

Of Seeds and Flowers

Volume 41 Issue 5 – Founded in 1982

April 2023

William R. Pfeiffer – Director

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

HAVE WE BECOME CAFETERIA CHRISTIANS???

...in the middle of the night
when no one was looking?
... like drinking a sweet
tasting poison?



All Christians respect the Bible as the word of God. Indeed, many, many churches preach, **"Scripture Alone"**. In this post-modern world, are we (churches) blurring the message. -adapting the Word to the world? - suffering from 'THE PARALYSIS OF ANALYSIS'? -CAFETERIA CHRISTIANS? How do we live comfortably with the following words in the Scriptures? Can we sincerely pretend these words don't exist?

"Therefore, God handed them up in their lusts to unclean practices; they engaged in the mutual degradation of their bodies, these men who exchanged the truth of God for a lie... God therefore delivered them up to disgraceful passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, and the men gave up natural intercourse with women and burned with lust for one another. Men did shameful things with men, and thus received in their own

persons the penalty for their perversity. They did not see fit to acknowledge God, so God delivered them up to their own depraved sense." **Romans 1: 24-27. NAB**

"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; such a thing is an abomination." **Leviticus 18:22**



The reality is that the American people, by and large, have settled the Gay debate in their own minds and hearts. It is over! The question still in my mind is: Has this decision been made at the expense of ignoring the Scriptures? Will future decisions about current social issues be influenced by 2000 years of solid Christian morality or simply by what is popular at the moment? At the Last Supper Jesus prayed for ALL believers: "Consecrate them in truth. **"YOUR WORD (God the Father's) IS TRUTH."** Was that a bad prayer??? ... a mistake?? How do you handle or ignore this? I am at a loss!! **THERE IS NO RIGHT WAY TO DO THE WRONG THING! – Can we really exist as CAFETERIA CHRISTIANS, choosing only what we want to believe???**



"It's not so much the things you know that hurt you as the things you know that ain't so."
– Will Rogers.

PLEASE, CAN YOU TELL ME THIS ISN'T SO... ABOUT...



MARRIAGE

In marriage it's so happens that the Lord has devised a particularly gentle but no less disciplined and effective means for helping men and women to humble themselves, to surrender their weak and straying wills and to become as holy as any monk who ever lived. Even the closest of couples will inevitably find themselves engaged in a struggle of wills; for marriage it is a wild, audacious attempt at

an almost impossible degree of cooperation between two powerful centers of self-assertion. Marriage cannot help being a furnace of conflict, a crucible in which these two wills must be melted down and PURIFIED IN LOVE. Most people do not realize that this is what they are signing up for when they get married, but this is what invariably faces them. Marriage turns out to be, through and through, an

act of acquiescence, a willing compliance both with God and with one other person, in the difficult process of surrendering one's ego. It cannot succeed without, first of all, a profound acceptance of the conditions of struggle, and the demand for a personal transformation no less than that of a committed monk. *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* (Proverbs 27: 17)

Marriage was never intended as a comfort station for lazy people. On the contrary, it is a systematic program of deliberate and thoroughgoing self-sacrifice. A man's home is not his castle so much as his monastery, and if he happens to be treated like a king there, then it is only so that he might be better enabled to **become a servant in love**. For marriage

PRAYER

Prayer changes everything! Christians should pray for 20 minutes a day unless they are too busy; in which case they should pray for an hour. If you only pray when you are in trouble, YOU ARE IN TROUBLE!

Remember the Words of Jesus given directly to Father Routolo: *"Surrender to me does not mean to fret, to be upset, or to lose hope; nor does it mean offering to Me a worried prayer asking Me to follow you and change your worry into prayer. This is contrary to surrendering to Me, deeply against it, to worry, to be nervous and to desire to think about the consequences of anything. It is like the confusion that children feel when they ask their mother to see to their needs and then try to take care of those needs for themselves so that their childlike efforts get in their mother's way. Surrender means to placidly close the eyes of the soul, to turn away from thoughts of tribulation and to put yourself in My care, so that I only act; saying: "You take care of it."*

During the third and fourth CENTURIES 1000'S of men and women, to come closer to God, fled to the deserts of Egypt and Palestine. The most famous was St. Anthony. They had NO SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, NO BOOKS, little outer authority, little church. **They depended on prayer, their inner experience of God.** By the middle of the 4th century monasteries, which became much more popular, began to flourish that provided community and a rule of life.

is intended to be an environment in which he will lovingly yet persistently be confronted with the plainest and ugliest evidence of his sinfulness and thus encouraged on a daily basis to repent and to change. (Sin is a refusal to grow) Marriage is really a drastic course of action which, as much as any monastic commitment, dedicates the person to a life of vigorous self-denial, to a disciplined and joyful love path of renunciation for one's beloved. It is a radical step and is not intended for anyone who is not prepared to surrender his own will in love.

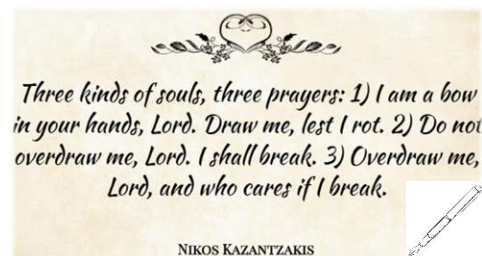
"Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12: 24) *"The Mystery of Marriage"* Mike Mason Page 139.

Richard Rohr writes: *"Only when we have **inner and outer authority together** do we have true spiritual wisdom. We have for too long insisted on **outer authority alone**, without any teaching of prayer, inner journey, and maturing consciousness.*

The results for the world and for religion have been disastrous. I am convinced that the word PRAYER, which has become a functional and thing for believers to do, is, in fact, a DESCRIPTOR FOR INNER EXPERIENCE. That is why all spiritual teachers mandate prayer so much. They are saying, 'GO INSIDE AND KNOW FOR YOURSELF!' SERIOUS PRAYER DOES THIS!!!!

Robert McAfee Brown: "Prayer is no benign act of piety. Prayer can be regarded by political authorities as an act of treason. The call to prayer is the call to **subvert unjust structures and political power**. We need to close the split between spirituality and liberation, prayer and politics, prayer and social sin which is IN EVERY INSTITUTION IN OUR SOCIETY.

Robert Moore:
"If you don't pray if 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 meditation, he says, can provide the fine line (spiritual, psychological and emotional) that will keep you from being habitually depressed or obsessed with your OWN EGO. (There is that FALSE SELF, again) This is true, he says, **irrespective whether you are religious or not.** **All of our problems appear as psychological, and the only solution is spiritual.**

*“Right now there are about 2 billion people who identify as Christians on the planet. If a significant number of them were to embrace the contemplative dimension of the Gospel, the emerging global society would experience a powerful surge toward, wholeness and enduring peace and love. If the contemplative dimension of the Christian religion is not presented, the **Gospel is not being adequately presented.** To reject the contemplative dimension of any religion is to reject the religion itself however loyal one may be to its externals and rituals. This is because the contemplative dimension is the heart and soul of every religion. It initiates the movement into higher states of knowledge, understanding and wisdom- higher states of consciousness.”* Thomas Keating

SOCIETY, LIFE, THE WORLD

Please, give me the names of the 5 people that you dislike the most, and I will fix them, and YOU will get better!

“A society depends for its existence on the inviolable personal silence and solitude of its members. When a society is made up of people who no longer know interior silence it can no longer be held together by love: and consequently, it is held by violent and abusive authority. When people are deprived of the solitude and freedom which are their right and due, society becomes putrid, it festers with servility, resentment and hate. No amount of technological progress will cure the hatred that eats away the vitals of a materialistic society like a spiritual cancer. The only cure is and must always

Just suppose that only **one billion** Christians embraced the contemplative dimension of prayer and the Gospel. How the world around us would change!!

Do you ever pray silently (no words) just loving, heart to heart presence with the God/Trinity within you? Your pure spirit in touch with God's pure spirit. “Don't break the silence unless you can improve on it.” There are 7000 languages on earth and God speaks all of them fluently, but His FIRST LANGUAGE IS **SILENCE!!!**

IF THE DEVIL CAN'T MAKE YOU BAD, HE WILL MAKE YOU BUSY. IF YOU CAN'T SAY NO YOUR YESES WON'T MEAN VERY MUCH. IS THERE ANY WAY OF UNDERSTANDING OR EXPLAINING THE INCREDIBLE EVIL IN TODAY'S WORLD WITHOUT THE REALITY OF SATAN??

***“God cannot be thought;
He can only be loved.”***

- Theresa of Avila

be SPIRITUAL.” Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude. Written in 1954. -A true prophet! If you aren't regularly, daily reading some spiritual book, you are slowly dying.

Perhaps the words of Marshall McLuhan fit here, “If the temperature of the water rises one degree every ten minutes, how will the bather know when to scream. The point of this quasi aphorism is that people have a tendency to adjust to a gathering disaster instead of confronting or escaping it- The Sociologists call it “DEFINING DEVIANCY DOWN”.



If you have time to worry, you have time to pray!

May 11th will be the 60th anniversary of my ordination to the Catholic priesthood. In August, I will be 86 years old and in September I will be married 47 years with six wonderful children. Any one of these vocations makes me better at the other two!! IS CELIBACY REALLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE EUCHARIST?



Mary's Field is 41 years old and we have served- in one way or another- about 35,000 people. We have published 476 issues of our newsletter, "Of Seeds and Flowers" and are VERY close to not having the funds to produce future issues.

Taxes, Medicare, Social Security, printing and postage, office supplies, etc. and my very small salary demands a budget of about \$2000.00 a month. Our very tiny budget is only possible due to the many, many volunteer hours given by my wife, Cindy, and my son Bob. The newsletter, and our podcasts are reaching about 15,000+ people a month. Amazon Smile has ended their charity program. We would like to continue our Mary's Field ministry. The Lord is always in control!

I began teaching Latin in CT. at age 46 and ended at age 78. Because I only had 1 or 2 classes in the beginning, I ended 40 years of teaching with only 21 years for retirement instead of the 35 needed for full retirement. My 8 years of teaching and being principle in PA. was not accepted in CT. Peace! The Lord IS ALWAYS in control!

**Don't worry about tomorrow
You did that yesterday**

***"Once I believed God existed,
I knew I had to give my whole
life to Him."*** - St. Charles DeFoucauld

**40 to 60% of Catholics
(depending on the
state) voted for
abortion candidates in
the last election.**

**"We must not become
comfortable with evil
that has grown
respectable with age."
Thoreau**

NONPROFIT ORG.
U S POSTAGE PAID
WILLIMANTIC, CT
PERMIT NO. 430

**Return Service
Requested.**

**Mary's Field, LTD
P.O. Box 99
Hebron, CT 06248**