



Of Seeds and Flowers



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Thanks - GIVING THE MINIMUM OR THE MAXIMUM?

The following TRUE story shares the passionate words of Mother Teresa to a young priest, Angelo Comastri, who today is a cardinal archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The story is from his book *Dio Scrive Dritto*.

I telephoned the general house of the Missionaries of Charity so as to be able to meet Mother Teresa of Calcutta, but their answer was categorical: ***"It is not possible to meet Mother; her engagements do not allow it."*** I went there anyway. The Sister who came to open the door for me very politely asked me, ***"What do you want?"*** ***"I would just like to meet Mother Teresa for a few moments."*** Surprised, the Sister replied, ***"I am sorry! That is not possible!"*** I did not budge and thus made the Sister understand that I would not leave without having met Mother Teresa. The Sister went away for a few moments and came back in the company of Mother Teresa I was startled and speechless. Mother had me sit down in a little room near the chapel.



Meanwhile I had recovered a bit and managed to say: ***"Mother, I am a very young priest: I'm taking my first steps! I came to ask you to accompany me with your prayers."*** Mother looked tenderly and kindly at me, then, smiling, she replied: ***"I always pray for priests. I will pray for you also."*** Then she gave me a Miraculous Medal, put it in my hand, and asked me, ***"For how much time do you pray each day?"*** I was astonished and a little embarrassed. Then, gathering my thoughts, I replied, ***"Mother, I celebrate Holy Mass each day, I pray the Breviary each day; I pray the rosary each day also and very gladly, because I learned it from my mother."***

Mother Teresa, with her rough hands, clasped the rosary that she always had with her. Then she fixed on me her eyes, which were filled with light and love, and said: ***"That is not enough, my son! That is not enough,"*** because love cannot be reduced to the indispensable **minimum; love demands the maximum!**

I did not understand Mother Teresa's words right away, and, as though to justify myself, I replied, ***"Mother, I expected from you instead this question: What acts of charity do you do?"*** Suddenly Mother Teresa's face became **very serious** again, and she said in a **stern tone of voice**: ***"Do you think that I could practice charity if I did not ask Jesus every day to fill my heart with his love? Do you think that I could go through the streets looking for the poor if Jesus did not communicate the fire of his love to my heart?"***

I then felt very smallI looked at Mother Teresa with profound admiration and the sincere desire to enter into the mystery of her soul, which was so filled with the presence of God. Enunciating each word, she added: ***"Read the Gospel attentively, and you will see that Jesus sacrificed even charity for prayer. And do you know why? To teach us that, without God, we are too poor to help the poor!"*** At that time we saw so many priests and religious and lay people abandoning prayer in order to immerse themselves-as they said-in social work. Mother Teresa's words seemed to me like a ray of sunshine, and I repeated slowly in my heart of hearts:

"Without God, we are too poor to be able to help the poor!" -and we, and ALL WHO COME TO US FOR HELP ARE POOR IN SOME WAY!! - WE THINK WE CAN GET AWAY WITH A COUPLE OF HAIL MARYS!!

"UNLESS THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT."

Theologians, philosophers, the worldly-wise don't TRULY change the church or society; holy people, praying people, contemplative people, prophets and saints do. Too bad there aren't more contemplative leaders in ALL churches. **Change the leaders in their souls and you will change any institution. Transformed people, transform people!**

It is not about inspiration, explanation, exhortation, formation or even education; IT IS

If the pastor is a saint, the people will be very good. If the pastor is very good, the people will be good. If the pastor is good, the people will be luke-warm. If the pastor is luke-warm, the people will be bad. If the pastor is bad, the people will be devils. AND SO IT GOES FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, COUNSELORS, AUTHORS, LAWYERS, DOCTORS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, ETC. ETC..

"Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains only a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

A DROP OF RAIN...A BIT OF SUN

The Navajo Rug : In a Navajo rug there is always an imperfection woven into the corner. And interestingly enough, it's where "the Spirit moves and out of the rug." The pattern in the rug is perfect but there is one part of it that clearly looks like a mistake. The Semitic mind, Eastern mind (which, by the way, would have been the mind of Jesus) understands perfection in precisely that way.

Perfection is not the elimination of imperfection. That's Western thought; either/or, need-to-control thinking. Perfection, is rather the **ability to incorporate imperfection!** There's no other way to live: You either incorporate imperfection, or you fall into depression. That's how the Spirit moves in or out of our lives.

Kintsugi : In Japan, ceramics of high value are repaired using an ancient technique called *kintsugi*- filling cracks with gold-laced lacquer. Visually, *kintsugi* celebrates breaks, flaws, and points of weakness as opportunities to create new beauty. Skillfully done, *kintsugi* can make a broken piece of ceramic more prized than an unbroken one. You either incorporate IMPERFECTION or fall into depression.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER : God, source and giver of all things, we give you thanks on this Thanksgiving Day for the beauty of the whole of creation. We give you thanks for the blessings of family and friends: both those gathered around this table and those who are present only in our hearts.

We give you thanks for this food, prepared by loving hands, and for the graces you provide to nourish our bodies, minds and hearts so that we

ABOUT TRANSFORMATION and it takes place in SILENCE, IN PRAYER. Encounters with God is THE TRANSFORMER!!! All of the above actions and institutions make some good changes in people (and thank God for that, or we would be totally lost) but ONLY FULL ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD are divinely transforming. -AND THEN TOUCH OTHERS WHERE THEY TRULY LIVE!!



might better serve you.

Help us to be faithful stewards of all that has been given us. May we reflect that which we have received to all we meet, especially the less fortunate in our midst. Amen





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VISION AND REALITY

A SUGGESTION FOR AN **EASY BUT EFFECTIVE** PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Listen, really listen closely to the **words of the traditional Christmas carols**. Reflect on the words, let them become real, alive in your intellect and then, let them sink into your beautiful heart like a soft Spring rain, and lead to **some type of prayer**.

You are called to be a child of the Light. Let the LIGHT penetrate any darkness in your heart, reveal it and heal it, and pray during this Advent that the LIGHT penetrate all of the darkness in our culture, reveal it and heal it. WHAT A CHRISTMAS IT WILL BE!!!! THE CHILD WILL TRULY BE BORN ANEW *IN YOUR HEART AND IN OUR NATION*. **HAPPY ADVENT!**

Christmas Suggestions:

1. **Send only religious Christmas cards**
2. **Use postage stamps that feature a religious theme.**
3. **Have a nativity set on your lawn or in your window.**
4. **Candles in the window-"The light of Christ".**
5. **Merry Christmas, not Happy Holidays**
6. **Pray for the children, so when they become adults they will not regard Christmas as just another holiday free from work.**

"We Christians have largely mirrored our culture and not transformed it." - Richard Rohr

"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the united States in Thy holy protection, that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens. And that Thou will dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, humility and peaceful temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation." - President George Washington 1783.

Oh George, where art thou now, when we need you? Can you imagine an American President praying like this today?

POPE FRANCIS' DAILY SCHEDULE:

4 AM, rise, morning ablutions, prayer and preparation for Eucharist at 7 AM.

7 AM, Celebrate the Eucharist and thanksgiving.

8:30 to 12:30, Meetings and audiences with heads of State, the faithful, etc..

12:30, Lunch in cafeteria; he sits at any table available.

1:30, 1/2 hour break: He closes his eyes and prays a rosary.

P.M. Meetings, administrative duties, etc..

Early Evening: He spends one hour before the Blessed Sacrament. He says, "This is my favorite time of the day." "I know the Lord remembers me. I may forget Him, but He never forgets me." "We think we have to talk, talk, talk, NO! Let the Lord" look at you."

8 PM, Pope Francis lines up at the self-service cafeteria and dines with whoever is alone. He lives in the Santa Marta Residence not the Papal Palace. To bed about 10:00.



Thank you for all of your gifts to us. I would like to-and feel guilty that I don't- write a "thank you note" to each of you but it is more than I can handle. However, do know that you have our deepest appreciation and are in our hearts and DAILY prayers. Mary's Field is now touching about 900 people a month!! -and YOU are a part of each touch!! **God likes this!!**



SMILE: Financially, it is becoming more difficult to produce "Of Seeds and Flowers". If you are able to help, from time to time, it will give us the ability to keep sharing! **One thing you can do, if you buy items on Amazon**, is to sign on to their donation program called "Smile". It only takes a minute. Choose Mary's Field as your charity. **Amazon will donate 1% of your total order to Mary's Field, taking no money from your order or account.** Once you sign up, all is done **automatically if you use Amazon's identical website at smile.amazon.com.** You will make all future orders as you have always done in the past. Thank You!!! Mary's. Field. P.O. Box 99 Hebron Ct. 06248 Many Hugs! Mary's Field is touching about 900 people a month!! -and YOU are a part of each touch!! God likes this!!



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SPEAKING SOFTLY

Father Svetozar Kraljevic, a Franciscan priest working in Medjugorje where Mary has been appearing since 1982 was asked by a pilgrim (5 million pilgrims a year) "What would you say to a man who prays each day and who wishes to pray with his family, but his family refuses to pray with him?" "Are you the man?" asked the priest. "Yes", the man responded. Then the priest said, **"You are on the road to holiness."**



"Perhaps this is the moment for which you have been created" - Book of Esther

"I feel that all disease is ultimately related to a lack of love or to love that is only conditional for the exhaustion and depression thus created lead to physical vulnerability. I also feel that all healing is related to the ability to give and accept unconditional love. I am convinced that unconditional love is the most powerful stimulant to the immune system. If I told patients to raise their level of immune globulins or killer T-cells, no one would know how. But if I can teach them to love themselves and others fully, the same changes happen automatically. The truth is: love heals." **"Love, Medicine, and Miracles" - Bernard Siegel M.D.**

DON'T LET NEGATIVE AND TOXIC PEOPLE RENT SPACE IN YOUR HEAD. RAISE THE RENT AND KICK THEM OUT!

"The one thing we absolutely owe to God is not to worry." - Charles de Foucauld

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