

Of Seeds and Flowers

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"FOURTEEN GENERATIONS"

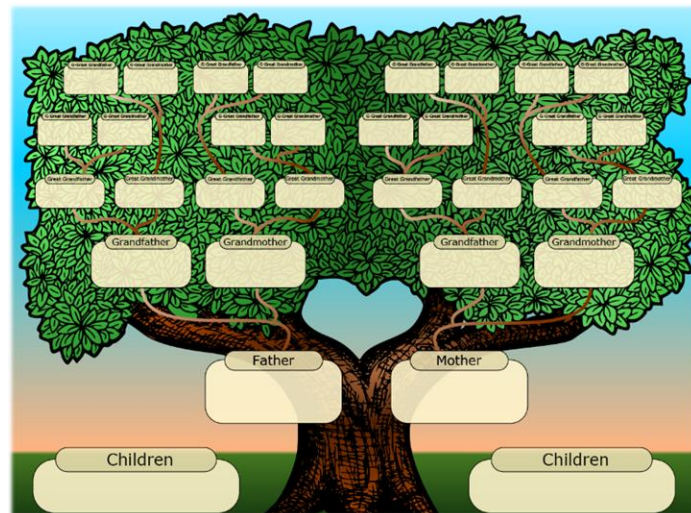
BY SISTER JOSE HOBDAY

As Christians we all have these concepts, realities buried in our lives like the Body of Christ, the Vine and Branches, the Mystical Body. We speak of the Church Triumphant, the Church Militant, the Church Suffering, and the Communion of Saints. All these venerable phrases have but one moral, spiritual point: WE ARE ALL CONNECTED. We are all CO-RESPONSIBLE for one another. We have a vocation, given to us AT BAPTISM, to be brother and sister to one another and to the planet on which we live, and the mandate to leave both better off for the NEXT GENERATION. We are stewards of God.

All this calls to mind a teaching given by the late Sister Jose Hobday, a Franciscan nun whose mother was a Seneca Indian. She said that her mother taught her many Native American traditions, and one of them was the concept of the Fourteen Generations. The idea, she writes, seems deceptively simple: *"You pay reverence and respect to the seven generations that have gone before you and the seven generations that will come after you. According to this tradition, you keep seven generations, forward and back, in your mind and heart in everything you think and do and live accordingly."*

When my mother first told me about this, I responded primarily to the part concerning the seven generations who had gone before me. I liked the idea that for seven generations my ancestors had lived with me in their mind. Knowing that, I felt I had been loved and cared for even before I arrived. My mother explained that if lived with my ancestors in my memory, it would give me power I would not otherwise have. This proved correct. Being aware that these ancestors went ahead of me, and knowing they wanted to pass on to me what they had, has been a real gift. It gives me strength.

As I grew, so did my understanding of the Fourteen Generation tradition. As a child I had been enamored with the part of the tradition concerning those who had gone before me. But as an adult, I became more aware of keeping in mind and heart the seven generations who will come after me. Now, instead of being on the receiving end, I moved to the giving side. Instead of being empowered, I saw myself as trying to empower. Instead of being imagined (as the seven generations before me had done) I tried to imagine those who would come for seven generations after me. I now wanted to pass on what I had to those who would follow me. I feel connected not only with those who went before me, but with those around me, as well as with those who will come after me ... Sadly, many people cannot say that today ... but this idea of the Fourteen Generations helps me to see that I am not alone and challenges me not to live only for myself.



This notion of the Fourteen Generations should be recited in every boardroom, every bank, every school, every home. We Christians especially should embrace it-we, the Communion of Saints, the Body of Christ. We must tell and retell the story of the Fourteen Generations to our children and grandchildren so that when they grow up they may be ready to honor their calling and be faithful stewards of what God, for a brief time, has entrusted to them."

So, let's end our message with a prayer from Cardinal Newman:

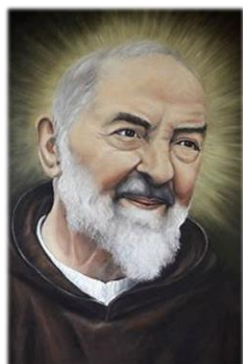


God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do his work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it, if I do but keep his commandments.

SPIRITUAL COUNSELS from St. Padre Pio:



1. Do not tire yourself over things that cause anxiety, preoccupation, and worry. Only one thing is necessary: lift your spirit and love God.
2. God provides for our transformation and growth; give over your sufferings to the embrace of God and you will be given peace. Hand over your feelings of anguish and despair and you will find hope rising in your heart.
3. Walk cheerfully with a sincere and open heart as much as you can and when you cannot always maintain a holy joy, at least do not lose heart or your trust in God."
4. Be careful never to become discouraged when you are surrounded by difficulty or infirmity, if you are experiencing some weakness God is not abandoning you but offering you the opportunity to grow in humility and gratitude.
5. Be cheerful. Jesus will take care of everything. Let us trust in Jesus and our heavenly Mother, and everything will work out.



CABRINI (the movie): Was it God or the present culture that produced Cabrini? The movie celebrated human perseverance, human endurance, woman's strength, indomitable courage, but ignored the deep spiritual, prayer life of this great saint. It was Mother Cabrini's prayer life that gave her the ability to do what she did. The Mormon producers missed it. Cabrini is truly worth seeing, but with it all, SEE IT ALL. "Unless the grain of wheat fall into the ground and dies it produces no fruit, but if it dies it produces much fruit." "Apart from Me you can do nothing." - Jesus



"The road to spiritual growth is always under construction."

There are only twelve inches between your head and your heart. Today, less women and men are making the trip.



The following are words DIRECTLY from Jesus to

Father Dolindo Ruotolo, in what has become the beautiful Surrender Novena. Words from Day four: **"Do you see evil growing instead of weakening/ Do not worry; close your eyes and say to Me with faith: Thy will be done, You take care of it."** I say to you that I will take care of it, and that I will intervene as does a doctor; and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed. Do you see that the sick person is getting worse? Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say, "You take care of it." I say to you that I will take care of it, and that there is no medicine more powerful than My loving intervention. By my love, **I promise this to you.**" And from **Day five:** "And when I must lead you on a path different from the one you see, I will prepare you; I will carry you in my arms; I will let you find yourself, like children who have fallen asleep in their mother's arms, on the other bank of the river. What troubles you and hurts you

immensely are your REASON, YOUR THOUGHTS AND WORRY, AND YOUR DESIRE AT ALL COSTS TO DEAL WITH WHAT AFFLICTS YOU."

In the weeks following the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade, polling indicates that 62 % of Americans think abortion should be legal in all or most cases. That means the child in the womb is INVISIBLE to 62% of Americans. The woman, Cecile Richards, who, in two decades, built Planned Parenthood into an abortion industry is dying of brain cancer. Abortion corrupts an entire society. She is the person who engineered the selling of baby parts. Without any pats on the back, let us pray for her.

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you!" Jesus, the Beatitudes.

FOUR weeks - before the mother is even aware that she's pregnant, the child's nervous system and organs begin to develop. SIX weeks- the child's heartbeat can be detected. EIGHT weeks-well-formed arms and legs can be seen on the ultrasound. TWELVE weeks- the child begins to move on her own. SIXTEEN weeks- she can blink her eyes and has developed her own unique set of fingerprints. EVERY abortion stops a heart from beating!



HAPPY EASTER OR TRANS GENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY:

Another MARVELLOUS decision from our Catholic/Christian

President Biden: He declared March 31, Easter Sunday, this **MOST HOLY DAY**, "*The Transgender Day of Visibility*". No matter how deep and real our compassion and understanding is for transgender people, if you believe in Jesus and the power of His Resurrection, this proclamation is a NO EXCUSE INSULT to ALL CHRISTIANS. Please don't/never forget this audacious, blasphemous insult from our constantly protesting "I am a Christian and a Catholic, President Biden. It is difficult to believe and forgive all of the

dissimulation/mental and moral gymnastics from politicians who, without blinking an eye, make despicable decisions like this. Of course, because of all the pushback he will get from some of the Christian community, Mr. Biden did deny he had anything to do with the decision. It all came as a surprise, "out of the air! "No politician on earth has ever raised their hand and said, "I did it." Time to stop letting things like this simply pass. – or we become complicit with the evil around us! I wonder how long it will take for the American Bishops to respond to this blasphemous act of our president. **Democracy cannot exist without God. Socialism cannot exist with God. Remember Russian Communism!! The churches and all religion were killed. HAD TO!!! -TO EXIST. Happening here???**

Remember the FOUR RESTRAINERS FROM THESSALONIANS:

1. Natural Law/Conscience.
2. Church/Bible.
3. Marriage and Family.
4. **GOVERNMENT**- is supposed to provide for the common good OF **ALL ITS CITIZENS**. This includes all its CHRISTIAN CITIZENS. CIVICS 101. Poor Mr. Biden.

Democrats = "Know Nothings"
Republicans = "Do Nothings"

-and they have blended into **one bad party**, a **VERY, VERY BAD THING** for religion, the souls of good people, Remember 1939- and one-party Germany. - and souls of good people suffer.



THANK YOU! – FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS OF SERVICE, MINISTRY, LOVE!!

On Holy Saturday Cindy, my wife, Anne Marie. my daughter, and Sister Claire Plamodon of the Sisters of Mercy, who was the wonderful, spectacular first grade teacher of all six of our children at St. James Grade School in Manchester Ct., visited and thanked 30 nuns at their retirement and elder care facility in West Hartford. They gave each nun a beautifully decorated egg (compliments of Father Bill Olesik, of St. Maurice Parish in Bolton Ct.), a tulip, a daffodil, a holy card, love, and Easter joy! May 4th will be a "Tea Party" sponsored by Mary's Field, for all the nuns at St. Mary's residence. St.

Mary's is a powerhouse of prayer and silent resignation to the will of God. -A great blessing!

Sister Claire, who is 91 and still ministering, said that when she joined the Sisters of Mercy there were 800+ nuns, now there are only 77. Sad, so very sad! -and we all are the losers! We salute Sister Claire and all her fellow nuns and other lay women who have dedicated their lives to the education of our children. We are so blessed in them!! On a regular basis Sister Claire, a great, great lady, continues to visit her sisters and support our Mary's Field ministry. Sister Claire, AD MULTOS ANNOS! We love you and are most grateful! Wouldn't it be a nice thing if churches adopted nearby nursing homes?



'IF IT IS JUST A SYMBOL, TO HELL WITH IT'

In 1950, Flannery O'Connor was invited by friends to a dinner with the prominent author Mary McCarthy and her husband. At the time, O'Connor, who would eventually blossom into one of the

greatest Catholic writers of the twentieth century, was just beginning her career, and there was no question that she was the junior member in this elite circle of guests. In a letter describing the scene, O'Connor wrote, *"Having me there was like having a dog present who had been trained to say a few words but overcome with inadequacy had forgotten them."* As the evening drew on, the talk turned to the Eucharist, and Mary McCarthy, who had been raised Catholic but had fallen away from the Church, remarked that she thought of the Eucharist as a symbol and "implied that it was a pretty good one." She undoubtedly intended this

condescending observation as friendly overture to the Catholic O'Connor, But O'Connor, in a shaky voice, responded, *"Well, if it's a symbol, to hell with it."* One can only imagine that the elegant dinner party broke up rather soon after that bomb was dropped.

LOGICAL REFLECTION: If the Eucharist is only bread, a mere symbol, then Catholics, when they receive communion during Mass, if they treat the host as the Body of Christ, they are committing idolatry. - worshipping bread! If, on the other hand, the Eucharist, as Catholics believe since the Last Supper, is really the Body of Christ, those who treat it as only a symbol, a remembrance ceremony, are, at least objectively, committing blasphemy. You can't have it both ways, can you? TRUTH MATTERS! "Acquire a fresh, spiritual way of thinking. You must put on that new person created in God's image, whose justice and holiness are born of truth." Ephesians 4: 23-24

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