



Of Seeds and Flowers



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GOD KNOWS, I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING ELSE!

Exercise, shopping, yoga, meditation, mindfulness, positive thinking, music, vacations, stock market, cars, clothes, the news, politics, porn, sleeping, eating, drinking, drugs, religion, massage, counseling, sex, education, golf, titles after my name, the thrill of buying, selling, seeing the arrival of the Fed EX truck, work, parties, the Casino, television, technology, friends, Etc. Certainly, we all know that when used with moderation, reason and discernment NOT ALL of the above are bad or injurious to your spiritual health or the peace in your life. To EXCESS they all are. Virtus in medio stat. Virtue stands in the middle.

"I've tried most of them and WHY DO I STILL FEEL SO EMPTY, SO NEEDY, UNFULFILLED?" How many times do we get lost in illusions, delusions of a false and superficial spiritual life? Lord, I repent for having lost so much time by having myself reduced to being like the barren fig tree- **full of leaves but NO FRUIT.**

The last words of Steve Jobs, the billionaire Founder and CEO of Apple, Inc. who died of cancer at age 56: ***"I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In other's eyes, my life is an epitome of success. However, aside from work, I have little joy. I realized that all the recognition and wealth I accumulated and took so much pride in have paled in the face of impending death."***



Poor Steve, apparently, he didn't think about the REAL world, the TRUE SELF, his spiritual life, God, until the end. He regretted it! We are ALL travelers on this earth. Passers through. NOW is the time to get it right. Don't beat around the bush. Think of your own death. IT IS COMING!! No one ever says on their deathbed, *"I wish I spent more time at the office."* BUT: *"I wish I spent more time with my spouse, my God and with my children."* Mr. Jobs is a classic example of the words of Will Rogers: *"It's not so much the things you "know" that hurt you as the things you "know" that ain't so."*

"He knows that wise men and fools must both perish, and leave their wealth to others ...though their names spread wide through the land." - Psalm 49

Three questions when we come to Heaven before Jesus.

- 1. Who are you? -the REAL, not dream or false you.**
- 2. How did you love?**
- 3. Why weren't you happy?**



Thomas Merton, Trappist Monk, spiritual giant, surprised, shocked me by penning the following lines:

*"If I had a message to my contemporaries, it is surely this: Be anything you like, be madmen, drunks, and bastards of every shape and form, but at all costs avoid one thing: SUCCESS (emphasis mine). If you are too obsessed with success, you will forget to live. If you have learned **only how to be a success, your life has probably been wasted.**"*

He knew that ego, pride, greed, the lust to be seen, recognized, and be praised would inflate *your FALSE SELF*, the **illusory you** to the point it would keep you from a solid spiritual life for the rest of your life. Too much success, or rather, the pride, the ego, the need to be known, etc. will keep you from ever discovering your TRUE SELF which is critical to grow in honesty, truth, humility. -to become a truly holy, spiritual person. (Why do you think Hollywood

has so many award programs to praise themselves? - they live constantly in the false self.) And so do many of our “social activists” and media people. “LOOK AT ME!! AREN’T I THE SOCIAL REFORMER OF THE MOMENT? YOU ARE SO LUCKY TO HAVE ME!!

“We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.” Thomas Merton We just can’t seem to avoid this GOD!!

Saint Augustine before conversion:

“Lord make me chaste, but not yet.” Age 29.

Saint Augustine after conversion:

“We have been made for you, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” WISDOM came! TRUTH came! LOVE came. HAPPINESS and PEACE came!! God came!

One way to know who is your enemy is to find out who you can’t criticize. One way to know what you need in your spiritual life is to listen to what you are pre-programmed emotionally NOT TO HEAR, NOT TO ACCEPT.

THE HUMAN PREDICAMENT: We are born into the human condition, which human condition gives birth to a profound sense of being incomplete, separated from ourselves, others, God and the cosmos. We then begin the search to find wholeness, happiness, peace, love, a connection with self, others, God and the cosmos. **THE MISGUIDED SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS IS THE HUMAN PREDICAMENT.** Happiness cannot be found in the false solutions fashioned in our younger years based on our automatic needs for security, self-esteem, power and control

over as much of life as possible. E.G. **SECURITY** = money, houses, job, cars, success, **Apple - Steve Jobs** etc. **SELF - ESTEEM** = praise, pride, false self-love, glory, fame, affirmation, hero, **Apple - Steve Jobs**. **CONTROL** = money, manipulate others, authority, **Apple - Steve Jobs**.

If our childhood is not absolutely emotionally perfect (and whose is??) we begin, VERY EARLY, to compensate, to substitute false solutions that make us FEEL GOOD. **We may not remember the events of early childhood but OUR EMOTIONS DO. The false solutions fashioned in childhood cannot possibly work in adult life, although everyone tries hard to make them workable.**

The first word Jesus spoke as He began His mission is repent (metanoia) which means, **CHANGE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH YOU ARE LOOKING FOR HAPPINESS.** Jesus’ message, the Gospel, **PRECISELY ADDRESSES THE HUMAN CONDITION.** The basic thrust of Jesus’ message is to invite us into divine union, which is the **SOLE remedy** for the human predicament. Without divine union we feel alienated from ourselves, God, other people the cosmos. NO OTHER SUBSTITUTES WORK!!!! -But how we try them over and over, and to no avail, and with great encouragement from everyone around us who is trying to do the same thing!! -again to no avail!

Wouldn’t you know it? What a crazy idea! God seems to know best how to make the people He created happy!



“When people stop believing in God, they do not believe in nothing; they believe in ANYTHING.” - G. K Chesterton

HOWEVER, HOWEVER, *“Don’t think that you can overcome in a day the bad habits of a lifetime, or enjoy perfect spiritual health after years of inattention. BE PATIENT!!! As long as we live, we will bear the burden of ourselves, the limitation of humanity. Perfection will have to wait for another life, another World. Most likely God will lead us little by little, one small step at a time, so we need to be patient with everyone, with everything, but especially with ourselves and with God.”* - St. Francis de Sales.

“Among all my patients in the second half of life- that is to say, over 35 - there has not been one, whose problem in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life. It is safe to say that every one of them fell ill because he had lost that which the living religions of every age have given to their followers, and none of them has been really healed who did not regain his religious outlook.” - Carl Jung, “Modern Man in Search of a Soul”

One day Charlie Brown was talking to his friend, Linus, about the sense of inadequacy he feels all the time. *"You see, Linus,"* Charlie Brown moaned, *"it goes all the way back to the beginning. The moment I was born and set foot on the stage of life they took one look at me and said, 'Not right for the part.'*



How many of us, like Charlie Brown, have looked in the mirror and concluded we were "not right for the part"? It was Charlie Brown who complained to Linus about his publisher. *"The publisher sent me a rejection slip,"* lamented Charlie Brown. *"So what?"* said Linus. *"Lots of writers get rejection slips."* *"But I didn't even submit a manuscript,"* cried poor Charlie Brown.



It's that kind of feeling which can quickly turn into an attitude-the attitude of rejection and inadequacy. But this is a perversion of the truth. It is a lie, constantly whispered to us by the devil, to convince us we are really not created in the image of God, that we are not precious to God.

No one knows you like God knows you. God TOTALLY knows YOU and still says "I TOTALLY LOVE you". Let it happen. All you have to do is say, "YES". Why do we insist on resisting? -probably because we don't like ourselves enough and project our feelings onto God. What a mistake!!

Each night before I pray Vespers and Compline in the Divine Office, I pray the following two prayers. -deeper and deeper! Try it. It will put you immediately in right order and change your life.

Come Lord Jesus

Jesus, I don't like the way I am.
I've tried to live independently of you.
I've tried to run my own life and I just haven't succeeded.
I'm not very loving; I'm not very peaceful; I'm not very happy.
I'm not at all the kind of person I would really like to be.
I'm sorry that I've left you out of my life.
I'm sorry that I have hurt so many people and failed so many others – including myself.
I don't want to be that way any more
I ask you to forgive me and heal me,
I need you and I want to share my life with you.
Jesus, I accept you as my Lord and my Savior.
Come into my heart and share your life with me.
I want you to be the most important person in my life.
Jesus, show me your face that I might love you.

Let me experience your presence and your power in my life.

Come Holy Spirit

Jesus, I know now that I am yours and you are mine forever.
I thank you for sending your Spirit to me that I might have the power to live this new life with you.
Stir up your Spirit in me.
Release your Spirit in me.
Baptize me with the fullness of your Spirit.
That I may experience your presence and power in my life.
That I may find new meaning in your scriptures.
That I may find new meaning in the Sacraments;
That I may find delight and comfort in prayer.
That I may be able to love as you love and forgive as you forgive.
That I may discover and use the gifts you give me for the life of your Church;
That I may experience the peace and the joy that you have promised us.
Fill me with your Spirit, Jesus.
I wish to receive all that you have to give me. Amen.

Learn to rest with the HEART that burns within your heart.

VISION AND REALITY

Last week I heard that 18 children in Greenwich, CT received the covid vaccine and were hospitalized with cardio myopathy- heart problems. **CHILDREN ARE NOT SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS**. This includes experiments in transgenderism. T.V's 60 Minutes did a good job on this. Children almost never get covid and when they do, they handle it well. -like the flu. SO WHY??? We are in a FEAR COMA!!! And all of this after the infallible "Voice of Covid", Dr. Fauci", has been outed as a corrupt voice that has led many, many people into pain and many covid errors.

AMERICA, THE COUNTRY THAT PRETENDS TO CARE FOR ITS CHILDREN.

Interestingly enough, a CNN executive recently admitted the past four years have been pure propaganda. –imagine, a media outlet committed to propaganda. I remember in the 1950's (we, octo-generanians) the very, very popular word on the news and in conversation was "Propaganda". -and it was usually preceded with the words Russian, Pravda, communist, or socialist. **Truth in the media is a serious religious issue.** It touches the hearts and SOULS of the God's people, so says Pope Francis. - and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. 2494, 2497.

Goodness and holiness, belief and truth are loud shouts in a neo-pagan world growing deaf!!



Mary's Field is now on YouTube. Everyday a short video will be uploaded to help nourish your heart and strengthen your spirit during these difficult times. Type "YouTube Mary's Field" into the Bing.com search engine or "Mary's Field" into the Youtube.com search to find our channel.



Since we have begun out podcasts we have had about 20,000 views - 20% from India and the Philippines. The most popular podcasts have been the ones telling my story about being a married priest. So far 2000 views.

A wise and holy monk was on a journey to another monastery and he passed a man on the road who was struck by the extraordinary radiance and peacefulness of the monk. The man stopped and asked, my friend, what are you? Are you a celestial being from God? The monk replied, "No I am not." Are you some kind of a special man or magician?" Each time the monk relied, "No I am not." Well, my friend, what or who are you? The monk replied, "**I am AWAKE.**"

An appropriate prayer for our country and ourselves: "**HOLD US, SHAKE US, WAKE US.**" There is torpor, a heaviness, a DOCILITY of "OK, whatever you want" that hangs over many people in these MOST UNCERTAIN TIMES. - a FEAR COMA in a NEO-PAGAN SOCIETY.

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