

KINGDOM REVELATOR

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**ARE YOU A
VICTIM?**

*Sibling
Rivalry*

*Joy in
Suffering*

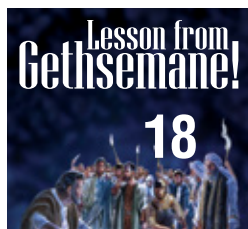
**HOW TO
DEFEAT
SATAN**





Mother Mary,
Pray for our Readers

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How should a family live its faith together?



373: A Christian family should be a miniature church. All Christian family members are invited to strengthen one another in faith and to out do one another in their zeal for God. They should pray for and with each other and collaborate in works of charity. [CCC 2226-2227]

Parents stand in for their children with their own faith, have them baptized, and serve as their models of faith. That means that parents should make it possible for their children to experience how valuable and beneficial it is to live in the familiar presence of the loving God. At some time, however, the parents, too, will learn from their children's faith and hear how God speaks through them, because the faith of young people is often accompanied by greater devotion and generosity and "because the Lord often reveals to a younger person what is better" (St Benedict of Nursia, Rule, chap. 3, 3).

Editorial

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 103:8). When the woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus, He neither condemned nor rejected her. She didn't deny her sins in front of the Lord nor did the crowd admit that they had committed any. The crowd could only condemn and destroy her, but the Lord restored her. Here Jesus' master stroke was "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7).

Jesus treated her with dignity and compassion, even though she was caught in the very act of committing adultery, forgave her sin and sent her off to start a brand-new life. The Lord treated her sin with total honesty; that's why He sent her away telling her to go and sin no more. Jesus treats the sinner with great compassion while making no compromise with sin. He imparts grace and hope in hopeless situations. When we turn to the Lord in our weakness and sinfulness, remember that our God is a merciful father who awaits our return with open arms.

In today's world instead of bringing a message of condemnation, let's share a message of salvation with those we encounter in our life's journey. Each one is fighting their own battle, so let us share the Good News about Jesus and walk on the path of salvation with them. "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8.36).



Joy in Suffering



Reena Thomas, from Florida, USA, sheds some light on how suffering is an opportunity to grow closer to God.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray" (James 5:13). At least once in our lifetime we might have asked, "why has this happened to me"?

We ask this question when something has drastically changed the course of our lives and we don't know where it will go. We could suffer from weaknesses, hardships, death of loved ones, disasters, sickness,

accidents, lack of money or a job, or the lack of support from family and friends.

Recently, I met a man who lost his hands and most of his legs. I was surprised to hear that he was happy, even in his helpless condition. I asked him what the secret of his 'joy' is, when he needs help with every aspect of his life.

He said that it could be worse. He can at least talk and express his needs when there are people who cannot express their needs or even remember their family and friends. Even though he has suffered throughout his life because of the amputations, he is still able to find something to be thankful for, and so considers himself blessed.

I Cannot Comprehend My Suffering

In 1 Peter 5:9-10 the Word of God says, "Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you."

Every trial or suffering is an opportunity to grow in faith and closer to God. There is grace in the suffering of this world.

Sometimes we cannot comprehend why, but the reason for our sufferings

and our ultimate triumph over our pain, is the grace of God. It may not be revealed right away. Romans 8:18 says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

Jesus had to suffer and die on the cross for all of us. None of our sufferings are close to what He went through on His journey to Calvary and His crucifixion. However, He triumphed over His suffering in His resurrection.

What if I Suffer from Guilt?

The Merciful Lord wants you to come back to Him. No one in this world is perfect. Jesus came into this world to redeem each one of us. People might judge you on what you have done in the past, but Jesus the shepherd will leave His ninety-nine good sheep to redeem the lost one, you. Ezekiel 34:16 says, "I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice."

What if I Do Not Have What I Need

We may experience times where the lack of money, food, or shelter makes survival a struggle. We may suffer when there seems to be nobody who cares about us, and everything seems hopeless.

Still do not despair. 1 John 4:4 says, "For

the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." In the book of Exodus, God miraculously provided food, water, clothing, and shelter daily for the children of Israel. He parted the waters of the Red Sea allowing them to cross, then closed the waters behind them thereby destroying their enemies.

Do not cease kneeling, asking, seeking and knocking, with the assurance that God will supply your needs. All you need is have faith and complete trust in God!

Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." God is our all-powerful, all-compassionate, all-wise and all-loving heavenly Father.

How Should I Face Sufferings?

James 1:2-4 teaches us, "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing." ◆◆◆◆

BEHOLD YOUR Mother

*Matilda Dominic from Birmingham, UK,
shares how Our Lady can be a role model
in our lives.*

Mothers play a pivotal role in the lives of their children. A few years ago, my son gave me a gift on Mother's Day, a little vase with a scented Rose, which I placed in front of the statue of Our Lady. The remembrance of my very own mother brings fond memories to my mind. In the midst of struggles and pain, she took care of us and brought us up well. Many days she would go to bed hungry, but I never saw her moaning about anything. She was always pleasant and cheerful.

Mary our beloved mother played a very important role in the life of Jesus and still continues to play an important part in our lives as well. At the foot of the Cross, just before Jesus took His last breath, He told John the disciple, "Here is your Mother." And from that hour, the disciple took her into his own home. Mary our Mother is given to each one of us to take her into our own homes, to follow her example, to live our lives with

her help and guidance. She has been given many titles. As a mother myself in today's world there are still a lot of struggles, whether at home or work. I always look to none other than Mary my Mother in difficult situations. For me personally, a few titles of Mary remains close to my heart.

Mother of Courage

Questions arise in my mind at times; did she have to undergo pain and suffering like me? Upon reflection, she definitely underwent much more pain than us. From Bethlehem to Calvary, she had many burdens and much pain to bear. She had sorrows of her own. What is true for us was certainly true for Mary. She was promised that her son would be the Messiah but seeing her beaten and scourged son crucified at Calvary must have ruptured her heart to the core. Yet she stood courageously at the foot of the Cross, when her loving son hung on the Cross, and later she held Him in her tender arms.

Mother of Hope and Faith

Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." It is for this faith that all generations have called Mary blessed. Many hopeless situations often surround me, but when I look to Mary, my Mother, she teaches me how to live a life filled with hope. The Angel appeared only once to Mary in all her life, but she never doubted, but treasured all these words in her heart. Mary always saw with the eyes of Faith. She said in the Magnificat "The almighty has done great things for me, Holy is his name" (Luke 1:49).

Mother of the Afflicted

On multiple occasions I have asked for the intercession of my beloved Mother during the phases of my illness, waking up in the middle of the night with tears in my eyes when the pain of my





illness is at its worst. The Rosary has always been a comfort and solace to me. Mary has never failed to help me.

Mother of Obedience

The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies obedience. By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that "with God, nothing will be impossible" and so giving her assent: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." In the life of Mary, we see that she was always obedient to God. There are instances when we feel upset, and retaliate to something that we don't like, but Mary always teaches us to be polite and obedient.

Mother of Holiness

Mary, the model of Holiness, has been uplifted by our Heavenly Father and has been given a supreme position in Heaven. She is an intercessor for the whole world. At a very young age itself, she was chosen by God, because of her holiness. Mary teaches me to live in purity and holiness amidst the struggles and temptations of life. She bestows special graces on her children who walk in the path of holiness.

Mother of Prayer

Prayer has always been the center of Mary's life. She had the most intimate relationship with God. She watched Jesus grow up and thus she knows Him better than anyone else. If you have difficulty in praying, ask Mother Mary and she will definitely lead you to her Son Jesus. Therefore, the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix (CCC 969). As John the disciple took Mary into his own home, in the same way let us take our Mother Mary to our own homes, especially into our own lives and ask her to intercede for each one of us.



Shalom

Fr Roy Pannell, from Chesterfield, UK, ponders on the peace that Jesus talks about in the Bible.

I love Latin and Greek: - especially Greek because it is the language that has given to us the Gospel of Jesus; His words, His actions, and their effects. I like Greek because it has a strange alphabet, and the letters make funny names! I would like to learn Aramaic, because it is the language that Jesus spoke at home, to our Lady, and to Joseph and it is the language that Jesus used to talk to God, the Father: the words that continually establish the peace between them - this kind of peace (Latin) – PAX,

(Greek) – ειρήνη, (Aramaic) – SHALMA.

These words in Latin/ Greek/ Aramaic and in English don't mean the absence of hostility or no war or no aggression as used by Jesus. They mean not just peace but far more than that; not the lack of something but the fullness of something. Listen to Him - "Peace is my request to you", "A peace the world can't give! I give this to you."

Peace I leave with you:
my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as
the world gives."

John 14:27

This peace, you will know deep down when you receive it; and the Holy Spirit will renew this peace within you. He will remind you what it is and why you received it! Why have you received this gift of peace? It's simple, so that you may come to the Father – in the fulness of time when the time is right at The Kairos, so that many others may receive this peace too, and at the right time, "Come to the Father."

SHALMA? It's this, "If anyone loves me, he/ she will keep my word, be true to it, and my Father will love him/ her, and we shall make our home with them." This peace is nothing other than you and me sharing in the life and love that exists between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The life and love of the blessed and sacred trinity or Pax, Ειρήνη, SHALMA, Peace. ◆◆◆◆

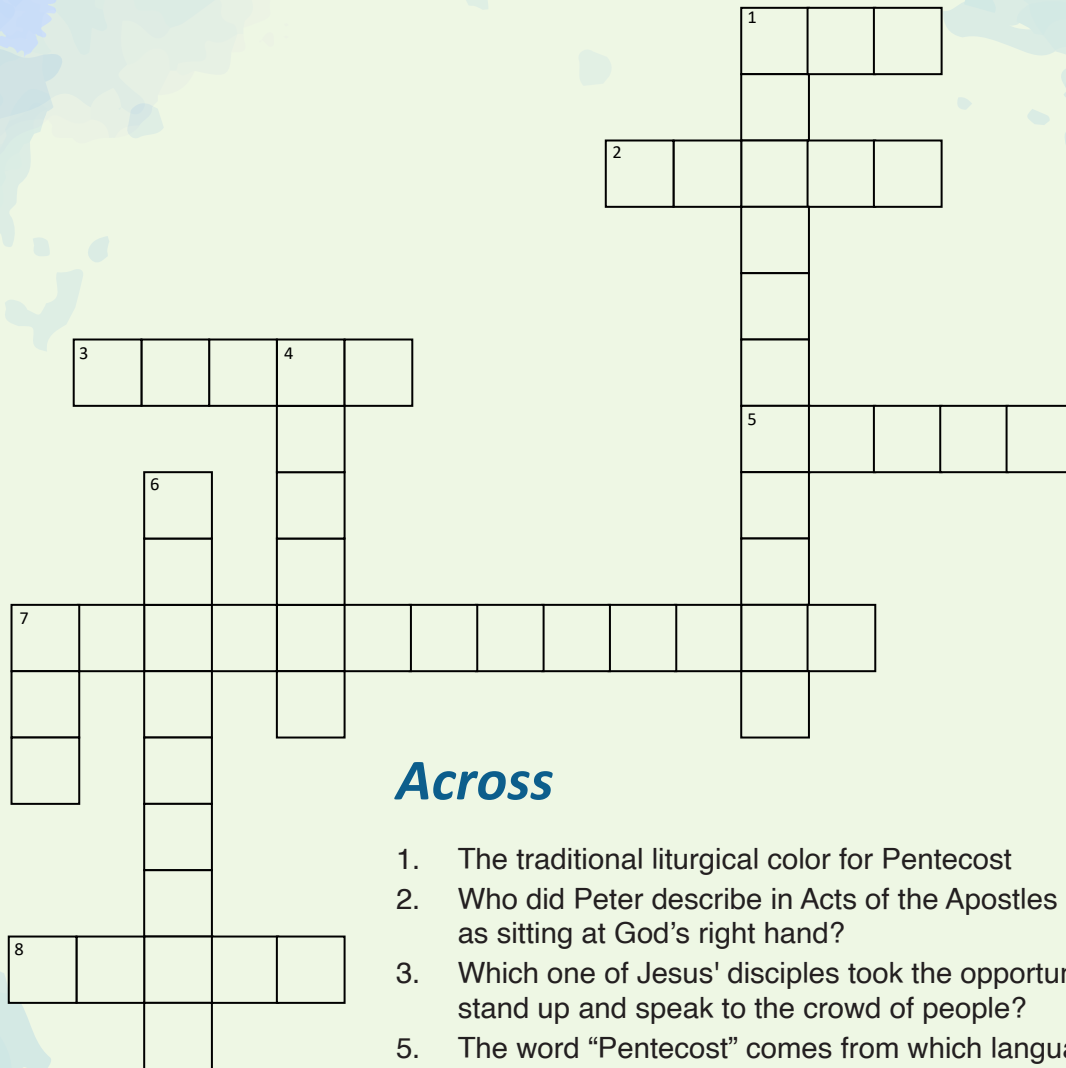
AGONY OF A SOUL

Elizabeth Jacob

My soul longed for thee,
Gazing under the high welkin,
I yearned for thy visage so loving,
Voice of thee soothed my bleeding heart,
Thy touch took me to paradise,
Thy love embraced me to the fullest.
My soul deeply longed for thee,

In thy garden of love walked I,
Thy faith swept me to heavens,
Trusting thee I glided melodiously,
Thy ecstasy touched my lips,
Oh! delved me into the depths of joy
Thy sweet love rose me high,
Took me to the pinnacle of hope. ◆◆◆◆

CROSS WORD



Across

1. The traditional liturgical color for Pentecost
2. Who did Peter describe in Acts of the Apostles (2:25) as sitting at God's right hand?
3. Which one of Jesus' disciples took the opportunity to stand up and speak to the crowd of people?
5. The word "Pentecost" comes from which language?
7. Those who welcomed Peter's message were baptized and that day about ----- persons were added (Acts 2.2).
8. When Peter was speaking to the crowd, what does the Book of Acts say would happen to the old men in the city?

Down

1. What sound was heard when the disciples gathered together on the day of Pentecost.
4. Jesus was resurrected on ___ Sunday
6. In what city did this first Pentecostal celebration described in Acts take place?
7. According to the Book of Acts, how many days after Jesus ascended into Heaven did the disciples celebrate Pentecost?

PROTECTION FROM ABOVE

Joyson Joboy, from UK, shares how he experienced the helping hand of God in impossible circumstances.

You may have heard the saying, “good things come to those who wait.”

What you and I don’t realize is that there is a Heavenly Father who sends good things to us who are waiting, especially those who have often gone through horrible rollercoaster experiences, are tired of insults, filled with insecurities and everything that life throws at us. But still, we all hope for something, some light at the end of the tunnel, that is the love of our Father who looks after us.

In 2019 the search began for a suitable spouse for me. I kept praying for the right one. I am a person who loves to pray short prayers. Rather than following a set format, I love to keep my conversations with the Lord short. I share my joys, my thanksgiving, my complaints with Him, just like I would with a friend, with the utmost

faith that He hears me, He understands me, and He will provide for me. Because I have that belief, I don't pester Him with things that I have already said or asked for. You have to sit before the Lord and discern what is the best method for you.



“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

(Joshua 1:9)

During the Covid-19 lockdown, I met my wife; it was God's time. She was an international student who came to the UK in December 2019 and we met in December 2020. We decided to get married but had a very difficult decision to make about whether to have the wedding in the UK or in India. International travelers had to quarantine in a hotel and have a PCR test, which was a huge expense on top of our wedding expenses. However, after a while, we both came to accept the

reality and so we started our wedding preparations. But then, the Covid cases started coming down and the restrictions were being eased. We were praying for travel restrictions to be lifted. Slowly we started to see some light at the end of the tunnel. We left for India in October 2021.

After reaching India, we had little time to sort out things, like hiring the venue, arranging the catering, etc. Everything was so stressful. However, we were witnessing everything falling in place for us, but it was not the end of our problems there. Closer to the engagement date there was heavy rain and her hometown was flooded. Although everyone was safe, the whole town was flooded for a day. This was scary since our engagement ceremony was just three days away and we all had to travel to her parish. At that time, travel was just impossible because the roads were not even visible due to the floods. However, she remained calm and consoled me by reminding me that the 'Lord has taken us this far, opened all the doors that we thought would not be opened, and that this too He shall take care of, so don't worry'. It was a true statement! The next day, by afternoon, the waters abated, and everything was back to normal. Our engagement ceremony went ahead as planned, by the grace of God.

I was still stressed about the Wedding Day, because the rain was not abating, even though it was not as bad as the week before, but it continued to rain. We had been praying the Divine

Mercy Chaplet together for our marriage ceremony to go smoothly. We strongly believed that the Lord listened to our prayers. All the lost hopes were blossoming back. "Do not fear them, for it is the Lord your God who fights for you" (Deuteronomy 3:22). Miraculously, on the Wedding Day, the whole day was blessed with sunshine. It needs to be noted that until the day before, there was heavy rain and strong winds, with most places out of electricity. There were no weather problems for our wedding. We are convinced that our Father defended us from being affected by natural calamities on our big day.

The main point I wanted to put forward is that we have a Father who listens and knows what we need. The most important day of my life was protected and looked after by Him, and He has assured me that He is there for me no matter what the difficulties may be. "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

My wife and I are living our life based on trust and hope in Him. We have experienced first-hand, such a great miracle and care from the power that is above us. I encourage you to trust Him, no matter what. I repeat, no matter what difficulties or problems that may arise, do not lose your faith in Him. Nothing, I mean nothing can stop God from making things happen for you. trust Him, Trust His timing.



OUR KING SLEEPS



*Fr Jonathan Whitby,
from Derby, UK, talks about
the unending love of our
saviour even in His death.*

Seized by soldiers; abandoned by the disciples; dragged before clergy, king, and governor; mocked by the mob; condemned by the crowd; scourged and beaten; crucified between two criminals; darkness covering the land. Then silence. Our King sleeps upon the tree. Into the silence of death He descends, in search of you and me.

Yet as the silence of the grave claims God in the flesh, the veil in the temple is rent in two, the darkness that had enveloped the land lifts. Our hearts are heavy and still in the face of wood and nails - yet in the death of Christ we find ourselves strangely whole. Here is both blessing and bewilderment; solace and suffering; adoration and abhorrence; hurt and healing - death, and life strangely intermingled.

The eternal Word has entered into the unbroken silence of the grave - and now on Calvary silence itself seems to speak! God has descended into the quietude of the tomb, and the Eternal and ever spoken Word of the Father

echoes where no voice has ever been heard. So, what word does Christ cry as He burst through the gates of the underworld and bends back the bars of death itself? Well, let us trace the story of that secret word.

‘In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ By that Word all things were made. When humanity sinned and went ‘astray like sheep, each taking his own way,’ separated from God, that same Word did not forget us but out of love sought out the lost.

Let us see what the Word has done in search of you and me. He spoke and called Abraham. He named Jacob Israel, and blessed him, and from his twelve sons arose the twelve tribes. From the burning bush Moses heard the Word’s voice and led Israel out of Egypt. At Sinai He spoke the Law. At His voice of command Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land. In that land at His word arose the twelve Judges to lead and guide His people. He spoke to David, the shepherd king, and promised that His kingdom would stand forever. Solomon built the Temple, and the Glory of the Lord filled it, so that God and His people might better speak to each other. The Word whispered to the prophets, and through them He taught Israel, calling a wayward people home to Himself.

GOD THE WORD LEFT HEAVEN IN SEARCH OF YOU AND ME.

Over thousands of years and in many and varied ways did the Word make Himself known, guiding and shaping His people by His gentle speech. He did all this so that in the fullness of time He might come Himself in search of His lost flock. And so, the Word was made flesh, spoke Himself entirely into our world, and He lived among us.

God the Word left heaven in search of you and me. He was born the Babe of Bethlehem. As God made man He searched for lost humanity in His own humanity. He was homeless, a refugee, searching for us; He searched as a child growing up in Nazareth; He sought us in His work, a carpenter like Joseph; every experience of our human condition, every facet of our existence, He searched.

In the end there was but one place left to look for

His errant sheep, a singular source of our waywardness that He had not yet shared. Our very mortality. God would search death itself out of love for you and I. The Eternal Word, only Son of the Father, who spoke in so many and varied ways, who took on our flesh, dignified on Calvary to be silenced, for our sake. The Immortal One takes on our very mortality.

The Word of God - by nail and wood, thorn and spear - descended into the darkness of death, in search of us. The Word of God has entered a silence never broken since death claimed its first soul. And what happens when the ever-uttered Word of the Father goes into that silent place in search of lost humanity? What is that secret word that the Word of God calls out in that wordless place?

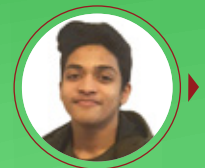
He calls your name, and mine.

In death our King asleep on the cross calls the names of each and every one of the lost, and we are at last found. The Word is spoken in silence, and in our hearts - heavy and still at the death of the King - darkness begins to turn to light. Our King sleeps, and in His sleeping you and me are awakened to life. Through His death and resurrection, we are ultimately freed from the chains of sin and darkness. We are set free from the bonds of death through Him.



MEET THE POPE

POPE HYGINUS - NINETH POPE



By Henoch Sony,
Luton, UK

EARLY LIFE

Pope Hyginus was the ninth Pope who succeeded Pope Telesphorus. He was Greek by birth and was born in Athens, Greece around 74 A.D which was part of the Roman empire at that time.

PAPACY

Pope Hyginus was the Bishop of Rome from 138 to 142 A.D. Tradition holds that during his papacy he determined the various prerogatives of the clergy and defined the grades of the ecclesiastical hierarchy. His successor was Pope Pius I. His Pontificate lasted for only four years.



LATER LIFE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH

The Liber Pontificalis relates that Pope Hyginus instituted Godparents at Baptism to assist the baptised during their Christian Life. He also decreed that all churches be consecrated.

LEGACY

Although there is no record of his actual martyrdom, he is listed in the Roman Martyrology probably because of all the various persecutions he suffered. He died in 142 A.D in Rome. At his death he was buried on the Vatican Hill near the tomb of St Peter. His feast day is celebrated on 11th January.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across : 1. Red 2. Jesus 3. Peter 5. Greek 7. Threethousand 8. Dream

Down : 1. Rushingwind 4. Easter 6. Jerusalem 7. Ten

HOW TO DEFEAT SATAN



Sebastian Sales, a lay Missionary from Manchester, UK, reflects on some of the common questions that arise in our minds.

Do you want to know how Satan is attacking us? I shall explain it this way with a question, who is the father of all lies? The answer is: Satan (John 8:44).

He always tries to make us fall into despair by throwing lies at us. For example, your dad does not love you, or your mom does not care for you. Those who have authority over you always show partiality. The world is full of crime; don't trust anyone. God can't help you; He does not love you. Your spouse and children do not love you. Satan doesn't exist. You cannot succeed in life. You cannot finish your studies; it is too tough for you. You are sick and weak; you can't achieve your aims. Sleep always and be lazy, no one is watching you, so you can do anything. Enjoy pleasure and cheating and so much more.

If you and I believe any of these lies, then he will make

it a landing platform to enter our life. As an example, if you believe that someone (your father, mother, spouse, children) does not love you, then he will try to land on your relationship with them and try to control your thoughts and plan against them. Another example is if you believe that no one is watching you or that it's ok to do immoral things because everyone does it, or that you can easily hide your wrong doing, then eventually you will be so steeped on sin that you will become Satan's slave.

So How Can I Come Out of It?

First of all, renounce Satan and all his lies by the power of Jesus Christ. 1 John 3:8 says, "The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil." Yes, the purpose is clear. So, let Jesus Christ be revealed in us to destroy the works of the devil in our personal life. St Paul says in his letter to Timothy about himself - 1 Timothy 1:15-16, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might

display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life."

Secondly, give praise and

“The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”

(1 John 3:8)

thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for all the things that have happened in our life, so that we can experience Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. So I would like to suggest a short, ejaculatory prayers of praise and thanksgiving, for example: I love you Jesus; I thank you Jesus; Jesus you are my Lord and my God; Jesus I trust in you. Repeat these for a few hours a day, for a few days; they can lead to experiencing inner peace and love of Christ within us. Once this becomes a habit, we can live a life filled with the Holy Spirit.



Sibling Rivalry

Dr Rachel Thomas, from Australia, talks about the common rivalry between siblings and how to resolve differences respectfully.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-31)

Sibling rivalry is a type of animosity or intense competition between members of the same family for recognition, approval and materialistic achievement from parents or society. It affects all irrespective of gender, age, caste, and creed.

Jealousy and Betrayal

In Genesis 4:3-5, we read how Cain murdered his brother Abel when God accepted Abel's best offerings. Cain was jealous of his brother's piety. Instead of correcting his mistake and learning how to please God, he unleashed his anger in an envious rage. In Genesis Chapter 27, maternal partiality helps Jacob to get his blind father's blessings by cheating his brother Esau using his mother Rebecca's plan. Genesis 29:5-35 recounts

the story of two sisters, Leah and Rachel, who were married to Jacob. Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, but Rachel, being barren, was jealous of Leah and instigated rivalry under the same roof. In Genesis Chapter 37, we see how rivalry happens among the sons of Jacob. The coat gifted to Joseph by his father created jealousy. This led to betrayal, with the brothers selling Joseph as a slave. The coat resembles God's interwoven spirit and calling. We must support our siblings to develop their special talents to glorify God. Siblings are God's gift to help us in adversity, and also to help us practice forgiveness and tolerance.

Siblings share the same womb, home and often milestones but each child is unique and wonderfully created by God (Psalm 139:13-14). Sibling rivalry is sometimes portrayed as fun in cartoons and films, and this may influence children to fight, bully, betray and

hurt each other verbally/physically. Rivalry may result from parental partiality, jealousy, arrogance, unrealistic comparisons, low self-esteem, betrayal, and/or non-healing wounds of the heart, manifesting in different ways like yelling, disrespectful names/words, ridiculing, unhealthy criticism, spreading gossip, false accusations, and physical pain. Rivalry leads to emotional, moral, psychological or even physical scars that may persist for generations.

Sibling Love

In Exodus Chapter 2 we come across Moses, Miriam and Aaron who were siblings. When baby Moses was laid in a basket on the river Nile, Miriam ensures his safety with motherly protection as Pharaoh's daughter adopts him. Decades later, Moses and Aaron worked together to free the Israelites from slavery. But when Moses went up to Mount Sinai to pray, Aaron and the Israelites worshiped a golden calf. Moses became angry about this, but Miriam and Aaron retaliated by speaking against his authority and questioning his wife's ethnicity. For this reason, God struck Miriam with a skin disease (Numbers 12:11). Miriam is eventually healed through Moses' intercession. King David describes Aaron's brotherly love as a symbol of unity and anointment of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 133). We should avoid publicly

criticising our siblings and resolve differences respectfully in private. We should set an example before our children by being loving and kind towards our siblings. Luke 10:38-42 and John 11:20-44 tell us about siblings Martha, Mary and Lazarus - different in personalities but with a unique relationship with Jesus. The deep bond between them moved Jesus to tears and He raised Lazarus to life. Miracles happen when there is genuine love between siblings! In John 1:40-42, Andrew introduces Peter to Jesus who becomes the rock on which God establishes His Church. James and John, sons of Zebedee, committed their lives to spread the Gospel.

How to Overcome Rivalry

- Be kind and caring towards each other.
- Communicate resentment respectfully and peacefully.
- Acknowledge jealousy and greed.
- Thank God for positive traits; surrender negative traits; pray for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

- Seek advice from trusted friends/elders.
- Share hobbies and celebrate milestones together.

Advice to Parents

Children should be nurtured according to their capabilities and attributes. Provide unbiased love just as our Heavenly Father does, irrespective of gender, academics, beauty or wealth. Avoid selective favouritism and rebuking which initiates or exacerbates sibling rivalry. Family prayers, scripture reading, conflict resolution and family meetings with trusted elders to address grievances will bring peace and harmony.

"Rejoice when blessings, prosperity and success are bestowed upon our siblings."

What Do Siblings Teach Us?

- Teamwork and Team spirit.
- Unity and value of tolerance.
- Sharing and caring during failures and struggles.
- Forgiveness and genuine love to create a world of unselfish bonds.

Jesus said the two most important commandments are to love God and to love our neighbor (Mathew 22: 36-40). We know Jesus intended neighbor to mean those in proximity to us. No one is in closer proximity than our own brothers and sisters. The home should be a place where children learn to love each other. "Love covers over all wrongs" (Proverbs 10:12), including sibling rivalry.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we surrender our brothers and sisters at the foot of the Cross and we bless them in your name. May the precious blood of Jesus heal all pain and wounds causing sibling rivalry in families worldwide. May everlasting peace, forgiveness and love flow into the hearts and homes of all mankind. Amen. ◆◆◆◆



Lesson from Gethsemane!



Geenu J Kunnengode from Chicago, USA, draws insight from an incident that occurred at Gethsamane.

There are a few incidents that are mentioned in all four Gospels. One of them took place in the Garden of Gethsemane, when the cohort sent by the High Priest Caiaphas came to arrest Jesus. They came with swords and clubs as if to arrest a criminal. When Peter saw this, he took his sword out and struck the High Priest's servant and cut off his ear. Jesus immediately turned to Peter and said, "Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?" (Matthew 26:52-54) Jesus then healed the ear of that wounded person.

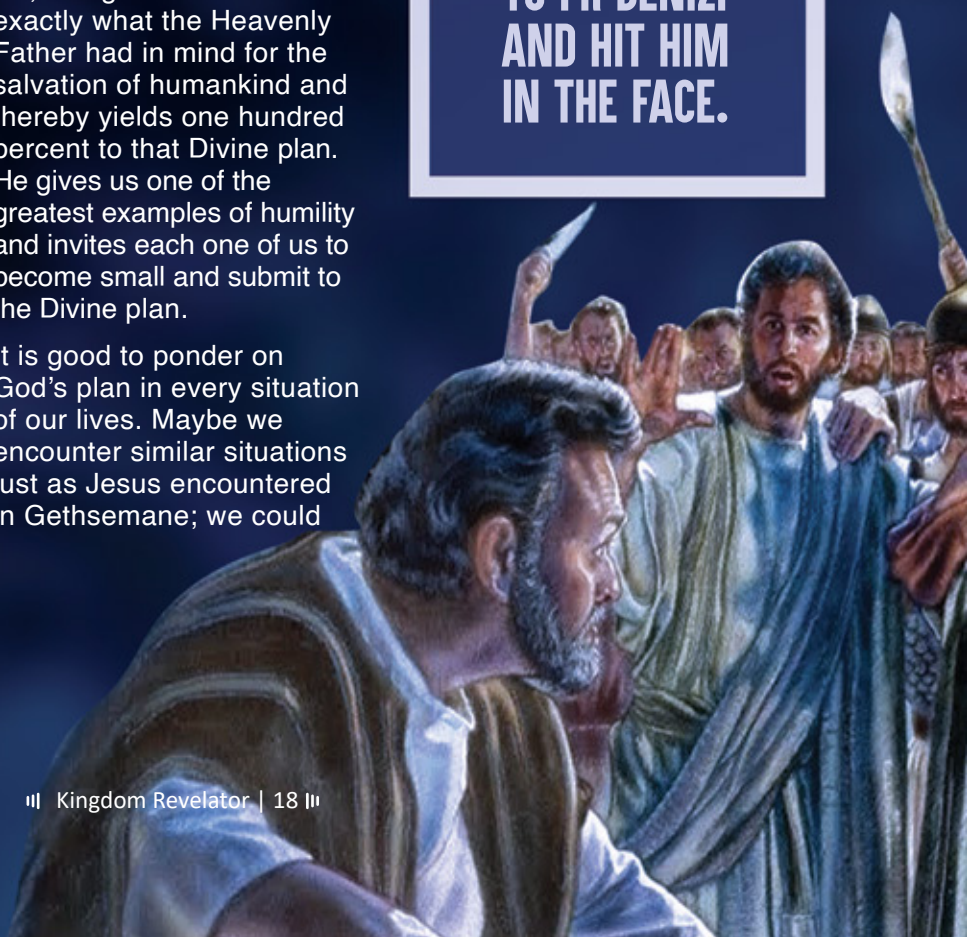
Worldly Law vs Heavenly Law

What struck me most in this passage is the fact that Jesus, being God, could have

with His infinite power put an end to this rather absurd revolt in a split second. He could have been glorified right in front of His enemies, by a spectacular display of the Heavenly host. But instead He conquered those temptations of instant glorification. Why? Because He, being God knows exactly what the Heavenly Father had in mind for the salvation of humankind and thereby yields one hundred percent to that Divine plan. He gives us one of the greatest examples of humility and invites each one of us to become small and submit to the Divine plan.

It is good to ponder on God's plan in every situation of our lives. Maybe we encounter similar situations just as Jesus encountered in Gethsemane; we could

**PEREGRINE
BEING THE LEADER
OF THE RIVAL
GROUP WENT UP
TO FR BENIZI
AND HIT HIM
IN THE FACE.**



easily put into place someone who is being unjust to us. But is that what Jesus wants us to do? What if an act of kindness by not retaliating might lead that other person to Christ? The conversion of St Peregrine is one such story.

Rambunctious Teenager

During the latter half of the 12th century, the town of Forlì in Italy where Peregrine Laziosi grew up was divided by civil war. Half of the town's people were loyal to Pope Martin IV and the other half to the Roman Emperor of Italy. Pope Martin issued an interdict that the Church of Forlì would be closed with no sacraments to be celebrated there due to the lack of loyalty to the Pope and with a view to bring the citizens to their senses. During that time, the prior general of the Servite Order of Mary, Fr Philip Benizi, met with the Pope and requested

that he be given the permission to go to the people of Forlì and preach the Gospel of reconciliation to unite them as a loyal papal state.

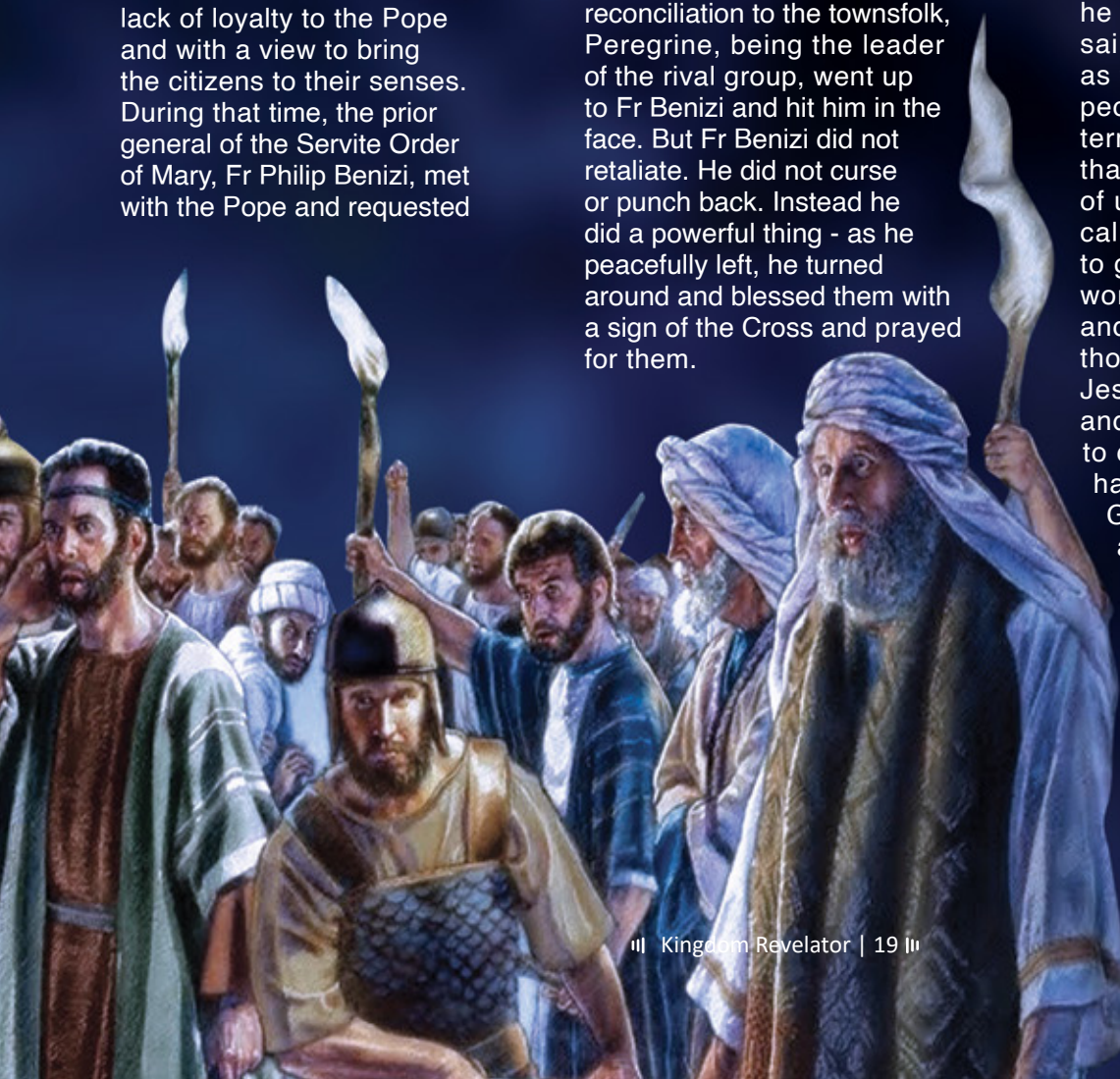
**WHAT IF AN ACT
OF KINDNESS BY
NOT RETALIATING
MIGHT LEAD
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PERSON TO
CHRIST?**

Peregrine was a teenager at that time and was a member of the antipapal group. As Fr Benizi preached peacemaking and reconciliation to the townsfolk, Peregrine, being the leader of the rival group, went up to Fr Benizi and hit him in the face. But Fr Benizi did not retaliate. He did not curse or punch back. Instead he did a powerful thing - as he peacefully left, he turned around and blessed them with a sign of the Cross and prayed for them.

Tradition says that the young Peregrine ran after the priest and told him that he wanted what the priest had, that peace and calmness that comes from being a man of God. Fr Benizi invited Peregrine to join the Servite order, which he did, and he later became a Friar of the Order of Servants of Mary. He led an ascetic, penitential way of life to atone for his past misdeeds and was later canonized a saint of the Catholic Church.

What Fr Benizi did is not an easy task. He could easily have given up on the town! But instead, as Jesus did with His persecutors, he silently endured the violent blows and prayed for them! Because of his meekness and humility, he earned a powerful saint who is venerated as the patron saint for people with cancer and terminal illnesses. And that is what each one of us as Christians are called to do. It is easy to go by the rules of the world, to do evil for evil and be indignant towards those who harm you. But Jesus asks us to forgive and go one step more, to do good for those who have ill-treated you.

Great treasures will be awaiting such a person in Heaven, as the Bible promises; "Who could have sinned but did not, and could have done evil but did not? So, his good fortune is secure, and the assembly will recount his praises." (Sirach 31:10-11) ◆◆◆◆



ARE YOU A VICTIM?



Lydia Bosco, from South Carolina, USA, shares examples from the Scripture to overcome evil through our union with God.

Are you a victim of others' jealousy or envy towards you? Are you a person wounded by friends, relatives, strangers, or even by parents? Does their jealousy towards you crush your heart? Out of jealousy did they betray you? Do you know people who are always seeking your downfall? Do you have people around you who are always jealous of your spiritual or material advancement? Are you surrounded by people who long to kill you spiritually or physically? Did you ever feel

like running away from them or did they make you flee?

Then Rejoice, yes, I say Rejoice! You will have a Resurrection for sure. Let's examine what the Holy Spirit has to reveal to us through Scripture.

Life of Joseph

In Genesis 37 we see Joseph's brothers, out of jealousy, wanted at first to kill him, but later decided to cast him into a pit and finally they sold him to traders. How cruel! Joseph went through



tremendous adversity due to their jealousy. Jealousy put his life in danger. He lost his parents and his home; he was imprisoned wrongly and spent his youth suffering greatly.

At this stage, many would have got discouraged, depressed, complaining, mourning, and even driven to the brink of suicide. But Joseph was a cheerful and successful person throughout. In Genesis 39, we see Joseph found favor in his master's sight. Later when he was put into jail, there too he found favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. We also see, while imprisoned, he performed his ministry by taking care of everything and everyone (Genesis 40). We see in Genesis 39, that the Lord was with Joseph.

Life of David

In the first book of Samuel, we see Saul was so jealous of David that he continually tried to kill David. David continued to flee from Saul. But when David got a chance to kill Saul easily, he spared Saul's life. After all these tribulations and fleeing, David finally becomes King. How did this happen? In 1 Samuel 18 we see that the Lord was with David.

Life of Jesus

We see in Mark 15:10 that it was out of envy that the chief priests delivered Jesus up. But what did He do? He not only forgave them but also healed them and gave life to them by establishing the Eucharist. Their envy crushed, persecuted, mocked and killed Jesus

brutally, yet He forgave them and became a lifesaver for those who persecuted Him. In Scripture, Jesus tells us many times to learn from Him and follow Him. "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you" (John 13:15). How can we follow Jesus and forgive like him?

Overcome Evil with Good

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." When we face difficulties, misfortunes, trials, evil attacks; we get discouraged easily and tend to payback evil with evil.



How can we overcome evil with good like Joseph, David and Jesus? It is actually very simple; we can see the answer in John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing." As we all know a branch, if removed from vine can do nothing and ultimately it withers and dies. In the same way, our existence, our prosperity our fruitfulness everything depends upon

our bond or unity with Jesus. How can we be in union with Jesus all the time? By loving Him, through the Sacraments, especially Confession and receiving the Holy Eucharist, through prayers, by reading the Bible and most importantly by simply trusting Him.

Even though Joseph had to face many trials, his bond with God helped him to be faithful and steadfast. This in turn helped him to fulfill God's plan in his life and he was raised from a prisoner to prince. David was always united with God. He gave God first preference in his life and he took every decision after asking God. Even though he had sinned in his life, this bond led him to attain God's plan and produce fruits. God testified in Acts 13:22b, "I have found in David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, he will do everything I want him to do." And his life changed from a shepherd boy to the King of Israel.

And as we all know Jesus was always in union with God the Father. John 14:11 says, "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves." Acts 10:38b further attests, "For God was with Him." This union led Him to do the will of God. It is the will of God to send His only Son to die for us and thereby He was resurrected to become King of Kings.

Thus, we too can stay close to God and be faithful to God and let His will be fulfilled in our lives despite any adversity. 1 Peter 2:19 says, "For it is a credit to you if being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly."



SAINT PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

PATRON SAINT OF STUDENTS, YOUNG CATHOLICS,
MOUNTAINEERS, WORLD YOUTH DAY.



Early Life

Pier Giorgio Frassati was born in Turin, Italy in 1901 to Alfredo Frassati, an agnostic who owned the noted liberal newspaper *La Stampa* and his mother, Adelaide Ametis, a noted painter. His father was also active in national politics, and he served in the Italian Senate, later becoming the Italian ambassador to the German nation.

Pier Frassati expressed concern for the poor from his childhood. When he graduated from school, he chose a gift of money instead of a car so he could give the money to the poor. He prayed daily, attending daily Mass, offering among other prayers, a daily rosary on his knees by his bedside. His agnostic father would often find him asleep in this position.

At the age of 17, he joined the St Vincent de Paul Society and dedicated much of his spare time to serving the sick and the needy, caring for orphans, and assisting the demobilized servicemen returning from World War I.

Later Life

Pier Frassati became a social and political activist and joined Catholic Student organizations. He organized

the first convention of Pax Romana in 1921, an association whose goal was to unite Catholic students around the world to work for peace. He became an active member of the People's Party, which promoted the Catholic Church's social teaching based on the principles of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical letter, *Rerum Novarum*.

He was handsome and vibrant, which drew people to him, and he had many friends, with whom he shared his faith. He engaged himself in many different apostolates and loved sports. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved hiking, riding horses, and skiing. Outings in the mountains, which he organized with his friends, also served as opportunities for his apostolic work.

**JESUS IS
WITH ME.
I HAVE NOTHING
TO FEAR.**

PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Death

On 30th June 1925, while boating with two friends on the Po River, he began to complain of sharp pains

in his back muscles. Just before receiving his university degree, Pier Giorgio contracted poliomyelitis, which doctors later speculated he caught from the sick whom he tended. Even as Pier Giorgio lay dying, his attention focused on the needs of others, especially his own grandmother, who was on her death bed at the time.

From the earliest age, and despite two unreligious parents who misunderstood and disapproved his piety and devotion to the catholic faith, Pier Giorgio placed Christ first in all that he did. The parental misunderstandings, which were very painful to him, persisted until the day of his sudden death of polio, but he bore this treatment patiently, silently, and with great love.

Veneration

Pier Giorgio Frassati is a saint for the modern world, and his popularity is great among young people, especially in United States. He was beatified on 20th May 1990 by Pope John Paul II, who called him a "man of the Beatitudes" and a "Joyful apostle of Christ."

His mortal remains were found incorrupt in 1981 and transferred from the family tomb in the cemetery of Pollone to the Cathedral of Turin and his feast day is celebrated on 4th July.



POPE'S *Voice*

"A good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of himself, so that those who govern can govern. But what is the best that we can offer to those who govern? Prayer!"

Pope Francis



GLOBAL CATHOLIC NEWS

Compiled by Smitha George

POPE FRANCIS CONGRATULATES QUEEN ELIZABETH II ON HER PLATINUM JUBILEE



England: Pope Francis sent a congratulatory message to Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday coinciding with the United Kingdom's joyous celebration of the 70th anniversary of her reign. Queen Elizabeth, who turned 96 on April 21, is England's longest-serving monarch, having ascended to the throne in 1952 at the age 25 after the death of her father, King George VI. Her coronation took place the following year, on June 2, 1953.

POPE FRANCIS: BRING THE LOVE OF JESUS' SACRED HEART 'TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH'

Vatican: On the first day of June, Pope Francis urged Catholics to look to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a source of love and to bring Christ's love 'to the ends of the earth.'



Speaking in St Peter's Square at the end of his Wednesday general audience, the pope said that this message was especially aimed at young people, particularly those who will meet next weekend in Lednica, west-central Poland. Tens of thousands of young Catholics gather near Lake Lednica each year in June to pray and worship God together. The youth festival dates back to 1997 and has drawn up to 180,000 participants in past years.

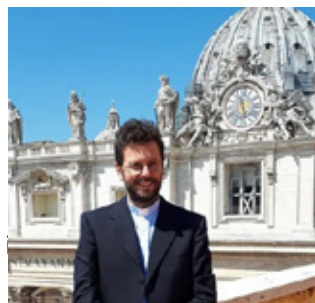
BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS' TOMB PERMANENTLY REOPENED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING



Italy: Visitors to Assisi can once again see Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first millennial to be beatified in the Catholic Church, dressed in jeans

and tennis shoes through a viewing glass on his tomb. Blessed Carlo Acutis was a young Catholic from Italy with a passionate devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and an aptitude for computer coding. He died of leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15, offering his suffering for the Pope and for the Church.

BISHOP IN MONGOLIA WILL BE THE YOUNGEST CARDINAL



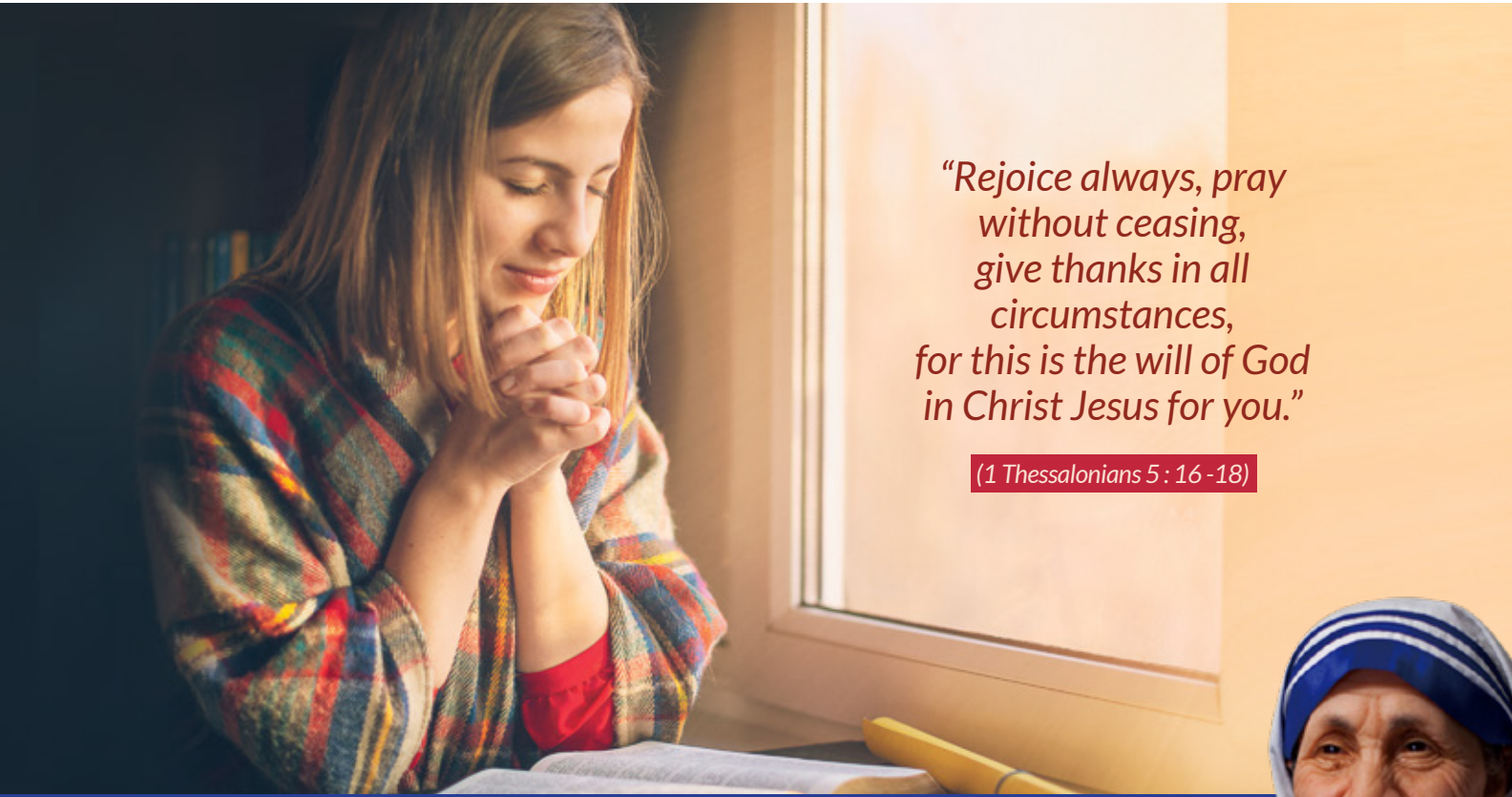
Rome: An Italian who has served as a missionary in Mongolia for nearly 20 years will soon become the world's youngest cardinal. At 47 years old, Bishop Giorgio Marengo is the same age as Karol Wojtyła, when Pope Paul VI announced that

he had been selected to join the College of Cardinals. Originally from northern Italy's Piedmont region, Bishop Marengo has spent the past 19 years serving as a Consolata missionary priest in Mongolia.

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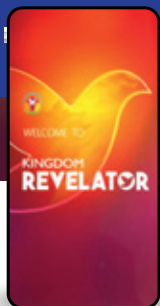


*“Rejoice always, pray
without ceasing,
give thanks in all
circumstances,
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.”*

(1 Thessalonians 5 : 16 -18)



*“Prayer makes your heart bigger, until it is capable of containing
the gift of God himself. Prayer begets faith, faith begets love,
and love begets service on behalf of the poor.” (Mother Teresa)*



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