



Of Seeds and Flowers



Volume 37 Issue 2 – Founded in 1982

February 2020

William R. Pfeiffer – Director

Mary's Field, Ltd. - PO Box 99 - Hebron, CT 06248 - 860.530.1253 - wisdom@marysfield.org

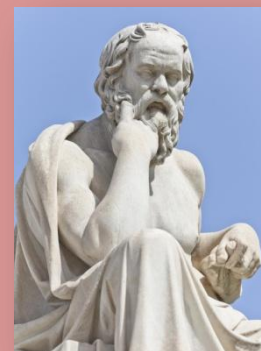
"LOVE AND DO WHAT YOU WILL" Augustine

LIFE is the great converter! The two experiences in life that change our direction are **SUFFERING/PAIN** and/or **LOVE**. Love is so much more enjoyable!!

Aristophanes and Love

I taught Latin at a nearby high school to keep bread on the table and I also introduced my students to some Greek. I found that Aristophanes, a Greek comic poet, had a rather unique theory of love and the sexes that also has some genuine truth in it.

Aristophanes says, "In the olden days, the two sexes were united into one body. This body was round like a ball, with four hands, four feet and two faces. It moved about with amazing rapidity, using its eight limbs like the spokes of a wheel in a continual series of somersaults. Terrible was the strength of this race of men-women, and boundless was their ambition. They were planning to scale the heavens and to attack the gods when Zeus hit upon a happy plan. 'Let us cut them in two,' he said, 'and then they will have only half their strength and we shall have twice as many sacrifices.'



"And so he split them apart into male and female and from that day onward the two halves of the once-united body have been consumed with a longing to be reunited into one. And this longing for the reunion of the sexes is what we call love."

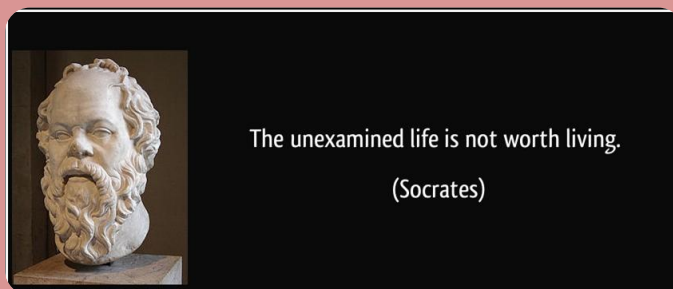
This humorous interpretation of love was presented at a banquet and was followed by several other interesting definitions until finally the guest of honor, Socrates, is requested to make a few remarks on the subject.

"After all this eloquence," begins Socrates, "I am turned into stone and struck dumb. For how can my foolishness compete with such wisdom?"

And, having unburdened himself of this Socratic preface of ironic modesty, he proceeds to confute all their "wisdom" with his "foolishness." He tears down their arguments with a series of unanswerable questions - Socrates was the founder of the question and answer method in education-and then he follows with a constructive theory of his own.

"Love," he observes, "is the hunger of the human soul for divine beauty. The lover is eager not only to find beauty but to create it, to perpetuate it, to plant the seed of immortality in the mortal body. This is why the sexes love each other-to reproduce themselves and thus to prolong time into eternity. And this is why parents love their children. For the soul of the loving parent creates not merely children but seekers and partners and co-workers and successors in the eternal quest for beauty."

And what is this beauty that we are all seeking to perpetuate through love? It is wisdom and virtue and honor and courage and justice and faith. In a word, **BEAUTY IS TRUTH, AND TRUTH IS THE WAY THAT LEADS TO GOD.** 2300 YEARS AGO. Such wisdom!!



The unexamined life is not worth living.
(Socrates)

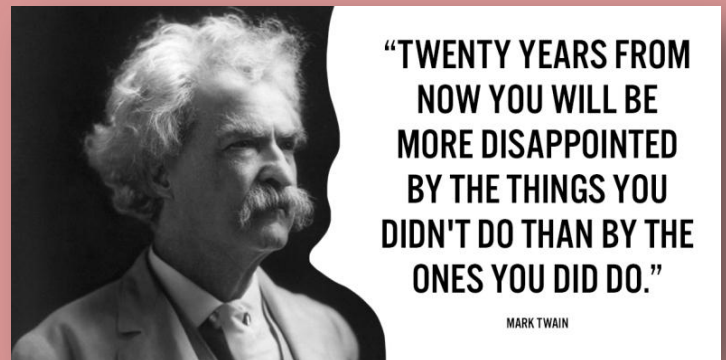
A DROP OF RAIN...A BIT OF SUN

The Trappist, Basil Pennington, tell this story at the beginning of his wonderful book "Centered Living". I was sharing with a group of spiritual masters. There was, among the group sharing, a great American professor who had become a very well-known and popular speaker on the spiritual journey. He had courageously stepped out of his secure university role in search of true wisdom (an idea whose time has come for many a current university professor- *mine*) and he had spent time in India under the tutelage of a swami. He continued on his search and moved with each succeeding enthusiasm, leaving, insofar as he was able, NO POSSIBILITY UNTRIED.

As the dialogue progressed it became more frank, open and personal. One of the spiritual masters turned to the professor and said: "You are like a man who wants to dig a well. He digs three feet here, and three feet there, and three feet in another place, and so on. He never comes to the

living water. You must stay in one place and dig deep. You must be faithful to ONE PRACTICE if you want to reach the living waters."

In speaking to the woman at the well Jesus said: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. (-a shallow well?) But whoever drinks the water I give him will NEVER BE THIRSTY; no, the water I give shall become a fountain WITHIN HIM, leaping up to provide eternal life."
John 4: 14



**"TWENTY YEARS FROM
NOW YOU WILL BE
MORE DISAPPOINTED
BY THE THINGS YOU
DIDN'T DO THAN BY THE
ONES YOU DID DO."**

MARK TWAIN

CHURCH ON SUNDAY: Going to church on Sunday, by and large, does not transform people or give faith. Going to church on Sunday presumes faith; it can strengthen your faith; the liturgy transmits grace that deepens your transformation, that deepens your presumed DAILY commitment to prayer (real prayer, Centering prayer, contemplative prayer), spiritual reading, the Bible, acts of love and virtue. If you come to church with little in your "basket" you will probably leave with little in your "basket". -and ultimately blame the church, the priest/minister, who, in the final analysis, should bear the blame.

"Going to church on Sunday can no more make you a Christian than standing in a garage can make you a car." Garrison Keillor

Take control of your own spiritual life and growth. Love is a four letter word spelled TIME. You have to give it regular daily time. Sometimes, I pray between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning before I get up. Prayer is so much easier in the early morning before all of the demands of the day get to you. -and it will touch EVERYTHING you do that day. If the morning is difficult, find time in the evening after the day's concerns are over. Everything else that you love gets TIME.

Where does God fit in?

Remember: If you are too busy to pray you are too busy.

Check out Centering Prayer and Thomas Keating on YouTube. DAILY practice of centering prayer will inject fresh life into YOUR LIFE. It will make that musty, boring religion become a very exciting relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. - the HIGHER POWER, THE ULTIMATE REALITY!



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!!

If you like "Of Seeds and Flowers" SHARE IT! Be a part of the change you want to see in the world.

VISION AND REALITY

CIVILIZE IT! -DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE 2020: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is launching a year-long initiative that invites Catholics to model civility, love for neighbor, and respectful dialogue. (At this point, hopefully, **a dream come true**). **DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE** will ask Catholics to pledge the gift of and commitment to **CIVILITY, CLARITY, AND COMPASSION** in their society, families, communities, and parishes, and call on others to do the same.

The initiative is built on the recognition that **EVERY PERSON -EVEN THOSE WITH WHOM WE DISAGREE-** is a beloved child of God who possesses **INHERENT DIGNITY**. The document continues: "Conversation in the public square and the media is all too often filled with personal attacks and words that **ASSUME** the worst about those with whom we disagree. We are in need of healing. **CIVILIZE IT: DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE** is a call for Catholics to honor the human dignity of each person they encounter, whether it is online, the dinner table, the pew next to them or the public domain." **"The sword you use to kill your enemy must first pass through your own heart"**. Merton

None of this has **ANYTHING** to do with politics, political partisanship etc.. **Morality is the Church's domain**. It is time for **ALL CHRISTIANS TO SPEAK OUT**, a **SERIOUS** responsibility for **ALL churches** to speak out, against the evil, the vindictive, the "beat 'em down" vengeance that is infecting the fabric of our society. Our children and great grandchildren will suffer the effects. **NOW, NOW** is the time to plant the trees under which our grandchildren will one day sit.

**"WE CHRISTIANS HAVE LARGELY
MIRRORED OUR CULTURE AND NOT
TRANSFORMED IT."** Rohr

***"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the
majority (IN ANYTHING-mine), it is time to
pause and reflect". Mark Twain There is
no right way to do the wrong thing!!***

I've never forgotten this question. In 1971, a group of Vincentian seminarians were conducting an evening retreat for my religion students. One of the seminarians asked this poignant question of my students: **"If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you"?** I often ask myself this question and don't let myself off the hook until I examine my true motives, the **TRUE SELF**. How about **YOU**?

And we can ask the same question of mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, friends, pastors, teachers, political leaders, psychologists, grandparents, etc.. How much does our ego, pride, (the need to be praised, recognized) keep us from seeing the truth **ABOUT OURSELVES**?

"Spread love everywhere...in your own home...let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting." Mother Theresa

JOIN the millions of Christians who are praying for one minute each night at 9PM Est. for our country to return to the God who founded it.



To visit our Facebook page, type the following website address into your browser: [Facebook.com/MarysField](https://www.facebook.com/MarysField). We will be updating our Facebook page daily with spiritual wisdom, stories that will touch your heart, insight into marriage and contemporary social issues, and prayers that will inspire. **You do not need a Facebook page to view our Facebook page.**

SPEAKING SOFTLY

The way to honor God whose handiwork we are, is to be who we are, as perfectly as we can. It is enough to be what God wants us to be, rather than some perfect creature that God never had in mind.

Suppose you were the most perfect being you could possibly imagine. So what? If you were not the person God had in mind at the moment of your creation, what good would it do you?

It is also enough to do whatever it is that you can do being who you are, and where you are. Just do wholeheartedly what you know God is asking of you. Don't bother yourself about whether or not what God asks of you is important and grand. Whether your actions are insignificant or not does not matter, if they are God's will.

"How could you be disappointed at even the smallest opportunity if you know that it is God's will- born of his providential concern for you, and chosen for you in his eternal wisdom?" St. Francis De Sales

The wise words of St. Francis DE Sales remind me of the words of the old Quaker hymn.



"For me to be a saint means to be myself. Therefore the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding who I am and discovering my TRUE SELF." Thomas Merton

"YOU ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF WHAT YOU DESIRE". THOMAS MERTON



"St. Francis of Assisi, Sign of Contradiction" A beautiful, beautiful, story. The best movie on religion/spirituality I have seen in my lifetime. Amazon Prime. Don't miss it!!! It will touch and move your heart!!