

KINGDOM REVELATOR

|||| CATHOLIC MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ■ ISSUE 79

THE WALK IN
CHRIST

MY JOURNEY TO
FREEDOM

I DO NOT KNOW
WHAT MY
FUTURE HOLDS
**BUT I KNOW
WHO HOLDS IT**

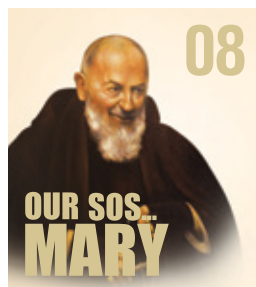
Burning
with
Love





Mother Mary,
Pray for our Readers

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What is adultery? Is divorce the appropriate response?



**YOU
CAT
SPEAKS**

424: Adultery is committed when two people, at least one of whom is married to someone else, have sexual relations. Adultery is the fundamental betrayal of love, the violation of a covenant that was made in God's sight, and an injustice to one's neighbor. Jesus himself explicitly declared the indissolubility of marriage: "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:9). Citing the original will of the Creator, Jesus abolished the toleration of divorce in the Old Covenant. [CCC 2353, 2364-2365, 2382-2384]

The encouraging promise of this message of Jesus is, "as children of your Heavenly Father you are capable of lifelong love." Nevertheless, it is not easy to remain faithful to one's spouse for a lifetime. We must not condemn people whose marriages fail. Nevertheless, Christians who irresponsibly bring about divorce incur guilt. They sin against God's love, which is visible in marriage. They sin against the abandoned spouse and against abandoned children. Of course the faithful partner in a marriage that has become unbearable can move out of shared living accommodations. In some serious circumstances, it may be necessary to go through a civil divorce. In well-founded cases, the Church can examine the validity of the marriage in an annulment proceeding.

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Editorial

If someone you love wrote you a letter, wouldn't you read it again and again? So how much more should we read the Bible which contains the Word of God given to us by the one who died on the cross out of His great love for us. 2 Timothy 3:15 says, from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. The Bible is an instruction manual for a Christian on how to lead a good Christian life, but how many of us have used it to equip us efficiently?

I remember meeting an old friend at church and did not know where she lived. She walked me to her house just to make sure I did not get lost. Did you ever wonder how Jesus walks with us on our journey to heaven? He will never abandon us nor leave us halfway. When we place our trust in Him, He will lead us to our destination.

On this journey, God has given us another helper, the Holy Spirit. On the feast of the Pentecost, Christians worldwide prayed for a new anointing of the Holy Spirit; "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" (John 14:26). We also have the Blessed Mother and the Saints to offer help throughout our life. So, our dear Saviour gives us every possible help to lead us to Heaven. He will never abandon us nor forsake us, and so we can be sure of Christ walking beside us every step of the way. ▲▲▲

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MY FUTURE HOLDS BUT I KNOW WHO HOLDS IT



*Sr Lini Sheeja,
MSC, reminisces
about her
special call to
be a Religious
Nun and
serving in the
Lord's vineyard.*

God doesn't care about age, no wonder He blessed Abraham. God doesn't care about experience, no wonder He chose David. God doesn't care about gender, no wonder He lifted up Esther. God doesn't care about your past, no wonder He called Paul. God doesn't care about your physical stature, no wonder He chose Zacchaeus, the shortest one.

God Experience

Yes, it was the same God who called me before He formed me in my mother's womb, who didn't look at my background, financial status, physical structure and my health condition. I was born in a devout Catholic family, as the third child of my parents. I was a sickly child who was every now and then hospitalized. As my father used to go for work daily, my mother would take us children for Holy Mass, and we would stand with folded hands throughout the Mass. As an

adolescent, while participating in Holy Eucharist, I would lift my eyes and experience angels singing and glorifying God with songs as the parish choir sang melodious songs. I studied in CTC Sisters' school and at my young age, I was passionate about their service and heard much about Mother Theresa too. When I was eight years of age, I had a major accident but miraculously survived it; God saved me from it for His special purpose.

Religious Calling

At the age of 17 after completing my intermediate examinations, I expressed my desire to become a Religious nun to my parents, to which my father wouldn't agree. But my mother intervened and said, "God saved her from a major accident at the age of eight, and protected her from danger to fulfill His purpose. Let us send her for God's work." I still remember the words that I uttered to my father, "I want to become another Mother Theresa in God's Vineyard." I joined the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, who are known as MSC Sisters, Hilstrup, Germany. When I joined the Congregation, I didn't know any of the Sisters



living with me; nor did I know either my Provincial Superior or the Superior General. All that I knew was my God, who called me to be His Heart here on earth. He who called me is always faithful and He keeps His word.

A Call Made Stronger

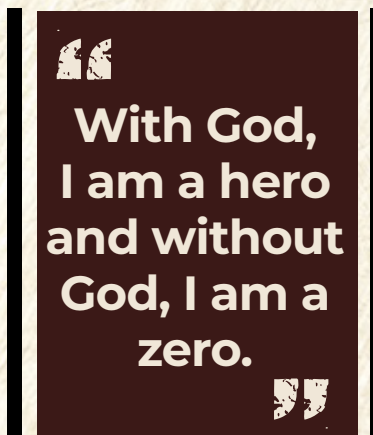
During the initial stages of my formation, the aspirants used to have night prayer together, after which I would sit in a place between the tabernacle and the altar (which was my most favorite place) and speak to my Lord from my heart telling Him, "I love you and I want to be yours alone." It was a honeymoon experience for me as everything went well during my convent life. But before long, the greatest disappointment in my life was awaiting me - I was diagnosed with Pulmonary Tuberculosis. I was asked by my provincial to go home for better treatment and care and to return after being cured. I went home with tears in my eyes and a heavy heart. In those moments of desperation and pain, I felt the deepest closeness towards my Jesus, and the Word of God

was my living consolation. After a year of treatment, I returned to the convent and continued my formation studies. During my novitiate, while gazing at the cross during my personal prayer, I heard the voice of Jesus loudly saying, “Lean on me and look at my hands, see how much I love you”. I was deeply moved by that experience. From then on, I made it a practice when I woke up every morning to go to the Crucified Master and surrender myself to Him while standing silently before the crucifix.

A Call to the Broken Hearted

On 2nd February 2008, I became His bride as I pronounced my vows, a memorable day in my life, believing strongly, “I do not know what my future holds, but I know who holds my future.” God called me to be a social worker, guiding me through my studies in social work and helped me to extend my service in fields such as childline (standing for the rights of children), street children, uplifting women and children from slums, hospital service and Prison Ministry. The Prison Ministry was a special calling I received when I heard in a sermon from a

priest as a candidate, “A gun cannot change a prisoner, but a nun can” and those same words I heard echoing from the Blessed Sacrament when I was discerning my future mission. It was decided that my whole life would be dedicated for the broken and vulnerable people.



Life is Gratitude

Today when I kneel before Jesus, I have nothing else to offer except my tears of gratitude for the way He has led me and continues to lead me. When you kneel before God, God stands up for you and when He stands up for you no one can stand against you. Throughout my religious journey I have stood for the rights of the most vulnerable as

I serve in God’s vineyard as a Social Worker. My sincere thanks to my parents, siblings, MSC sisters, all my benefactors and friends for their love and genuine care. Thanks to my redeemer for blessing me with an inner strength and the fire that He has put in my heart to serve the vulnerable. My deeper experience of God keeps me going and I am convinced of my special calling and believe strongly, “If God is for us, who can be against us” (Romans 8:31).

God doesn’t call the qualified, but He qualifies the called. I was nothing when God called me, but today what I am is His free gift. As each cell in my body is fashioned by Him, all that I am gifted with is from Him. I thank God for calling me, an unworthy servant, to His vineyard; my parents for their generous offering, my Sisters for their companionship during my religious journey and friends who stand by my side and help me grow with the many opportunities that life has offered me. Trust in Him; He knows what is best for us. All things are possible for the One who called us, and He who called us is faithful. ▲▲▲



Burning with Love



Geenu Kunnengode from Chicago, USA, reflects on the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



In many parts of the world, especially in North America, February is celebrated as the “Heart Awareness” month. The Catholic Church has also dedicated a month to honor the heart. That month is June, during which we honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The heart is considered as a symbol of love in many cultures and religious beliefs. In our Christian faith, the Heart of Jesus represents the epitome of His love for humanity; the Heart that was pierced but is still burning with unfathomable love and mercy.

History of Devotion to the Sacred Heart

In the book of Genesis we read about the creation of the first couple, Adam and Eve. God made Eve from the rib of Adam (Genesis 2:21). Similarly, the Holy Catholic Church was formed out of the pierced side of Jesus. From the early centuries, devotion to the five wounds of Jesus was a popular devotion, but devotion to the Sacred Heart came much later. St Gertrude the Great, who lived in the 13th century, was a great proponent of devotion to the Sacred Heart. In the late 17th century, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation Nun who lived in France had many visions of Jesus as she prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus disclosed to her the marvels of His love and the incomprehensible secrets of His Sacred Heart. He explained His burning love for mankind and the wounds that are afflicted upon Him due to the indifference shown by human beings to His love. In later visions, Jesus expressed His desire to be honored in the figure of His Heart and for a feast of reparation to be instituted. The devotion to the Sacred Heart started gaining popularity in France after the death of the saint. Devotion to the Sacred Heart was formally approved by Pope Pius IX in the 19th century.

Heart Becomes Food

During these times of extreme uncertainty and chaos due to the

During most of these miracles, a consecrated Host, visibly turns into human flesh and blood starts emanating from it.

pandemic, it is particularly important to trust in the consoling words of Jesus. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves" (Matthew 11:28-29).

At the Last Supper, Jesus broke the bread, and gave it to His disciples saying, "This is my body" (Luke 22:19). 2000 years later that same body is still being offered to us every day at Holy Mass. This living Body of Christ becomes food for our souls. Over the centuries many people, including priests have doubted that the consecrated Host is the actual body of Christ. Through many recorded Eucharistic miracles, Jesus has dissipated this doubt of the faithful. During most of these miracles, a consecrated Host, visibly turns into human flesh and blood starts emanating from it. When these miracles are subjected to intense study, one common thing that surfaces is that this piece of flesh is human myocardial tissue of the left ventricle of an inflamed heart! In some of those miracles, there was evidence of trauma, due to lack of oxygen and lesions present showed rapid cardiac spasms typical of one in the final phases of death.

What more evidence do we need of our Lord's love for each

one of us? He who is God, came down from Heaven to be united with us, and gave His own Heart for us to consume so that we may have life. "There is in the Sacred Heart the symbol and express image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ which moves us to love in return." – Pope Leo XIII

Devotion to the Sacred Heart was promoted extensively during the 20th century by almost all the Popes. In 1956, Pope Pius XII published the encyclical, *Haurietis Aquas* (On Devotion to the Sacred Heart) in which he wrote: "We can even assert - as the revelations made by Jesus Christ to St Gertrude and to St Margaret Mary clearly show - that no one really ever has a proper understanding of Christ crucified, to whom the inner mysteries of His Heart have not been made known. Nor will it be easy to understand the strength of the love which moved Christ to give Himself to us as our spiritual food." (Paragraph 122).

Twelve Promises

Jesus made known to St Margaret Mary Alacoque, 12 promises to those who honor His Sacred Heart:

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will comfort them in their trials.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and, above all, in death.
5. I will shed abundant blessings on all their undertakings.

6. Sinners will find in My Heart an infinite ocean of mercy.

7. Lukewarm souls will become fervent.

8. Fervent souls will rapidly grow in holiness and perfection.

9. I will bless every place where an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.

10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.

11. The names of those who promote this devotion will be written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.

12. I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving their Sacraments; my Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Sacred Heart Devotions

Receiving Communion frequently in a state of grace.

Going to Confession and receiving the Eucharist on the first Friday of each month for nine consecutive months.

Eucharistic Adoration for one hour on Thursdays.

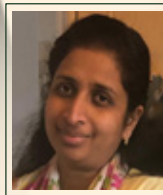
Feast of the Sacred Heart

The feast is celebrated every year in June, on the Friday following the feast of Corpus Christi. This year it falls on June 11th. Let us adore our Lord's Sacred Heart in a special way, by giving joy to His continuously wounded Heart.





OUR SOS... MARY



Rajni Manoj from Derby, UK, calls the readers to a deeper understanding of devotion to Mary through the lives of St Padre Pio and other Saints.

Recently I received an SOS call from a cousin after a visit from one of her Christian friends. As the friend walked into the house, she commented on a photo of Jesus and Mary displayed in the living room and rebuked my cousin for displaying it. Although she is a Catholic, she had been to Pentecostal prayer meetings a few times and was greatly influenced by their teachings. She had given up her devotion to Mary and had stopped interceding to her and the Saints. We are blessed with the gift of a loving and caring mother, who walks with us to lead us to Jesus. But why is devotion to Mary one of

the most attacked beliefs in our Catholic Faith?

“It is through the most Blessed Virgin Mary that Jesus Christ came into the world, and it is also through her that He will reign in the world.”

St Louis De Montfort

The Tender Heart of Mary

If we read the lives of Saints, we see many examples of holy men and women who had

great devotion to Mary and from whom we can learn so much about why we should take refuge in the tender heart of Mary. St John Marie Vianney was an ardent devotee of Mary and his simple devotion to Mary invites us to a deeper understanding of this devotion. He once said in his sermon, “The Father takes pleasure in looking upon the heart of the most Holy Virgin Mary, as the masterpiece of His hands; for we always like our own work, especially when it is well done. We have only to turn to her to be heard.” “Mother,” Our Lord says to her, “I can refuse you nothing. If hell could repent, you would obtain its pardon.”

Perfect Creation

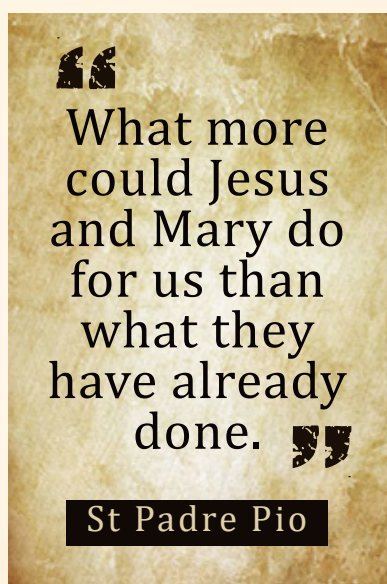
St Padre Pio went even further to explain the importance of devotion to Mary, “Does not a mother always run to the aid of the weakest child and the one most exposed to danger? Is not a physician in the hospital most attentive to those who are most seriously ill? When we have to offer anything to a great personage, we get it presented by the person he likes best, in order that the homage may be agreeable to him. So, our prayers have quite a different sort of merit when they are presented by the Blessed Virgin, because she is the only creature who has never offended God. The Blessed Virgin alone has fulfilled the first Commandment—to adore God only and love Him perfectly.”

St John Vianney always encouraged others to imitate Mary in their devotion to Jesus. In a letter to Padre Benedetto, he wrote, “My only regret, dear Father, is that I have no adequate means with which to thank the Blessed Virgin Mary, through whose intercession I have undoubtedly received so much strength from the Lord, to bear with sincere resignation the many humiliations to which I am subjected day after day...and I do not believe this strength comes to me from the world.”

Mary's Devotion To Her Son

Padre Pio, in his meditations on the Passion of Jesus, focuses on Mary's devotion to her Son as she stood at the foot of the Cross at Calvary. He used to advise his spiritual children to go and keep company with Jesus in His Passion, and with His sorrowful Mother. Padre Pio frequently encouraged people

to approach the Virgin Mary with faith in her maternal and loving heart. He wrote to one of his spiritual daughters, “You must remember that you have in Heaven not only a Father, but also a Mother...And if our wretchedness saddens us, if our ingratitude to God terrorizes us, if the memory of our faults hinders us from presenting ourselves to God our Father, let us then have recourse to Mary, our Mother. She is all sweetness, mercy, goodness, and love for us, because she is our Mother.”



During his illness, Padre Pio said to one of his visitors, “From the time her Son crucified me, she has never left this cell of mine.” Padre Pio preferred the Rosary above all other prayers and insisted that his spiritual children carry a Rosary with them always and pray it every day. For him, the Rosary was a profound meditation on the mysteries of the Christian faith.

The Synthesis of Our Faith

According to Padre Pio, the Rosary is, “The synthesis of our faith, the expression of our charity, and the foundation of

our hope.” He referred to the Rosary as a ‘crown of graces’. Once when Padre Pio had forgotten his Rosary, he said to his companion “Please, go to my cell and get my weapon.” He did not understand and so he asked Padre Pio what he meant. “Please go and get my Rosary,” he answered. He called the Rosary a weapon against the evil in the world and we can understand what he meant through these words of his: “Satan wants to destroy this prayer, but in this, he will never succeed. The Rosary is the prayer of those who triumph over everything and everyone. It was Our Lady who taught us this prayer, just as it was Jesus who taught us the Our Father.”

Crown of Graces

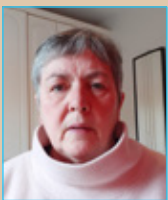
Padre Pio once said, “Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother.” Padre Pio taught those who were close to him to pray continually for Mary's intercessory help. Toward the end of his life, Padre Pio was asked, “What inheritance do you wish to leave your spiritual children?” His reply was, “The Rosary.” On one holy card that he gave to a visitor, he wrote, May Mary always look upon you with maternal love, lighten the weight of your exile and one day reveal to you Jesus in the fullness of His glory, without the fear of ever losing Him again. The disciples were like children while they were with Jesus but after His death, Mary prepared them for Pentecost, and they received the Holy Spirit while praying with her in the Upper Room. Let us also, like St Louis De Montford, say, ‘through Mary to Jesus’.





MY JOURNEY TO

Freedom



Margaret Jacob, from Ireland, shares her powerful testimony of following the new age practises which is a slippery slope to danger.

I went through a time when I lost everything, including my home. I came from an alcoholic home, was a battered wife and went through separation. At a retreat one day by a lay Catholic Evangelist in Ennis, I thought I had forgiven all who had hurt me. I had carried hatred for years, like I was hauling a big skip after me. I was full of pain and darkness, but God gave me the grace to forgive. At the retreat the word

“betrayal” was mentioned in a few Scripture passages, it was only then that “the penny dropped with me!”

I had been suffering from so much back pain that I had to resign from my job. I realized that I hadn’t forgiven my betrayer. Once I forgave my betrayer from my heart, I was a new creation, clean and fresh. Psalm 51:1 says, “Have mercy on me O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” I felt the great love of the Lord and was filled with the Holy Spirit!

Following that experience, I thought all my pain was over, but then I fell into another trap, the New Age

cult. This breaks the first commandment: “I am the lord your god, you shall not have strange gods before me” (Exodus 20:2 and Deuteronomy 5:7). Slowly, I slid one by one into more and more therapies with the aim to be the greatest healer on earth. Yoga was the trap door which I fell through, then one thing after another - angel cards, reiki, mindfulness, crystals – it seemed like I was starting a new therapy every day. It all appeared fine in the beginning, but it is a slippery slope that leads to a living hell. (Ref. Youcat 355-356).

Through my arrogance, anger and unforgiveness, I was spreading hate and encouraging others to do the same. Then I began training in acupuncture. “The thief comes only to steal, kill and

destroy" (John 10:10a). I had wasted so much money on all these therapies! "But I have come that they may have life and life to the full" (John 10:10b). By God's grace, I gave up the training straight away. My whole house had to be cleansed and anything to do with New Age removed and burnt. I can still remember the relief of going to confession and being cleansed of all these sins. Thanks to Almighty God for putting people in my path, who enabled me to be delivered from the evil one!

On another occasion, whilst eating chips, one got stuck in my throat and I started bleeding profusely from my throat. I drove to the hospital, and there it was discovered that there were varicose veins in my throat. I was to have a procedure in a Dublin hospital, but the Lord intervened here again. I was really longing for Confession before being seen by the doctor, when a chaplain came by. I had Confession, Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion. When they went to do the procedure, there was no evidence of varicose veins - I had been healed in the mighty name of Jesus!

Ireland is awash with New Age practices. 2 Chronicles 7:14 states, "If my people who bear my name humble themselves, and pray and look for me, and turn from their wicked ways, then I myself will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land." This brings me to the next point. When I was growing up, one would rarely hear the name of Jesus

being taken in vain. Now it is so commonplace that people do not even recognize they are doing it and offending the Lord so much in doing so. Deuteronomy 5:11 tells us, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." As the oldest of 8 children, it was my job to polish all ten pairs of shoes every Saturday night in preparation for Mass the next day. "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy" (Deuteronomy 5:12). Driving around Ireland on Sundays now, you would see farmers out doing work that could be left for a weekday. Our faith has further suffered as we fell into the trap of taking our children to training instead of Mass on Sundays - the training is at the same time as Mass! Something else we are not proud of, is opening pubs on Good Friday, the day our Jesus died on the Cross for our sins.

Last year 6666 babies were killed in the womb of their mothers, and we are on the road to euthanasia. This is in direct violation of the Commandment, "You shall not kill" (Deuteronomy 5:17). The fabric of our family break up is down to disobeying all the Commandments.

What we need, brothers and sisters, is to repent and ask for forgiveness for all the wrongs we have done ourselves. Mark 8:36 says, "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" Psalm 51 is a great Psalm of repentance. Ask for repentance for ourselves and our family and return to God, as stated in 2 Chronicles 7:14. Our loving Father in Heaven is waiting

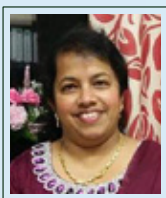
for us. Isn't that just what we need?

Idolatry not only refers to false pagan worship. It remains a constant temptation to faith. Idolatry consists of divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God, whether this be gods or demons (for example, Satanism, power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money etc). Jesus says, "You cannot serve God and mammon." Many martyrs died for not adoring "the Beast" refusing even to simulate such worship. Idolatry rejects the unique Lordship of God; it is therefore incompatible with communion with God.

Let us ask the intercession of St Patrick, St John the Evangelist, St Joseph and Mother Mary. Our Lady of Knock, pray for us! The Rosary is an absolute must in these times. I suggest we set up an altar in each of our homes; a holy corner where you can pray the Rosary with your family. You will surely be restored to faith, peace and hope through the unfailing help and intercession of Our Lady. Lastly, I thank Almighty God, that salvation has come to me. I hope and pray it comes to you too.



MOVE IN ME HOLY SPIRIT



Anitha Shibu, from Birmingham, UK, sheds some light on the Third person of the Holy Trinity.

Paraclete

After the Ascension of Jesus, the Apostles were earnestly praying together with the Blessed Mother to receive the promised helper - "But You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

This verse gives us an assurance that the Holy Spirit will come. And when He comes into our lives, we will receive power. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. It has been mentioned many times in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is a Person. Here are a few verses which state this:

The Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought

to say (Luke 12:12). When the advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the father, the spirit of truth who comes from the father, he will testify on my behalf (John 15:26). But the advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you (John 14:26).

The Advocate

We need to pray earnestly for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. John 14:16 tells us: "And I will ask the father and he will give you another advocate to be with you forever."

We receive Holy Spirit when Jesus asks God the Father for us. It does not mean that we must not pray. But it depends upon the mercy of Jesus Christ as we see in Romans 9:16, "So it depends not on human will or exertion but on God who shows mercy."

Breath of Almighty

In Genesis 1:2-3 the Word of God says: The earth was formless, void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light and there was light." Thus, we see that before anything was made, the Holy Spirit had swept over the face of the waters. Wherever the Holy Spirit moves, miracles, healings, deliverances and conversions take place. Whenever we read the Bible or whenever we listen to the Word of God, transformation takes place. In John 3:8, we are told that the wind blows where it chooses.

In Acts 2:1-2 we read, "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in

one place, and suddenly from Heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." This wind (Holy Spirit) can change one's situation completely, no matter what we're going through - loneliness, illness, addictions, financial burdens, pandemic and so on. We just need to have a strong belief in the Holy Spirit.

**"If the damned were asked:
Why are you in hell? They would answer - for having resisted the Holy Spirit. And if the saints were asked, why are you in Heaven? They would answer - for having listened to the Holy Spirit."**

St John Vianney

Peter denied Jesus three times out of fear, however, after receiving the Holy Spirit on the day of the Pentecost, he stood with the other eleven disciples to proclaim the Gospel, and three thousand people were baptized on the same day.

In Exodus 14:21, we read that Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, dividing the waters and turning the sea into dry land. The miracle happened when Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, but the Holy Spirit moved there all night.

The Comforter and Counsellor

When this wind (Holy Spirit) comes, our circumstances (sufferings, illnesses, burdens, problems) will change, and the Holy Spirit will use us as His instrument. In the Book of Daniel, Chapter 14:34-40, we read that the prophet Habakkuk, who was in Judea, had made a stew and broken bread into a bowl and was going to the field to take it to the reapers. But the angel of the Lord said to Habakkuk, "take the food that you have to Babylon, to Daniel in the lion's den." Then the angel of the Lord took him with the speed of the wind, and set him down in Babylon, right over the den. After giving the food to Daniel, he was immediately returned to his own place.

We also read in Acts Chapter 8:26-40, that the Angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." He got up, went there, and met the Ethiopian eunuch. As the spirit had instructed Philip, he proclaimed the Good News about Jesus. Finally, Philip baptized him and when they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away.

So, let us surrender our lives completely to Jesus so that the Holy Spirit moves in us and enables us to work for His Kingdom. Jesus is kind and merciful and has unconditional love towards mankind. There is salvation in no one else for there is no other name under Heaven given among mortals by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). 

MEET THE POPE



*BY Henoah Sony,
Luton, UK*

EARLY LIFE

Peter's original name was Simon. We know little about his early life, except that he came from the village of Bethsaida in Galilee and that his father was a fisherman. During Jesus' ministry, Peter lived in Capernaum, at the North West end of the Sea of Galilee, where he and his brother Andrew were partners as fishermen with James and John, both of whom later became apostles of Christ. By the time he joined Jesus, he was already married (Mark 1:30). Though he lacked any formal education (Acts 4:13), he was the first to declare that Jesus was the Messiah (Matthew 16:16).

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH

After Jesus ascended to Heaven, Peter assumed the leadership and was instrumental in the selection of Mathias as the apostle to replace Judas. After the Pentecost, Peter addressed the crowd in Jerusalem and 3000 converts were added to the believers. He was the first to perform a miracle by healing the crippled beggar (Acts 3) at the Beautiful Gate and even went on to raise back to life the disciple, Tabitha (Acts 9). He travelled around preaching boldly and healing many and was the first to preach to the gentiles (Acts 15:7). He presided over the first council that was held in Jerusalem to discuss the Mosaic custom of circumcision. Because of Peter's martyrdom in Rome, the traditions developed which led to the most important Christian church organization being located in Rome.



**THE FIRST POPE
ST PETER**

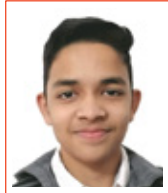
PAPACY

Peter was one of the first disciples called by Jesus. Jesus himself established St Peter as the first Pope, "And I tell you, you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19). After the resurrection, Jesus tells him "Tend my sheep" (John 21:15-19).

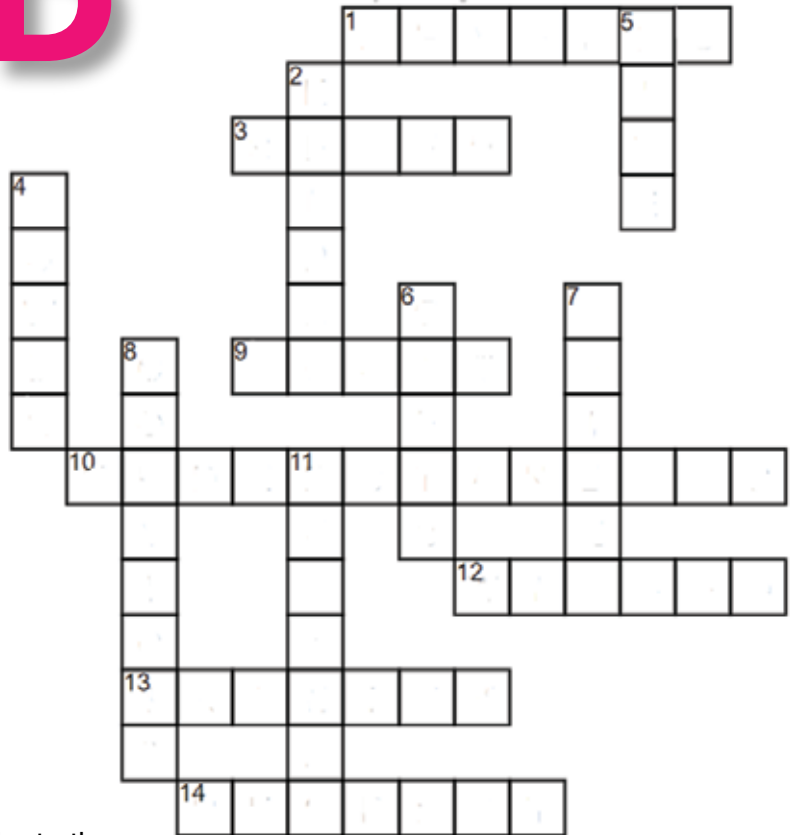
LATER LIFE

He underwent many persecutions for the sake of the Gospel - he was whipped, imprisoned, beaten and tortured. Peter was crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus Christ. St Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican City, is believed to have been built on the traditional burial site of St Peter. The Chair of Saint Peter, a relic conserved in St Peter's Basilica in Vatican, was described by Pope Benedict XVI, as "a symbol of the special mission of Peter and his Successors to tend Christ's flock, keeping it united in faith and in charity." He was an ordinary man who was called to be extraordinary." The feast of St Peter is celebrated on 29th June in the Catholic Church.

CROSS WORD



By Heinz Sony,
Luton, Uk



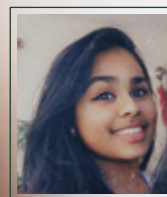
Across

1. The Holy Spirit _____ to us the truth.
3. There are _____ gifts of the Holy Spirit.
9. We are called to bear _____ that will last.
10. The gift of _____ helps us understand the importance of faith.
12. King Solomon prayed for _____.
13. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person in the ____.
14. Love God and _____ His commandments.

Down

2. Another name for Advocate.
4. "You will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."
5. The Holy Spirit is an eternal gift sent to _____ in us.
6. The Holy Spirit equips us with spiritual _____.
7. The Holy spirit _____ us to make the right decisions.
8. The Holy Spirit _____ us of sin.
11. The Holy Spirit _____ us that God loves us.

STEPPING STONES



Mariya V Antony, from Ireland, shares some valuable tips for a good prayer life.

Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God, or the requesting of good things from God. But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or 'out of the depths of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; humility is the foundation of prayer; only when we humbly acknowledge that "we do not know how to pray as we ought," are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. St Therese of Lisieux says, "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."

Be Still

But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things" (Luke 10:41). When Jesus went to the house of Lazarus, Mary went and sat at His feet and listened to Him. On the other hand, Martha was very distracted by many things. Seeing that Martha was distracted, Jesus called out to her twice, "Martha, Martha", to grab her attention. God is asking us to be still in His presence. If you are too busy to spend your time in prayer you may go away from God. The faster we try to run away from God, Satan will pursue us at the same speed with which we try to run away from God

"FOR ME, PRAYER IS A SURGE OF THE HEART; IT IS A SIMPLE LOOK TURNED TOWARD HEAVEN, IT IS A CRY OF RECOGNITION AND OF LOVE, EMBRACING BOTH TRIAL AND JOY."

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

Remove the Rock

When Jesus arrived at the scene of Lazarus' death, the first thing He said was: "Take away the stone." Martha forewarned that there might

be a stench coming from the grave but yet the Lord wanted to remove the stone from the entrance. In the depth of our heart, we have placed various addictions, hatred or unwillingness to forgive. Jesus wants to be a part of our life; He wants to work in our life, He wants to heal us. He wants to remove the stench that might arise from our heart due to the various sins residing in it. Jesus is knocking at the door of our heart; he cannot enter unless we open it from the inside for him. "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you and eat with you, and you with me" (Revelation 3:20).

Sin creates a distance between us and God. Peter and Judas sinned. Peter denied Jesus, even though he was given much responsibility and told that he was the rock, upon which God would build His church. Judas also betrayed Jesus, but the difference between Peter and Judas is that Peter looked into the merciful eyes of Jesus. What Judas did not do was that he didn't look back at Jesus and seek His mercy.

Turn Your Ignorance into Prayer

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:7-8). Many of us fear that we are praying the wrong way, or don't know how to pray properly using flowery or poetic language. We fear that we will make mistakes. God does not take any of that

into account. Pray however we can. In Mark 10:47 the blind man called out to Jesus: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" and Jesus healed him.

Praise God

When we are praying, praise the Lord out loud, because chains and shackles are broken when we offer praise to God. When Paul was imprisoned, he started praising out loud, and the chains that were holding him were broken. 'About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened' (Acts 16:25-26). Just as the chain that was holding Paul was broken, so will the chains of addiction, unforgiveness, anger, sexual desires and toxic relationships be broken in our lives.

Thanksgiving prayer

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). Even while presenting our petitions and requests to our Heavenly Father, let us do so with a grateful Heart. Let us thank God for the immense blessings and graces that He had showered on us.

Be Consistent

Something most of us struggle with is to be consistent in prayer. Satan will do his

level best to make us fall. We should be able to pray without growing tired. Even when we go through difficult times, let's continue with our prayers. Even if we do not get an answer for our prayer, we must keep praying. Be persistent. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

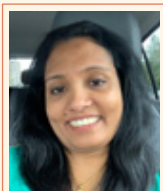
**"DON'T GET
UPSET WITH YOUR
IMPERFECTIONS.
SURRENDER TO
THE POWER OF
GOD'S LOVE,
WHICH IS
GREATER THAN
OUR WEAKNESS."**

ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Surrender

We must pray that 'God's will be done. Mary surrendered to God's will. 'Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Jesus surrenders to His Father's will. "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Let us surrender all our broken pieces, wounds, and scars to God. Our God takes all the broken pieces and makes it into a masterpiece. The words of St. Francis De Sales is relevant in this context, "Don't get upset with your imperfections. Surrender to the Power of God's Love, which is greater than our weakness."

THE WALK IN CHRIST



Shibi Jinesh, from Ireland, points out the different aspects of our journey with Christ.

St Paul tells the Ephesians that those who believe in Jesus Christ have been called to a life in Jesus Christ. God blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. So, God, the Father expects us to walk with Jesus Christ.

Walk in Unity

According to St Paul, the first walk is a walk in unity (Ephesians 4:1-16). We should lead a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called, which is nothing but a walk in unity with the Spirit of God. For that, God already gave us the virtues of humility, gentleness, patience, love and peace. All Christian believers should walk in unity because there is only one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one Baptism and one God the Father. Jesus Christ came down from heaven to release mankind, who were captive to sin and evil. Then

Jesus took mankind to Heaven with Him, making captivity itself a captive, and giving gifts to His people - some are Apostles, prophets, evangelists, priests or teachers. These gifts are the tools and weapons for the building and unifying of the body, which is the Church of Christ until it reaches maturity.

Walk in Holiness

We have heard about Jesus Christ and learned about Him. We are new people now. So, let us put away our corrupt and deluded former lives and renew ourselves in the Spirit. Let us clothe ourselves with a new self in God, in righteousness and holiness. The rules for the new life are that we should speak in truth, not sin and do not let the sun go down on our anger. We should labor and work honestly with our own hands. Let no evil talk come out of our mouths but speak only what is useful and needed for building up the

Kingdom, so that our words may give grace to those who hear. Let us not grieve the Holy Spirit. Let us put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, wrangling, slander and all malice. Let us be kind to one another, tender-hearted and forgive each other.

Walk in Love

(Ephesians 5: 1-2): God is love; hence the children of Christ should walk in love too. The children of God should love each other as Christ loved us. We should love God because Christ gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.





Lord you are light. So, live as children of light. The fruit of light is found in all that is good, right and true. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Walk in Wisdom

God is truth, so we should walk in wisdom. Be careful how we live, not as unwise people, but as wise people. Make the most of the time at our disposal, because our days on earth are numbered. So, do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is and do accordingly.

Walk in Harmony

(Ephesians 6:9): According to St Paul, if we want to walk in harmony, we should be filled with the Spirit. If a person is living a life in the Spirit, they will show the characteristics of joyfulness, thankfulness and submissiveness. Joyful people will sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in their hearts. A thankful person will give thanks to God the Father at all times, and for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. A submissive person will subject himself to another, out of reverence to Christ. Speaking about harmony in a Christian household, St Paul said that a man should love his wife as himself and a wife should respect her husband. He also said that there should be harmony among children and parents. St Paul asks children to honor and obey their parents, and instructs parents, "Do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Regarding harmony in the workplace, St Paul teaches that workers must obey their masters, as they would obey Christ and render service with enthusiasm. Further, masters

must stop threatening their workers, because both masters and workers have the same Master in heaven.

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”

(Ephesians 6:13)

Walk in His Protection

(Ephesians 6: 10-17): We are citizens with the saints and are members of the household of God who has the apostles and prophets as its foundations and Jesus Christ Himself as the cornerstone. So, we are called to walk into battle, as soldiers in the Church of Jesus Christ. We should know who we are fighting against (obviously evil spirits) and we should know what our strength is - we are strong in the strength of His power. We should wear the whole armor of God - truth, righteousness, faith, gospel, salvation and the Word of God are the various parts of our armor. If we know we are in Christ and we are walking in Christ, then we can withstand the day of evil and do everything that is needed to stand firm.

We have been called to a life in Christ: a holy and blameless life, a life of redemption, a life of future inheritance, a life of hope and a life in God's family. ▲▲▲

Walk in Purity

(Ephesians 5:3-7): Now we are members of the household of God, and citizens of Heaven, where the saints dwell. Hence, fornication, impurity of any kind and greed must be removed from us. Let there be thanksgiving in our lives instead of obscene, silly and vulgar talk. Remember, no fornicators, or impure people, or whoever is greedy will have any inheritance in the kingdom of God.

Walk in Light

(Ephesians 5: 8-14): God is light, so we should walk in light. You were in darkness at one time, but now in the

The Road To Emmaus Park



Christine Ramos,
*Director of Religious
Education at
St Patricia Parish in
Chicago, USA takes
us on a walk with a
certain person who
gives the explanation
to our current
problems.*

Imagine you are getting yourself and your family ready for a walk in the park. You put on your jacket and slide into your walking shoes. You leave the house and begin your journey to the park. You talk about everything that has happened, from the worries of the current virus to the concerns of the unrest in the world.

Suddenly a young man begins walking beside you. He says, "Hello, and what you are talking about as you walk along?" You all stop walking; your eyes are filled with sadness and worry. You look at him and ask, "Are you the only one on this earth who does not know the things that have been happening in the

world these days?" The young man asks, "What things?"

In disbelief, you tell him of the discovery of the virus last year and how it began to cripple the world. You tell him about the 143 million people who have suffered from its effects and how it stole the lives of over three million people. You also tell him about the unrest in our cities and countries.

The young man says to you, "How foolish you are and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. I went throughout all Galilee, teaching in synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. Don't you know that God so loves the world that whoever believes in me will not perish but have eternal life? By my wounds you have been healed!" His words surprise you! Yet they draw you to him. You want to hear more...

The young man continues, "Do not lose heart. This momentary affliction is preparing you for an eternal crown of glory beyond all comparison, as you look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, they change, but the things that are unseen are eternal. Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or live in dread, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. I will wipe away every tear from your eyes, and death shall be

Be strong
and bold;
have no fear
or dread
of them,
because it
is the Lord
your God
who goes
with you;
he will not
fail you or
forsake you.

(Deuteronomy 31:6)

no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. I will strengthen and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." You feel the strength of His Word building within you, yet you still do not see, you still do not recognize, but you continue to listen.

"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; whose hope is in the Lord his God. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation. Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of

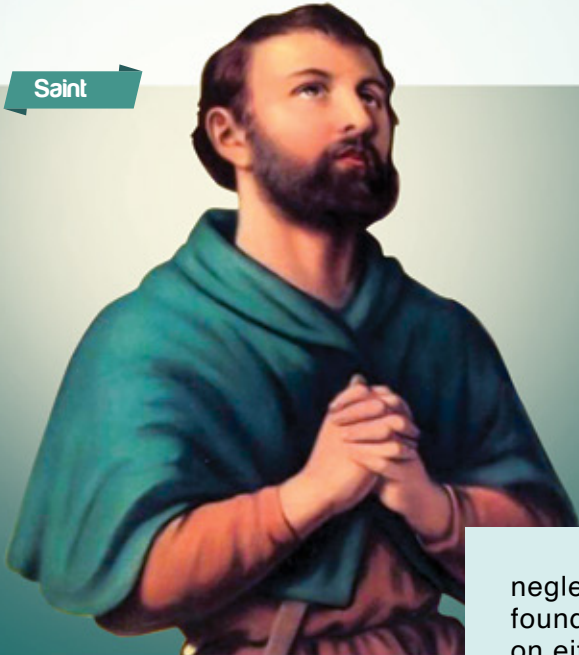
one body you were called to peace. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. So do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble but take heart! I have overcome the world!" With these powerful words, your heart burns like fire.

As you all approach the park to which you were going, the young man continues walking, as if He is going further. But you strongly urge Him, "Please stay with us, for the day is almost over." The young man stays with you. You all sit down at the park. The young man takes out some bread. He blesses it, gives thanks, breaks it, and offers it to you and your family, then disappears. Your eyes are open! In the breaking of the bread, you see it was your Saviour, your Jesus, your Healer, your Hope, your Prince of Peace! And He was walking with you and your family! He has been with you all the time! You just didn't see Him, you didn't recognize Him, but He was still there. You hand over your sadness, your worries, your anxieties to Jesus. You know the Lord your God walks with you. He will not leave you. He will not forsake you. Your eyes are opened. You now see. Your Saviour has overcome the world!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across : 1. Reveals, 3. Seven, 9. Fruit, 10. Understanding, 12. Wisdom, 13. Trinity, 14. Respect

Down : 2. Helper, 4. Power, 5. Live, 6. Gifts, 7. Guides, 8. Convicts, 11. Reminds



SAINT ISIDORE THE FARMER

PATRON SAINT OF FARMERS & RURAL COMMUNITIES



By Shino Marin John,
from Finland.

Early Life

St Isidore the farmer was born in 1070 to a poor peasant family in Madrid, Spain. His parents were very devout. He was a day laborer, working for the same landowner his whole life.

Isidore was known for his charity towards the poor and also to animals and shared whatever he had, even his meals with the poor. He married a young simple and upright woman, Maria de la Cabeza, who was also declared a saint. They had one son, who died as a child.

Prayer Life & Miracles

Isidore would first attend Mass in the morning, but his work never suffered, and he always met the chores required of him. When his master investigated the complaints of other workers regarding his prayers and

neglect of work, it was found that two angels, one on either side of Isidore, appeared and joined him in ploughing the fields. Isidore is also said to have brought back to life his master's deceased daughter, and to have caused a fountain of fresh water to burst from the dry earth to quench his master's thirst.

Regardless of the career or job you have, as a cardiologist, a heavy crane operator, a grocery store cashier, or a farmer, "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"

Love for the poor

Isidore was known for his love of the poor, and there are many accounts of Isidore supplying them miraculously with food. Maria, his wife, always kept a pot of stew on the fireplace in their house, since she knew that her husband would often bring home someone who was hungry.

One day he brought home more hungry people than usual. When the stew in the pot finished after serving many, Maria informed him about the situation, but he insisted that she check the pot again, and she was able to feed all of them. In times of drought and famine, Isidore was known to miraculously produce food not only for people, but for large flocks of birds and other animals.

Veneration

St Isidore died after a peaceful life of hard labor and charity and was declared a saint in 1622, with Saints Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila, and Philip Neri.

The virtues found in the lives of Isidore and Maria were – commitment to family, love for the land, service to the poor and a deep spirituality. Devotion to St Isidore spread rapidly and King Philip III of Spain was cured of a deadly disease by touching the relics of the saint.

Today Isidore is honored in Spain as one of the country's greatest saints. He is the patron saint of farmers and rural communities and his feast day is celebrated on May 15th.



POPE'S *Voice*

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God." Pope Francis



GLOBAL CATHOLIC NEWS

Compiled by Smitha George

ROSARY MARATHON ENDS WITH PRAYERS

Vatican: Pope Francis concluded the Catholic Church's month long rosary marathon with special prayers to Mary, Undoer of Knots, one of his favourite titles for the mother of Jesus. The rosary in the Vatican Gardens concluded a month of special recitations of the rosary from Marian shrines and parishes around the world, all with the intention of asking Mary's intercession to help end the coronavirus pandemic and to give strength to people working to end it or suffering its effects. The image of Mary, Undoer of Knots was painted by Johann Georg Melchior Schmidtner around the year 1700.



HOLY SPIRIT 'IMPELS US TO UNITY' SAYS POPE

Rome: Celebrating the Feast of Pentecost, at the main altar in St Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis said those who listen to the Holy Spirit are not "concerned with conservatives and progressives, traditionalists and innovators, right and left". The Holy Spirit "impels us to unity, to harmony, to the harmony of diversity", he said.



120 YOUNG MEN TAKE VOWS IN SOUTH ASIA



QUEEN MARY'S ROSARY BEADS STOLEN

England: Rosary beads that belonged to Mary Queen of Scots were stolen in a robbery at Arundel Castle, family home to the Duke of Norfolk. Police said it costs more than £1 million. Queen Mary was forced into exile and ultimately put to death because of fears that she would restore Catholicism in the country. She carried them throughout her imprisonment, and she is known to have been holding them on the way to her execution.



NIGERIAN CHRISTIANS' DEATH TOLL ESCALATES

Nigeria: Nigeria is becoming one of the deadliest countries for Christian. There has been a serious escalation in violence against Christians in Nigeria with thousands kidnapped and hundreds killed in just the last few months. Multiple reports have recently come out detailing a still-worsening situation amongst Nigeria's Christian population.



India: Despite the pandemic disrupting regular novitiate schedules, in the nine novitiates of South Asia region, this year has more novices making their first profession than last year in the Salesian Congregation. This year there are 120 young men making their first profession on different days starting from May. This year's 120 novices are currently in seven novitiates in India. There are 2,800 plus Salesians spread out in 12 provinces of South Asia namely in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Image Credit: www.google.com

“

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, Woman, here is your son. Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.”

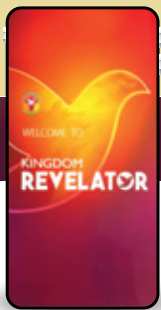
(John 19:26-27)



“

If you invoke the Blessed Virgin when you are tempted, she will come at once to your help, and Satan will leave you.”

(St John Vianney)



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