sacred writing b) Holy verses
2. What does 'Gospel' mean?
a) Good News b) Holy Word
3. What does 'Genesis' mean?
a) Origin b) Creation
4. **The Catholic Bible has**
a) 63 books b) 73 books
5. **The Lord is my Shepherd**
a) Psalm 21 b) Psalm 23
6. **The Theme 'Live by the Spirit of God'**
a) Galatians 5:16 b) Galatians 6:16

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ANSWERS BEFORE 20TH DEC 2010.

Answers to Children's Bible Quiz #45

- 1) Bethany 2) 4 days 3) Gardener 4) Branches 5) He lays down his life for his friends 6) In the same way that He and God are one 7) Fought for him
8) 2 disciples 9) Woman, behold your son.

Winners of Children's Bible Quiz #45

Jason Rosano Rayen (7)

Jovita Niveda Rayen (11)

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd!

The 10 Secrets of Happy Couples

They might be 30 or 75. They come in all colors, shapes, sizes and income brackets. It doesn't matter how long they've been together. Whatever the demographics, when you see a happy couple, you just know it!

How do these couples stay in love, in good times and in bad? Fortunately, the answer isn't through luck or chance. As a result of hard work and commitment, they figure out the importance of the following relationship "musts."

Happy Couples and Their Secrets

Develop a realistic view of committed relationships. Recognize that the crazy infatuation you experienced when your romance was new won't last. A deeper, richer relationship, and one that should still include romance, will replace it. A long-term relationship has ups *and* downs, and expecting it will be all sunny and roses all the time is unrealistic.

Work on the relationship. An untended garden develops weeds that can ultimately kill even the heartiest plants. And so it is with relationships. It is important to address problems and misunderstandings immediately. Some people believe good relationships just happen naturally. The truth is that a good relationship, like anything you want to succeed in life, must be worked on and tended to on a regular basis. Neglect the relationship, and it will often go downhill.

Spend time together. There is no substitute for shared *quality* time. When you make a point of being together, without kids, pets and other interruptions, you will form a bond that will get you through life's rough spots. Time spent together should be doing a shared activity, not just watching television.

Make room for "separateness." Perhaps going against conventional wisdom, spending time apart is also an important component of a happy relationship. It is healthy to have some separate interests and activities and to come back to the relationship refreshed and ready to share your experiences. Missing your partner helps remind you how important he or she is to you.

Make the most of your differences. Stop and think: What most attracted you to your partner at the beginning? I'll almost guarantee that it was exactly the thing that drives you most insane today. Take a fresh look at these differences. Try to focus on their positive aspects and find an appreciation for those exact things that make the two of you different from one another. It's likely that your differences balance one another out and make you a great team.

Don't expect your partner to change; but at the same time give them more of what they want. If both you and your partner stop trying to change each other, you

will eliminate the source of most of your arguments. At the same time, each of you should focus on giving one another more of what you know the other person wants, even if it doesn't come naturally. For instance, instead of complaining how your partner never cleans out the dishwasher, try just doing it yourself once in awhile without complaint. Your partner will likely notice your effort and make more of an effort himself around the house. If you do both of these things at once you've got a winning plan!

Accept that some problems can't be solved. There may be issues upon which you cannot agree. Rather than expending wasted energy, agree to disagree, and attempt to compromise or to work around the issue. Two people cannot spend years together without having legitimate areas of disagreement. The test of a happy relationship is how they choose to work through such issues — through compromise, change, or finding it's just not that important to stew over.

Communicate!! Lack of communication is the number one reason even good relationships fail. And here is a useful format for doing so, especially when dealing with incendiary topics: Listen to your partner's position, without interrupting. Just listen. When they finish, summarize what you heard. If you can, empathize with your significant other even though you don't agree. This will take your partner off the defensive, and make it easier to hear your thoughts and feelings. It's hard to argue when you use this format, and best of all, you may come up with an understanding or a solution.

Honesty is essential. You may share with your partner things they don't want to hear. Better this than to have your partner doubt your honesty. Mistrust is one of the key deal breakers in relationships. And once trust is lost or broken, it can take a very long time to re-establish it in the relationship. The happiest couples are the ones where honesty is as natural and every day as breathing.

Respect your partner, and don't take them for granted. Treating your sweetheart with respect is likely to get you the same in return. And regularly reminding your partner how much they mean to you will enrich your relationship in indescribable ways. When you say, "I love you," pause for a moment to really mean it. And don't be afraid to express your feelings of appreciation with your partner — they will be thankful that you did.

Making these secrets an integral part of your relationship won't be easy. In fact, your efforts may initially seem like planted seeds that never come up. If you maintain your efforts, however, you will likely reap what you sow.

Adapted from the Catholic Christian Secular Forum...India

Contributed by Ethel Fernandes

David's Heart

David, the mighty king of Israel was called by Yahweh, "A man after His own heart". (1 Samuel 13:14) NIV. What were the qualities that were in David, which were pleasing to the Father? Perhaps there were plenty, let me emphasize the three traits which were predominant in David. They were mercy, kindness & forgiveness. Does the Bible contain evidence of these qualities? Most Certainly!

Let's look into the life of David. He was chased relentlessly by King Saul whom he served faithfully. The mighty David (God's anointed one) who slew Goliath had to run for his life, leaving behind his family and friends.

In his despair and fear, David wrote many of his wonderful Psalms. David had an opportunity to kill Saul and end his persecution. Yet he stayed his hand and showed mercy and reverence for the office of King which Saul possessed.

Eventually, King Saul & his son Jonathan were killed. David became king, God's promise was fulfilled and David sat on the throne of Israel. (2 Samuel 5:3-4). NIV

Now was the time for David to exact vengeance on any descendant of King Saul. Instead David asked Ziba (servant of late King Saul), 'Is there no one left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?' Remember David said God's kindness, not his. The mercy & kindness of God was so imbedded in him, that he had no room for vendetta.

Ziba told David about Mephibosheth a grandson of Saul. David summoned him & showed him the same love he had for his father Jonathan. David would restore all the land of his grandfather Saul & also promised that Mephibosheth would eat along with King David at his table (2 Samuel 9:7) NIV, throughout his life, as Mephibosheth was crippled in both feet (vs 13).

Do we, born again believers, show the same compassion towards others, when they have wronged us? Can we have the mind of Christ to forgive? Can't we forgive others of their sins? We need only to ask God (1 John 1:9) and go for a good confession. Most times we do not ask God, to give us the strength to forgive others of their wrongdoings. We need to "Ask & you shall receive" (Mathew 7:7). We assume that God knows what we require. James 4:2 says.... You do not have, because you do not ask God. Ask & you shall receive, that your joy may be full. John Wesley (the founder of the Methodist group) once

wrote; it seems that God is limited by our prayer life. He can do nothing for humanity, until we ask Him.

Many cases of disease like high blood pressure, insomnia, physical & psychosomatic illnesses are all the result of deeply rooted negative memories of painful rejection & hurts of years gone by. We have not forgiven those who have wronged us. Over a period of time the dam of negative feelings fills our consciousness and God cannot grant us the grace if our mind is clogged with negativity.

Now is the time to cultivate the qualities of mercy, kindness & forgiveness, along with the help of the Holy Spirit by asking Him. And then our Lord will surely say to us (This is my beloved child, one after my own Heart).

Bosco Pereira

Why we need to Pray the Rosary More Often

One day a colleague of mine heard the devil say during an exorcism, **"Every Hail Mary is like a blow on my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end."**

The secret that makes this prayer so effective is that the Rosary is both prayer and meditation. It is addressed to the Father, to the Blessed Virgin, and to the Holy Trinity, and is a meditation centered on Christ. I write in addition to the above, Please enunciate each word of the Rosary clearly and distinctly. Do not trample on the heels of the words of anyone with your words.

Do not speak over the leader if you are following or the respondent if you are leading the Rosary. Remember that they also are having a conversation with Mary Our Mother and it is not polite to speak when someone else is speaking.

In the case of the public Rosary there are only two people speaking: the Leader and the respondents. Each is speaking to the Blessed Mother and listening carefully to her response within their hearts as they meditate on the scene before them in their consideration of the mystery being spoken of and interpreted and translated into their lives.

Spread this powerful prayer of exorcism, the Rosary, which contains the Our Father, the Perfect Prayer, prayed five times in the recitation of each set of the Rosary's Mysteries, backed up by the powerful prayers of Our Mother who prays

with us as we pray 53 Hail Mary's.

The Eternal Father described to a group of us, through a Visionary Friend of mine, what happens when we pray the Rosary, saying, "**When you pray Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now..., the Blessed Mother comes instantly to your side to pray with you. And she does not come alone. She brings angels with her. And not just one or two for she is the Queen of Angels, so choirs of angels come with her. And she and Jesus are joined at the heart and cannot be separated so she brings Jesus with her. And Jesus cannot be separated from the Trinity so He brings the Father and the Holy Spirit with Him. And where the Holy Trinity is, all of creation is, and you are surrounded by such beauty and light as you cannot imagine in this life.**

Your Mother comes as Our Lady of Grace with her hands outstretched. Rays of light emit from her hands piercing your body, healing you and filling you with graces. This is your inheritance which was poured out from the heart of Jesus on the Cross, when the centurion pierced His Heart with the spear into the only pure vessel ready to receive such graces at that time, Your Mother.

Now as you pray the Rosary, or even just recite one Hail Mary, you receive your portion of these graces. He also said at this time, "**Anyone who goes to Mary and prays the Rosary cannot be touched by Satan.**"

Is it any wonder that anyone who prays the Rosary from the heart is so blessed and protected and powerful in their prayers for others?

Fr. Gabriel Amorth, Chief Exorcist of the Vatican
Contributed by Valerie Fernandes

Answers to Smile Awhile

1. David. He rocked Goliath to sleep.
2. Ruth-less.
3. The area around the Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.
4. Samson. He brought the house down.
5. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
6. Even then men wouldn't ask for directions!
7. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Faith in Action

Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe – St. Augustine.

The fields were parched and brown from lack of rain, and the crops lay wilting from thirst. People were anxious and irritable as they searched the sky for any sign of relief. Days turned into arid weeks. No rain came.

The ministers of the local churches called for an hour of prayer on the town square the following Saturday. They requested that everyone bring an object of faith for inspiration.

At high noon on the appointed Saturday, the townspeople turned out en masse, filling the town square with anxious faces and open hearts. The ministers were touched to see the variety of objects clutched in prayerful hands – holy books, rosaries.

When the hour ended, as if on magical command, a soft rain began to fall. Cheers swept the crowd as they held their treasured objects high in gratitude and praise. From the middle of the crowd one faith symbol seemed to overshadow all the others: A small nine-year-old child had brought an umbrella.

Laverne W. Hall (from Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul)

As our Lord says in Matthew 18:3; "Truly I say to you, unless you turn around and become as young children, you will by no means enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Article Contributed by Daniel Sequeira



MIPC Prayer Meeting: Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

General Intercessory Meeting: Last Monday of every month at 8:00 pm.

Community Mass: Every Friday at 9.00 a.m. except the last Friday of the month.