

Of Seeds and Flowers

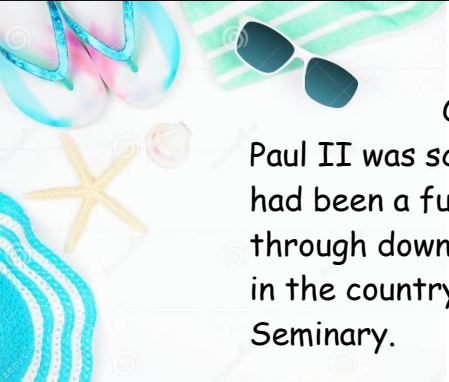
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THOSE WHO BELIEVE NEVER LEAVE.



On the evening of the last day of his visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II was scheduled to meet the seminarians at St. Mary's seminary in Baltimore. It had been a full day, beginning with Mass at the Oriole's Park, followed by a parade through downtown streets, a visit to the Basilica of the Assumption, the first cathedral in the country, lunch at a soup kitchen, a prayer service and a quick stop at St. Mary Seminary.

The schedule was tight, so the plan was to simply greet the seminarians while they stood outside on the steps. But the Pope made his way into the building and his plan was to first make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. When his wishes were made known, security personnel quickly took action ahead of the Pope. They did a sweep of the building paying special attention to the chapel where John Paul would be praying. Trained dogs were used to detect any persons or danger that might be present.



The dogs were trained to locate living people in collapsed buildings after earthquakes and other disasters. These intelligent and eager dogs went through their rounds in the halls, offices and classrooms and were sent into the chapel. They went up and down the aisles and pews and finally into the side chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Upon reaching the tabernacle, the dogs sniffed and whined and pointed to the tabernacle and refused to leave. The officer in charge said, 'The dog is telling me there is a person hidden in there.' The dogs were convinced that they discovered someone and firmly remained with their attention riveted on the tabernacle until they were finally called out by their handlers. The real presence. What a testimony! Only about 30 % of Catholics now believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. **THOSE WHO BELIEVE NEVER LEAVE.**

Either you know God by experience - another name for which is contemplation or deep faith or you know Him by your intellect alone which, when the wind of the world begins to blow, can cause your foundation to weaken or crumble.. This is what has happened to 50 million Catholics who stopped practicing their faith the past thirty years. Apostasy is everywhere. (In all churches) If you really believe, and reinforce your belief **REGULARLY** by prayer, you don't leave. We are **IN** the world, **NOT OF** the world but **FOR** the world. Just check Jesus' words in Chapter 8 of John's gospel for solid teaching about the world and being a Christian.



According to Pew Research Center, USCCB, CARA, The Dynamic Catholic Institute, and U. S. Census Bureau, more than 50 million Catholics have stopped practicing their faith in the past 35 years. Many become "Cultural Catholics" or "Cafeteria Catholics" -picking and choosing what to believe and what to reject. A Catholic school has been closed every four days for the past 25 years.



In 1973 there were 58,000 priests and the average age was 35. Today there are 37,000 priests and the average age is 64 and 40% are over the age of 65. 35,000 parishes are without a resident priest. A Catholic parish has been closed down every 3 days for the past 35 years.



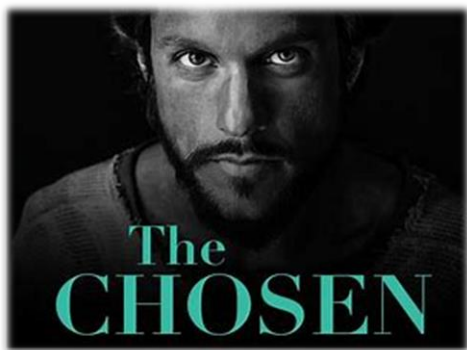
The church (like so many other things in life) is not so much something we inherit from generations' past, or take over from our predecessors, as it is something on loan to us from future generations. Those who REALLY believe never leave, because they know that the church, like all organizations made up of flawed people, is flawed, sinful, weak and often does dumb or bad things. Thomas Merton may fit here: 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."* THE SAME IS TRUE OF PRIDE, EGO, THE NEED FOR PRAISE OR GLORY.

Contemplative prayer is a way of awakening to the reality in which we are immersed. We rarely think of the air we breathe, yet it is in us and around us all the time. In a similar fashion, the presence of God penetrates us, is all around us, is always embracing us. Our awareness, unfortunately, is not awake to that dimension of reality. One of the purposes of prayer, the sacraments, and spiritual disciplines is to awaken us. God's presence is available at every moment, but we have a giant obstacle in ourselves- our world view, It needs to be exchanged for the mind of Jesus, for His world view.

When Jesus HIMSELF spoke personally to Father Routolo, He gave you and me some VERY good advice. Jesus said, *"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."* Each of us needs to hear these words of Jesus on an hourly basis.

"Though he flattered himself while he lived: "Men will praise me for all my success," yet he will go to join his fathers, who will never see the light anymore." Psalm 49 We are ALL JUST PILGRIMS JUST PASSING THROUGH.

"You will never be happy if your happiness depends on getting solely what you want. CHANGE THE FOCUS. GET A NEW CENTER. Will what God wills, and your joy no man shall take from you." Bishop Fulton Sheen *"In His will is our peace."* Dante Alighieri



Please, please, please, PLEASE, PRETTY, PRETTY PLEASE, do watch the series "Chosen" on Prime or other device. Truly the best religious series ever made. And STAY THE COURSE TO THE END OF SEASONE 4. It gets

So very good to see a Congressional Committee speak the truth to Dr. Fauci. Truth and justice do matter. He was called out for calling a "gene changing drug" the Covid vaccine, for torturing dogs, pushing to close schools and churches, lying to the American people, etc. etc. In a NEWS interview in the he, with great ego professed no need for God. "I am moral person enough without God." There is an enormous bill coming due for all of this non-truth and all Americans will end up paying it.

better and better! Mary's Field has some copies we are always sharing with individuals or groups. Season 3 and 4 are DYNAMITE!!

How often do we speak ½ truths to keep ½ friends?



In June Mary's Field hosted a dinner for the 30 retired and convalescing Sisters of Mercy at St Mary Home. Lasagna was served with all of the Italian trimmings - including chianti bottles with flowers, lit candles, red-checkered tablecloth, etc. Served by 5 of the members of my family and sisters Clair, Julie and Pat. August will be a cook-out.



"We thank God constantly that in receiving His message from us you took it, not as the word of men, but as it truly is, THE WORD OF GOD at work within you who believe." 1 Thess. 2:13. THOSE WHO BELIEVE NEVER LEAVE.

The whole experience was soul touching. Watching sisters with severe arthritis take 5 minutes to butter a piece of bread, or those who have had strokes trying to ask for more lasagna or water, legs in braces, wheelchairs that kept the sisters from reaching for another cup cake. Thousands of years of loving service to others, and now being helped to another piece of bread. We all made a retreat that day! Good always BEGETS GOOD! Mary's Field at its best.

ABORTION? NOT UPSET? "Are you a pagan?" Are we back in human sacrifice times? Abortion stops a heart! The most shameful human practice since creation. Killing babies! Another outrageous euphemism some people are using for abortion is: **"Let God babysit."** Thank you again to Planned Un- Parenthood.



I take no joy in this but as Groucho Marx says, *"What are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?"* If you saw the recent presidential debate, and as we have been painfully saying, and as most people already know, for the last four years, all of the main media has been lying about Pres, Biden, Washington, the government and its branches, abortion, the judiciary, attacks on private citizens etc. etc. ALL OF THIS affects the souls of the people who pray, who go to church on Sunday, who read the Bible, who breathe, - INDEED, ALL CHRISTIANS. -A SERIOUS RELIGIOUS MATTER! Just check part three, #'s 2493 through # 2499 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and this will be clearly affirmed, and you will be DEEPLY IMPRESSED. I am not just whistling "political dixie." Jesus suffered at the hands of both the political and some of the religious authorities, if you read the Bible, and His death, death, death was the result. No longer can church leaders be silent as their people suffer universal political and media deceit. This is killing people's minds and souls. God is very unhappy.

Wouldn't it be nice if politicians and media people had a TRANSPARENCY APP on their phones that beeped for two minutes each time they lie. Lots of beeping!

You cannot understand the world around you through the lens of politics or philosophy or the evening news but ONLY through the lens of what is good and true and whole SPIRITUALITY! Our country, the world, churches are on fire and only the healing water of God's Wisdom extinguishes the flame. *"Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity to God?"* James 4:4. Christians are **IN** the world, not **OF** the world but **FOR** the world.



"Do you ever wonder why Western atheism is on the rise? Why the Christian West, by far, produce the highest number of atheists? The reason is Christians have not moved doctrine and dogma, liturgy to the level of **INNER EXPERIENCE**. As long as "received teaching" doesn't become EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, we're going to continue creating a high quality of disillusioned ex-believers. Or on the flip side, we'll manufacture very rigid believers who simply hold

Good, holy people heal just by being there. Sinful people tear down just by being there. **"Lord, make me holy and not know it."**

on to doctrines in very dry, dead ways with nothing going on inside. And so, we have two big groups on the landscape today: those who throw out the baby with the bathwater (many liberals and academics) and those who seem to have drowned in the bathwater (many conservatives and fundamentalists).” Divine Dance, pg. 124. Richard Rohr. Movements like the Cursillo, Acts, and the Charismatic Movement (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) did this but the bishops and pastors, with all kinds of specious arguments, rejected them. Can’t control the Spirit!!



MARY, the mother of Jesus, spoke these words on June 25th to one of the visionaries at Medjugorje.

"Dear children! I rejoice with you and thank God for permitting me to be with you, to lead you and love you. Little children, peace is in danger and the family is under attack. I am calling you, little children: return to prayer in the family. Put Sacred Scripture in a visible place and read it every day. Love God above all that it may be good for you on earth.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

Be Still
and know that I am
God.
Psalm 46:10

The internet says that there are 7000 spoken languages on the planet earth. God speaks all of them fluently, but God’s favorite language is SILENCE.

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