

Of Seeds and Flowers

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We are made for LOVE, LABOR AND LEISURE

DO CHECK THE ENCLOSED LEAFLET ON CENTERING PRAYER. Feast on its contents. Practice, share.

The following true story was once told by St. John Vianney, the Cure of Ars, to his parishioners.

A few years ago, there died a man of this parish of Ars. One morning, he entered the church to pray before setting out for the fields. He left his rake at the door, came into the church and then became wholly lost in God. A neighbor who worked not far from him, and used to see him in the fields, wondered at his absence in the fields. On his way home he thought of looking for him in the church, thinking he might be there. He did find him in church and asked, "What are you doing here all this time? The man replied, "I look up at the good God in the tabernacle, and He looks down at me," This is a simple but powerful story and example of contemplative prayer. The farmer was lost in prayer, in the

simple presence of God. No words. No thoughts, No feelings. Just a deep relationship. Prayer at its best. A restructuring of one's consciousness is the fruit of regular practice of Centering Prayer. Feast your mind and heart and soul on these words from the Bible that truly produce transformed hearts and minds that flow out- in service to a world in dire need of **love**. "Get used to different" - Words of Jesus to Peter in "The Chosen".

*Remember the message you
heard from the beginning;
we should love one
another.*

1 John 3:11

*God is love, and he who
abides of love abides
in God and God in her*

1 John 4:16

*I have loved you
with an everlasting
love and so am
constant in my
affection for you.*

Jeremiah 31:3

Love is patient. **Love** is kind. Love is not jealous; It does not put on airs. It is not snobbish. **Love** is never rude. It is not self-seeking; it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. **Love** does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the Truth. There is no end to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. **Love** never fails. 1 Corinthians. 13. Try placing your name before each request. E.g. JOE is patient. Mary is kind. Etc. "Don't deliberately torture yourself by giving in to depression. Happiness makes for a long life and makes it

worth living. Enjoy yourself and be happy; Don't worry all the time. Worry never did anybody any good, and it has destroyed many people. It will make you old before your time. Jealousy and anger will shorten your life. A cheerful person with a good attitude will have a good appetite and enjoy her food." Sirach.

What Jesus proposed to His disciples as the WAY is His own example: the forgiveness of everything and everyone. His final teaching was "love one another as I have loved you."

The greatest safety is to take and risk for these words. EVERYTHING ELSE IS DANGEROUS!! "Pray, Hope and Don't worry." St. Padre Pio

*Owe no debt to anyone
except debt that binds
us to love another.*

Romans 13

*I have loved you
with an everlasting love
and so
I am constant in
affection for you.*

Jeremiah 3

*So shall the world
know that you sent me,
and that that love them
them as you loved me.*

— John 17:23

*The command I give you
is this,
that you love another*

John 15:17

It is not simple to be simple. -or to forgive everyone, or to become like little children, or be humble in all circumstances, or to DO the loving thing always. If you are not shocked by God's word for happiness you are reading the wrong book.



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!! Saint Valentine was a courageous 3rd century Catholic Bishop who risked his life to marry couples at a time when marriage was outlawed by the Roman emperor. His life emphasizes the self-sacrificial nature of love. The constant message of Jesus and His followers. Do you live? Do you LOVE?

Each of us must get along in life with our own eyes, our own ears, our own tongue, our own mind, and understanding. If we could borrow each of these faculties from great people, like borrowing a book from the library, what wonders could we perform! It is critical that we read the right books and borrow from the right minds.



JUST A THOUGHT:

We cannot borrow our material senses from someone else, but spiritual and intellectual senses can borrow. If we prudently borrow ideas from wise holy people, and holy ideas truly clear, clear, visionary and wise, we come become of other person's intellect and life, a part etc. helps the truth and vision spread.

CAUTION!

-and opposite is also true.

CAUTION! *The wrong person or agent and we spread spread ignorance and hurt everyone around us.*

-A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY....

Borrow from be sure from who are gathering our LIFE, INTELLECTUAL FORMATION AND INFORMATION.

Not all kostered equal. Just ask Charlie Kirk.

Ancient philosophers and mystics used to say that, before being born, each soul is kissed by God and then goes through life always, in some dark way, remembering that kiss and measuring everything in relation to its original sweetness. That caress has left a permanent imprint inside us, one so tender and good that its memory becomes a prism through which we see everything else. And so, we recognize LOVE AND TRUTH outside of us precisely because they resonate with something that is already inside of us. Things "touch our hearts" because they awaken a memory of the original kiss.

Nikos Kazantzakis once wrote that virtue is lonely because, at the end of the day, it is jealous of vice. "Virtue," he writes, "sits on its lonely perch and weeps for all it's missed out on." Not quite, though, perhaps that's what it feels like. The pain of virtue, while not immune to jealousy, is a whole lot deeper than Kazantzakis (and conventual wisdom) suspect. It is the pain of Jesus in Gethsemane, a moral loneliness, the ache of not having anyone to hold you morally. It is present day America, where evil is called good and good evil. Nobility of soul is at odds with common sense, truth.

"The energy that holds a society together is sexual in nature. When a man is devoted to ONE WOMAN AND ONE FAMILY (Notice FAMILY is important), he is motivated to build, save, protect, plan and prosper on their behalf. However, when his sexual interests are dispersed and generalized, his effort is invested in the gratification of sexual desires. Any human being is free either to display great energy, or to enjoy sexual freedom; the evidence is that they CANNOT DO BOTH for more than one generation." J. D. Udwin, British anthropologist.

My message to my students was: "Do nothing with your body (drugs, drink, smoking, sex, violence) that you cannot speak with your deep, deep down honest heart AND "There is no right way to do the wrong thing." Hope it worked!

"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14

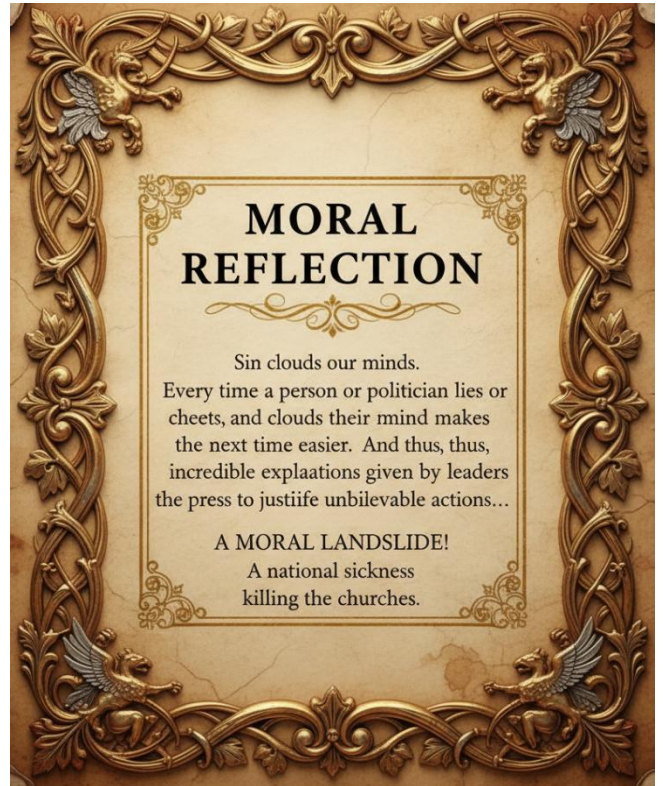


One day, while teaching Latin at Manchester High School, I decided to spend my free period in the library looking at old year books. To my **incredible surprise** I found in one of the 1950 yearbooks a picture of the Manchester High Rifle Team, about 10 boys and one girl. ALL sporting their rifles which they brought to school, stored in their lockers with live ammunition, planning to shoot, IN SPORT, against other area high school students who brought their rifles TO SCHOOL AND KEPT THEM IN THEIR LOCKERS to compete with other high school

students. IMAGINE!! GUNS IN SCHOOL, LIVE AMMUNITION!! A SPORT! MY ONLY QUESTION IS-- WHAT IN GOD'S NAME, HAS CHANGED???

If the guns of the Manchester Rifle team had killed someone, would they become assault rifles? WHAT HAS CHANGED that we now need sensors on doors, police in schools, etc. etc.? I wish I had a copy of the picture. -a thousand words etc. Moral bankruptcy? Intellectual recession? Moral landslide? Are we mainstreaming mediocrity? -the abnormal? A moral-values desert? What has become of US? And we call it progress or progressive! Evolution or De-volution? We are living in a whirlpool of group NON THINK and immorality!! Get your heart right with God, prayer and your head. True peace will follow! Vilifying an entire class of people at a time like this is easy, a form of scapegoating -as is blaming guns for mass shootings (they're the instruments of killing/slaughter, not the reason for it) Doing either is to overlook the REAL PROBLEM. The core problem is that there is a SERIOUS SICKNESS at the heart of American society. Gun violence and transgenderism are merely symptoms of that sickness. Read the sick words of the sick shooters!!

Incidentally, Charlie Kirk was killed with a gun that had to be loaded one bullet at a time. - bolt action gun! Just like the guns of the Manchester High School Rifle Team. "Assault rifle"- called that only because it was used to assault and kill another human being. Maybe it is time to look at the hearts and minds of the people doing the shooting! - or the society that raised them. Millions of Americans, Christians, pulled the trigger, in their heart, on the gun that killed Charlie Kirk. -They did an EVIL deed in their hearts. And some were VERY HAPPY about it. "Thou shalt not kill" God always has it right! **"GOD IS NOT DONE WITH AMERICA"** said Charlie Kirk -but neither is the devil. E.g. 31 states have passed anti-life laws. Not a day goes by that pro-lifers are not called, Fascists, Nazis, misogynists, or enemies of democracy. Do note that **even atheists benefit from living in the world that Christians made.** One of the most certain signs that we are living in an evil modern age is that the forces of modernity are fanatically fighting to restore the moral order that existed prior to Christianity. One tribe enslaved another, rulers enslaved their subjects, infanticide, abortion, human sacrifice, false gods (Moloch, Baal, Jupiter etc.) --and more were just a part of daily ancient life.



Some of the names for our new "gods" are tolerance, progressive, social justice, socialism, WOKE, D.E.I. Equity, diversity.

The job, the role of the government in any society, is to provide the tranquility, the peace so that the church can do its job for the minds and souls of its people. When EVERYTHING is in its proper place, DOING THE PROPER THINGS, EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE FLOURISHES. Chaos is the result of things OUT OF ORDER. Are we the Pilgrims again?

Charlie Kirk was doing what EVERY, EVERY American has a right to do. He was forcing students to question, to think;

something most of their professors were not doing. Round and round we go. ONLY the TRUTH frees!!!! There is no right way to do the wrong thing, is there? Peace is the tranquility of RIGHT ORDER. Check with God. Mary's Field is not in the business of politics but we do care for good people who want to DO GOOD. NON ORDER-EVIL hides and flourishes in politics and keeps God's hands tied. The church and state must work TOGETHER or they both don't work at all. Check history! This is what Mary's Field-GOOD PEOPLE DO!!! We aren't whistling dixie!

"Most people have just enough religion to make their lives miserable!! Billy Sunday

"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan" St. Carlo Acutis, age 15.

VISION AND REALITY: HINDSIGHT IS 20-20. ALWAYS GOOD TO LOOK BACK, TO CHECK OUR WISDOM, OUR BELIEFS, THE TRUTH: James O'Keefe, clever undercover agent, just got, ON TAPE, a Johnson and Johnson scientist to verbally admit that their covid vaccine was neither safe nor effective. The same would be true if we could catch Pfizer or Lilly or other so-called scientists, -lies all around!! The pandemic was about **control and obedience**. There was a genuine covid flu, but it was very poorly diagnosed and managed by doctors, pharmaceutical companies and scientists. It is almost always about power, money and control. The "powers to be" got all three. The insurance companies, keepers of incredible records, said death rates skyrocketed once the non-vaccine began to be used.

Bishop Robert Barron, recently, was asked in an interview by Tucker Carlson, "*Is the Catholic Church being persecuted?*" Bishop Barron gave a clear, powerful, resounding **YES** as an answer. Pres. Trump has formed a Commission on Religious Liberty (for no small reason) with Cardinal Dolan of New York as its chairperson. Hopefully, not more busyness and hot air! Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

NOT COMPLICATED: "IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU LOSE IT. What is **IT**? Prayer, Scripture, Worship, Sacraments, Church, family, children, society **THE FUTURE/NEXT GENERATION!! USE OR LOSE!!** If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got." Like what you GOT? People are distracted by their own agendas. Happiness really is not a Porche or a Tesla. Just ask Elon Musk!



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