



Of Seeds and Flowers



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GOD, FAMILY, CHILDREN, COUNTRY - GIVING THANKS!

"I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests - and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning - and it was not there. I looked for it in her Democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution - and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with the truth did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"

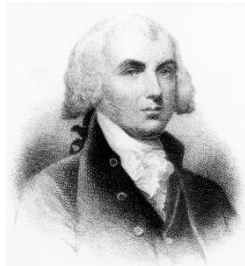
- Alexis de Tocqueville, 1831. *What think ye?*



"Without God there can be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first-and most basic-expression of Americanism." President Dwight Eisenhower

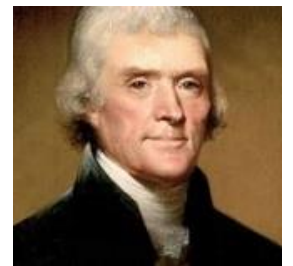


"Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." John Adams, America's Second President



"We have staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." James Madison, Primary Author of the U. S. Constitution and America's Fourth President

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever." Thomas Jefferson, America's third president, Author of the Declaration of Independence.



Thomas Jefferson said, *"The God who gave us life, gave us liberty."* Jefferson then asked, *"Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"*

Why is it that our leaders today do not speak like this? Could it be that they are spiritual, moral, intellectual lightweights? -a product of the 1960's, 70's, and 80's when morality, values, spirituality were in serious decline? The "I gotta be me", generation.



"In a time of universal deceit telling the TRUTH AND PRAYING are revolutionary acts" – George Orwell

"And I saw the river over which every soul must pass to reach the Kingdom of Heaven and the name of that river was suffering; and I saw a boat which carries souls across the river and the name of that boat was LOVE" – St. John of the Cross

The two things that change and transform our lives are SUFFERING AND LOVE! Suffering of some sort seems to be the only thing strong enough to destabilize our arrogance and our ignorance. I would define suffering simply as "whenver you are not in control."

Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the Serenity
to accept the things I cannot change.
The courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

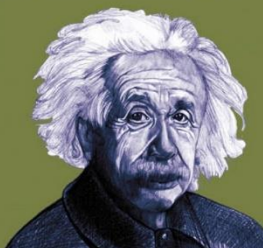
Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is;
Not as I would have it;
Trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely
happy with You forever in the next.
AMEN

There are 7000 languages spoken in the world and God can speak all of them fluently but His first language is still SILENCE. Are you bilingual?

Centering prayer/contemplative prayer!!! Check Mary's Field podcasts on Centering prayer or Keating or Brougeault on YouTube

No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.



Prayer of an Anonymous Confederate Soldier.

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve, I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things, I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy, I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men, I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life, I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing I asked for-almost despite myself, My unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed. Amen.

Nikos Kazantzakis said of prayer: *"When I pronounce a word, for instance, Lord, this word shatters my heart. I am terror stricken and do not know if I shall be able to make the leap to the following words: Have pity on me."*

Nikos reminds me of St. Teresa of Avila. How often she began the Our Father and never got any further than those first two words!! Overwhelmed by her participation and union with the Godhead, she was stunned into an abyss of silence, stillness, solitary adoration. That's prayer!! HAPPEN TO YOU???

*"If you don't pray, is you don't seek silence and your own spiritual growth you will inevitably become either depressed or elated or bounce back and forth between the two. Only prayer or quiet contemplation, he says, can provide the fine line (spiritual, psychological and emotional) that will keep you from being habitually depressed or obsessed with you OWN EGO. (There is that FALSE SELF, again) This is true, he says, irrespective **whether you are religious or not.**" Robert Moore*



In confusing times like these (government, media, church, culture, law, medicine etc., etc..) I used to spend time trying to change people's minds. Now, I know clearly that the ONLY REAL, PERMANENT CHANGE can come from God through prayer/contemplation. This is what Fr. Richard Rohr recently told Pope Francis. Prayer, first changes and transforms us, (even our sub conscious and deepest hurts) and then spills over into others and ultimately transforms the society. Every other solution ONLY FIXES SYMPTOMS, NEVER CAUSES. That which is not transformed is transmitted!

VISION AND REALITY

COGNITIVE DISSONANCE has been added to **MASS FORMATION PSYCHOSIS** by the psychiatrists and psychologists of the world as the way of diagnosing and describing the problems their patients are having.

“Cognitive Dissonance” describes the anxiety in our society that is generated when a person *experiences* conflicts with their *model of the world*. To get rid of this anxiety you must change the **facts to fit the model**, or the **model of the world must give way to fit the facts**. This is happening to politicians, the media, the medical profession etc.. Today, the psychologists are saying that this model is so badly damaged that many, many ordinary people are suffering from uncertainty, confusion, and insecurity. **NOTHING MAKES SENSE!** = Cognitive Dissonance. We, common folk, simply call it stress, anxiety, “TOO MUCH”! ***“Our emotional programming is such that we rarely hear what we do not wish to hear.”***



I've been seeing promo after promo for the billion-dollar series *The Rings of Power*. It appears to be a very bad re-do of one of the classic in English literature -The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien. The Rings of Power is a weak “woke” cinematic piece of “fast food” seeking a big dose of maximum strength Mylanta. The work is fundamentally a Catholic work. Who says so? Here's who: ***“The Lord of the Rings is of course a fundamentally religious and Catholic work; unconsciously so at first, but CONSCIOUSLY in the revision. That is why I have not put in or cut out almost all references to anything like “religion”, to cults or practices. The religious element is absorbed into the story and symbolism.”***-J.R.R. Tolkien



Cindy, my wife, and I couldn't remember the name of the principal of the high school in the town in which we were raised; so Cindy checked the Net. and found his name but also that the school was dismissing all the high students for the whole week at 11 AM, because the students were out of control. Why? A student spokesperson said. “The world is in conflict, why shouldn't we be in conflict? Touche. We teach best when we are not teaching at all.



PEACE IS THE TRANQUILITY OF RIGHT ORDER. No right order=NO PEACE!!

MORE COGNITIVE DISSONANCE?? - but who is watching or counting? -or caring? **AMERICA, THE COUNTRY THAT PRETENDS TO CARE FOR ITS CHILDREN!** Public policy, as it relates to families, must be based not **solely on the desires of adults**, but rather on the needs of children and what is best for society at large. The traditional family supported by more than 5000 years of experience, is still the foundation on which the well-being of future generations depends. **Truth and love are meant to work together; they are never at war with each other.**

October 25, 2022. Blessed Mother's words at Medjugorje:

“Mankind had decided for death. Without God man has no future.”

This is Jesus' mother speaking to US. Code Blue??



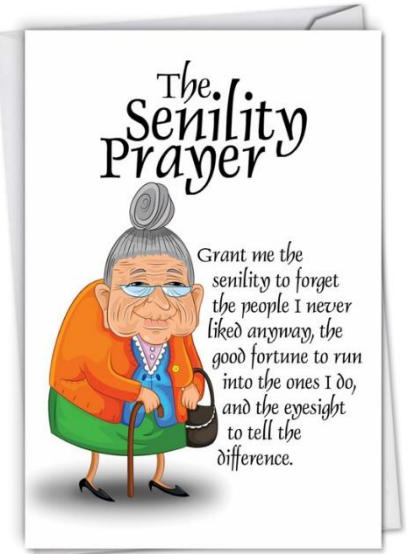
THE SPIRITUAL HEART ATTACK

Uncle Tom had a weak heart and the doctor had warned him to be very careful. So when the family learned that he had inherited a billion dollars from a deceased relative they feared to break the news to him lest the news give him a heart attack.

So they sought the services of the local pastor, who assured them he would find a way. "Tell me, Tom," said Father Murphy, "If God, in his mercy, were to send you a billion dollars, what would you do with it?"

I'd give half of it to you for the Church, Father. " When he heard that, Father Murphy had a heart attack!

"To be old is a glorious thing when one has not unlearned what it means to begin." Martin Buber, Jewish Philosopher. The "grandeur and exquisiteness of old age" does not happen by chance. I am always confronted anew by the brevity of life and a reminder that we are "just passing through". -like a vapor! Old age is the ripened fruit of years well spent and judicious planning. "If you have gathered nothing in your youth, how can you find anything in your old age?" Ecclesiasticus, 23.



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